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Location In-person: Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location will allow for the public to provide comment and listen to the meeting as required by the Open Public Meeting Act. This requirement can be waived via HB 1329 if there is a declaration of emergency or if an agency determines that a public meeting cannot safely be held. If an emergency occurs, remote technology will be the primary meeting source.

Location Virtually: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EfVX3qaQcmBf_hz4enMFg

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 838 1257 0064

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov, board liaison.

COVID Precautions: Masking is not required at this meeting, as the mask mandates have been updated by the Governor and local public health departments. If mask mandates change, there will be notification. However, masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. The meetings rooms will be set to allow for as much social distancing as possible and air purifiers will be placed throughout.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Chair Willhite

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
 - Review and Approval of Agenda – October 25-26, 2022 **(Decision)**
 - 2023 Calendar Approval **(Decision)**
 - Remarks of the Chair
-

9:10 a.m. 1. Consent Agenda (Decision)

Chair Willhite

A. Board Meeting Minutes

- July 26-27, 2022
- August 3, 2022

B. Time Extensions:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Point Whitney Access Redevelopment, [16-2308](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Samish River Unit Parking and Recreation, [16-1469](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Simco 2016, [16-1346](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters Boat Launch Redevelopment, [16-2544](#)
- Department of Natural Resources, Camas Meadows Forest Rare Plant Restoration, [16-1636](#)
- King County, Cougar Mountain Precipice Trailhead Development, [16-1363](#)
- City of Seattle, Don Armeni Boat Launch Renovation, [16-2356](#)
- City of Shoreline, Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement, [16-1621](#)
- South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, South Whidbey Campground Phase 1, [16-1884](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Inholdings and Adjacent Properties, [16-1974](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Klickitat Trail, [14-1634](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Willapa Hills Trail-Marwood Farms Acquisition, [16-1926](#)
- Tonasket Junior Baseball, Chief Tonasket Park Ball Field Complex Renovation, [16-2033](#)
- Washington Farmland Trust, Reiner Farm in Snohomish County, [16-1358](#)

C. Cost Increases

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Deer Lake Access Redevelopment, [18-2356](#)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lake Cavanaugh Access Redevelopment, [18-2349](#)

D. Volunteer Recognitions (9)

Resolution 2022-13

9:15 a.m. 2. Director's Report

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A. Director's Report | <i>Megan Duffy</i> |
| B. Legislative and Policy Update | <i>Brock Milliern</i> |
| C. Grant Management Report (<i>written only</i>) | <i>Marguerite Austin</i> |
| D. Grant Services Report (<i>written only</i>) | <i>Kyle Guzlas</i> |
| E. Performance Report (<i>written only</i>) | <i>Brent Hedden</i> |
| F. Fiscal Report (<i>written only</i>) | <i>Mark Jarasitis</i> |

9:30 a.m. 3. Introduction of New State Parks Director

Director Dupuis

10:00 a.m. General Public Comment for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:25 a.m. BREAK

10:40 a.m. 4. Equity Review

Leah Dobey

11:40 a.m. LUNCH

12:40 p.m. 5. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Projects

Karl Jacobs

1:00 p.m. 6. Grant Program Framework

Marguerite Austin

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

1:10 p.m. 7. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Approval of Final Ranked List and Delegation Authority for Awarding Grants for 2023-25

DeAnn Beck

Resolution 2022-14

Public comment will occur after each category presented. Please limit comment to 3 minutes

1:25 p.m. 8. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA): Approval of Ranked List *Andrea Hood*
Resolution 2022-15

*Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes*

1:40 p.m. 9. Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF): Approval of Ranked Lists *Ashly Arambul*
Resolution 2022-16

*Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes*

1:55 p.m. 10. Community Forests Program (CFP): Approval of Ranked List *Marguerite Austin*
Resolution 2022-17

*Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes*

2:10 p.m. 11. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Local Parks..... | <u>Resolution 2022-18</u> | <i>Allison Dellwo</i> |
| B. State Lands Development..... | <u>Resolution 2022-19</u> | <i>Dan Haws</i> |
| C. State Parks..... | <u>Resolution 2022-20</u> | <i>Hayley Edmonston</i> |
| D. Trails..... | <u>Resolution 2022-21</u> | <i>Jesse Sims</i> |
| E. Water Access..... | <u>Resolution 2022-22</u> | <i>Henry Smith</i> |

*Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes*

2:55 p.m. 12. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farm and Forest Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| A. Farmland Preservation..... | <u>Resolution 2022-23</u> | <i>Kim Sellers</i> |
| B. Forestland Preservation..... | <u>Resolution 2022-24</u> | <i>Kim Sellers</i> |

*Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes*

3:15 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m. 13. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

- A. Critical Habitat.....[Resolution 2022-25](#)
- B. Natural Areas.....[Resolution 2022-26](#)
- C. Riparian Protection.....[Resolution 2022-27](#)
- D. State Lands Restoration.....[Resolution 2022-28](#)
- E. Urban Wildlife Habitat.....[Resolution 2022-29](#)

*Brian Carpenter
DeAnn Beck
Karl Jacobs
Dan Haws
Marguerite Austin*

Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes

4:15 p.m. 14.State Agency Partner Reports

- Governor’s Office
- Department of Natural Resources
- State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Jon Snyder
Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn
Peter Herzog
Amy Windrope*

5:00 p.m. RECESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

OPENING AND BRIEFINGS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Willhite

9:10 a.m. 15.Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) Update

Ben Donatelle

10:10 a.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:25 a.m. 16.Cost Increase Discussion.

*Brock Milliern &
Scott Robinson*

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

11:10 a.m. 17.Tacoma Eastside Pool, RCO #82-063 Conversion Decision
[Resolution 2022-30](#)

Myra Barker

Public comment will occur after each category presented.
Please limit comment to 3 minutes

11:30 a.m. 18.Bellingham Frank Geri Complex Field 4, RCO #96-1178
Request for Time Extension of Non-conforming Use
Decision

Myra Barker

Resolution 2022-31

Public comment will occur after each category presented.

Please limit comment to 3 minutes

12:15 p.m. ADJOURN.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – January 25-26 pending board approval, Online and in Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Time Extension Requests

Prepared By: Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grants Managers

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Resolution: 2022-13 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the requested time extensions.

Background

Each grant [program policy manual](#) outlines the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) adopted policy for progress on active funded projects. The key elements of this policy are the sponsor's responsibility to complete a funded project promptly and meet the project milestones outlined in the grant agreement. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director may give an applicant up to four years (from the award date) to complete a project. Extensions beyond four years require board action.

RCO received requests for time extensions for the projects listed in Attachment A. This document summarizes the circumstances for the requested extensions and the expected date of project completion.

General considerations for approving time extension requests include:

- Receipt of a written request for the time extension,
- Reimbursements requested and approved,
- Date the board granted funding approval,
- Conditions surrounding the delay,
- Sponsor's reasons or justification for requesting the extension,

- Likelihood of sponsor completing the project within the extended period,
- Original dates for project completion,
- Status of activities within the grant,
- Sponsor's progress on this and other funded projects.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Attachments

A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-2308 Development	Point Whitney Access Redevelopment	Boating Facilities Program	\$306,489 (57%)	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received a grant to redevelop the boat launch and support amenities at Point Whitney located in Brinnon, Washington. This site provides boating access for fishing, recreation, and wildlife viewing.

WDFW received the hydraulic project approval (HPA) permit and has completed the parking lot, kiosk, and restroom renovations. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and Jefferson County permits have been significantly delayed due to ongoing discussions of acceptable mitigation with regulators causing WDFW to miss the July 2022 construction window. Additionally, Jefferson County has experienced several staff changes resulting in a backlog of project related work. There are no options for on-site mitigation for the boat launch impacts and WDFW has had to find and propose options for off-site mitigation. The only reasonable option available is through the Hood Canal Coordinating Council's in-lieu fee program. The length of time required to get approval for the mitigation credits from regulators and the ongoing discussion regarding monetary charges has significantly slowed down the permit process.

WDFW is requesting a one-year extension to allow for construction in 2023. This timeframe will help accommodate the permit review delays, an in-water construction window beginning July 2023, and allow time to complete final billing and close out the grant in December 2023.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1469 Development	Samish River Unit Parking and Recreation	WWRP-State Lands Development	\$108,009 (59%)	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received a grant to develop a parking lot and support amenities along the Samish River located in Skagit County. The facility is a public access site in the Samish Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area.

WDFW has completed the design, cultural resources assessment, and the State Environmental Policy Act permit. The remaining permits have been held up by mitigation negotiations and Skagit County project backlogs. The delay in permit completion has caused WDFW to miss this year's construction window of July to October 2022.

WDFW is requesting a one-year extension. This timeframe will help accommodate the permit review, allow the agency to begin construction in July 2023, and give time for completion of the final close out documents by December 2023.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1346 Acquisition	Simcoe 2016	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$400,000 (10%)	10/31/2022	6/30/2024

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received a grant to purchase approximately 6,700 acres of habitat in the Simcoe Mountains located 10 miles northeast of Goldendale in Klickitat County. This is Phase 4 of a multi-phase project to acquire 22,000 acres of land for this wildlife habitat area.

To date, WDFW has acquired the property but has been unable to complete post-closing work, including noxious weed control and fencing. The project has been delayed primarily due to COVID-19, which made it necessary for the Yakama Nation to suspend their participation in reviewing cultural resources for projects with ground disturbing activities. The property acquired by WDFW borders Yakama tribal lands, which increases the sensitivity of ground disturbing activities in the area. Per agreement with WDFW, the tribe will conduct a cultural survey of the property and will provide ongoing monitoring during fence installation.

An extension will allow WDFW the additional time needed to complete post-closing activities on property purchased for this habitat area.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-2544 Development	Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters Boat Launch Redevelopment	Boating Facilities Program	\$317,295 (73%)	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received a grant to redevelop the boat launch and support amenities on Freshwater Slough in Skagit County. The facility provides access for waterfowl hunting, pleasure boating, fishing, and wildlife viewing along the Skagit River.

WDFW has completed design, cultural resources, and secured all permits except the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit. The USACE has rotated through several permit managers for this project, restarting the review process each time. The project is now submitted for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) review, which is backlogged with an estimated review time of nine months. This delay in permit completion caused WDFW to miss the August through September construction window due to the ongoing discussions of acceptable mitigation requirements by regulators. Currently, NOAA is requesting additional mitigation in the form of mitigation credits. The length of time required to get approval for the credits from regulators has significantly slowed down the permit process. NOAA has not provided WDFW with a start date for their review.

WDFW is requesting a one-year extension to allow for construction in 2023. This timeframe will help accommodate the permit review, an August/September in-water work window, and allow time to submit the final billing and close out the grant in December 2023.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
<u>16-1636</u> Restoration	Camas Meadows Forest Rare Plant Restoration	WWRP – State Lands Restoration and Enhancement	\$38,934 (35%)	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting 130 acres of ecological thinning, invasive plant control, native vegetation establishment, and prescribed burning to restore forest and wet meadow habitats at the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve in Chelan County.

DNR has faced several issues causing delays with completing the project including:

- COVID related delays due to travel restrictions and limited staff. This impacted cultural resource review, thinning project layout, and other field work.
- Cultural resource review has taken longer than expected due to staff turnover, additional requirements under the new Executive Order 21-02, and concerns and additional review requested by Native American tribes.
- Permitting delays for the forest restoration thinning due to a lack of forestry staff, significant changes required in the thinning prescription to meet wildlife habitat requirements and needed road drainage work identified in the forest practice application process.
- Changes in prescribed fire policy that required re-writing the burn plan and additional review by staff with prescribed fire qualifications. Also, COVID and wildfire smoke concerns limited the ability to conduct burns in 2020 and 2021.

Despite these delays, DNR has completed most of the restoration work and anticipates implementing the prescribed burn this fall. The remaining portion of the project will be the forest thinning. The permitting is almost done, however, the limited seasonal window (September-November) in which the thinning can be performed, and the time required to auction and contract the work after permitting, means DNR will not complete the thinning this year. With the progress made on permitting, DNR is confident that the thinning can be done in 2023.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1363 Development	Cougar Mountain Precipice Trailhead Development	WWRP Local Parks	\$896,870 79%	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks received this grant to develop a trailhead at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, a 3,100-acre park located in Issaquah. This grant will allow King County to construct a parking lot, restroom building, trail connections, and park amenities off Newport Way, the only access to the northeast quadrant of the park.

To date, King County has designed the project to 95%, received the land use and clear and grade permits, and started the procurement planning process. Further refining of the specifications will be completed as the procurement process advances.

The major delay to this project has been the permitting timeline. The land use permit application was submitted in June 2018 and received in December 2020. The clear and grade permit was submitted in March 2021 with the permit being issued in August 2022. This setback means King County will miss the construction window for this fall.

King County is requesting a one-year extension to allow for construction in 2023. This timeframe will help accommodate the permitting delays and allow time to complete final billing and close out the grant in December 2023.

City of Seattle

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-2356 Development	Don Armeni Boat Launch Renovation	Boating Facilities Program	\$324,144 (86%)	12/31/2022	3/31/2024

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

City of Seattle is requesting a time extension to complete the Don Armeni Boat Launch Renovation project. Plans are to replace pilings, install two boarding floats, and renovate the four launch lanes.

Seattle has completed 100 percent of design and has secured local permits. City staff is working closely with permitting agencies to finalize the necessary federal permits. Once federal permits are secured and Seattle receives the notice to proceed, staff anticipates that the construction and float installation will take about three weeks. This 15-month extension request provides two February fish windows in case the federal permits are not secured by early 2023.

City of Shoreline

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1621 Development	Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement	Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$337,973 (75%)	12/31/2022	3/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The City of Shoreline is requesting a three-month extension to finish reconstructing trails and restoring a natural creek channel in Shoreview Park. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved a short extension in July; however, contractor delays now require additional time to successfully complete the work.

Despite many challenges and unexpected delays, Shoreline has worked diligently to complete this project. Initially the project was delayed due to staffing changes, extended vacancies, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The in-water elements, which were part of a larger dam removal project, had to go through an extensive federal permitting process fraught with complexities and delays before a permit was finally issued. Most recently, the city's contractor faced COVID-related staffing issues that slowed progress just as the city was nearing the end of the window (September 30) for in-water work. In response, the city applied for and expects to receive a short fish window extension from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, which should allow the contractor to complete all in-water work by mid-October. If successful, the contractor expects to fully complete the rest of the work by early 2023.

An extension through March 31, 2023 (which coincides with the expiration of the federal agreement with the National Park Service), will allow sufficient time to close out the state and federal agreements.

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
<u>16-1884</u> Combination	South Whidbey Campground Phase 1	WWRP – Local Parks	\$209,434.34 (49%)	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District is requesting a one-year extension to complete development of their Community Park campground, which is in Island County.

South Whidbey has completed the acquisition of the 30-acre project area and is working on the permitting requirements. They received Island County approval for their Small Water System Management Plan and are on the last steps for review and approval of their site plan. The district plans to complete the bid documents for their campsites and access road by this fall and hope to move to construction by early 2023. They are requesting a one-year extension to give adequate time for construction and project close-out.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1974 Acquisition	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	WWRP – State Parks	\$163,779 (16%)	12/31/2022	9/30/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) was planning to purchase an inholding property along the 31-mile Klickitat Trail that runs along the Klickitat River in the Columbia River Gorge. The landowner passed away and the estate is now in probate with multiple heirs. State Parks is still interested in acquiring the property, but there is uncertainty about how long it may take to get through that process.

State Parks would like to instead use the remaining grant funds to purchase several small lots that are located adjacent to Penrose Point State Park, a 165-acres park located at the southern end of Puget Sound in Pierce County. They have successfully purchased many of these lots over the last few years (all are within the long-term park boundary). They have ordered the appraisals for the next group of lots and are requesting additional time to complete the transactions and submit their close-out documents.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
14-1634 Development	Klickitat Trail	WWRP – State Parks category	\$2 million (90%)	12/31/2022	4/30/2024

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) has faced significant and compounding issues that have delayed progress on the Klickitat Trail project.

- At the beginning of the project, they faced lay-offs due to the delayed passage of the 2017-2019 state capital budget.
- The Yakama Nation raised concerns about the project and as a result, State Parks withdrew the state environmental policy documents and spent two years working on a memorandum of understanding with the Yakama Nation to address their mutual concerns.
- The COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020. This put everything on hold with several months of starting and stopping due to various health requirements.
- State Parks has lost staff due to the vaccine mandate and retirements, including an engineering aide of 24 years.
- State Parks has been trying to fill vacant positions, but it is currently a very challenging and competitive job market.

State Parks has completed structural drawings for the trestles, structural design for the prefabricated bridge, and obtained development permits. They awarded the bid in June and the notice to proceed was issued on September 6. State Parks anticipates construction to be complete in spring 2023.

However, harsh winters, in-water work windows, and fire season closures typically allow for only three to five months of construction each year. There are only two construction access points to the steep and narrow canyon. State Parks is already seeing extended lead times for the picnic shelter, vault toilet, and other concrete products as concrete mix imports from China are delayed.

While they hope to complete the project by spring 2023, they are requesting another 16 months to give them one more work window next fall/winter in case of work closures or other delays.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
<u>16-1926</u> Acquisition	Willapa Hills Trail – Marwood Farms Acquisition	WWRP – State Parks	\$640,452 (97%)	11/30/2022	6/30/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) received a grant to acquire 178 acres along the Chehalis River in Lewis County. State Parks is requesting an extension due to the cost and complexity of purchasing the land and associated water rights. They completed the first appraisals in 2019 and discovered that there are inadequate grant funds to purchase both the land and the water rights. They had the water rights analyzed and determined that there are multiple owners (the property is along the Chehalis River). The seller worked on finding a buyer for his share of the water rights, and the City of Chehalis is purchasing them separately. State Parks will now acquire only the land.

Updated appraisals are in process. The actual appraisal report is due October 31, and the appraisal review is due November 15. The estimated closing date is in February 2023. State Parks is requesting an extension to June 2023 to get all recorded documents to RCO and finish other eligible activities such as fencing and noxious weed control.

Tonasket Junior Baseball Association

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-2033 Development	Chief Tonasket Park Ball Field Complex Renovation	YAF – Renovation	\$198,238	12/31/2022	12/31/2023

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Tonasket Junior Baseball Association has a grant to renovate the multi-purpose fields at Chief Tonasket Park in Okanogan County. The sponsor is requesting an extension due to the time and complexity of the planning and cultural resources processes, following previous major delays from COVID shutdowns. Additional time was needed to change the restroom design and location to meet the City of Tonasket requirements, and to complete the cultural resources study and clarify report outcomes.

That work is now complete, and the project is construction-ready, but it will not be possible to initiate and complete development during the seasonal construction window. The 12-month time extension will provide the complete construction season necessary to finish the project work.

Washington Farmland Trust

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1358 Acquisition	Reiner Farm, Snohomish County	WWRP- Farmland Preservation	\$792,018 (97%)	12/31/2022	6/30/2024

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington Farmland Trust (Trust) received a Farmland Preservation grant to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on about 200 acres of the Reiner Farm in the Tualco Valley of Snohomish County. Additionally, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) also provided grant funding (Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) #18-1737) for the acquisition of about 116 acres of riparian habitat located directly adjacent to this farmland property. The farmland property is approximately five times the average county farm size and includes about two miles of riverfront along the Skykomish River. The landowner, the Reiner family, is part of the Sno/Sky Ag Alliance (Alliance), which is a collaborative effort between landowners, Northwest Chinook Recovery and the Tulalip Tribes, whose goal is to further environmental preservation consistent with sustainable agriculture. Additionally, the Trust is working through a Buy-Protect-Sell scenario, where they will purchase the property in fee through an associated limited liability company (LLC), place an easement on the property, and then sell the underlying land to a new farmer. Because RCO does not currently have a formal buy-protect-sell option, the Trust needs to take additional steps to work within RCO requirements.

This multifaceted project is a wonderful example of collaboration between multiple stakeholder groups to fully protect a valuable riparian valley property. However, this effort does come with the price of taking significantly longer to complete. To date, the property has been acquired and the initial Reiner Farm conservation easement has been drafted. Closing of the easement has been delayed due to the need for multiple appraisals to be completed, boundary line adjustments to reconfigure parcel lines, and the drafting and recording a reciprocal road right of way agreement.

Additional time will allow the Trust time to complete work that supports both the work of the Alliance and a buy-protect-sell scenario.



APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

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

Prepared By: Ashly Arambul, Outdoor Grant Manager

Summary

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve cost increases for two boating projects:

- Deer Lake Access Redevelopment, 18-2356D
- Lake Cavanaugh Access Redevelopment, 18-2349D

The cost increases will help offset unprecedented high construction costs. Each request exceeds ten percent of the total project cost; therefore, policy requires board consideration of these requests.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-13 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the cost increase requests.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) awarded Boating Facilities Program (BFP) grants to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for

development and renovation of motorized boating facilities on Deer Lake and Lake Cavanaugh at the July 2019 board meeting.

The Deer Lake Access Redevelopment ([18-2356D](#)) site is located on Whidbey Island in Island County, one mile from the Clinton ferry terminal. This lake offers excellent trout fishing. WDFW plans to replace the boat launch, install an L-shaped dock, and pave the entry road, accessible parking stalls and the vehicle-trailer staging area. The proposed improvements will increase use of the site by motorized boaters and increase safety during the launch and retrieval of boats.

The Lake Cavanaugh Access Redevelopment ([18-2349D](#)) project is located east of Mount Vernon in Skagit County. WDFW will redevelop this access site that has outlived its useful life by installing a new concrete boat launch, boarding float, and L-dock moorage, and adding a new ADA compliant CXT vault toilet. WDFW will also pave the gravel parking area. The upgrades will improve the overall site safety and enjoyment of the boating public.

Project Statuses

Deer Lake: The board awarded a \$404,000 grant for this project. WDFW has finished the pre-construction work. Scope elements completed are the boat launch, site grading, float abutment, and boarding float construction. The bid to install the boarding float and piles, plus asphalt paving and striping has come in higher than funds remaining by \$100,000. WDFW is requesting a \$100,000 cost increase to cover the installation of the boarding float and to pave and stripe the parking area. WDFW used its own staff to replace the boat launch.

Lake Cavanaugh: The board awarded a \$490,000 grant for this project and WDFW has finished the pre-construction work. Scope elements completed include installation of the concrete boat launch, a new CXT toilet, and the float abutment. The parking area has been paved and is ready for striping. Also, the boarding float has been constructed but needs to be installed. The bid to install the boarding float including piling and asphalt paving came in over budget by \$150,000. If the board approves this cost increase, WDFW will pave and install the new boarding float which was included in the original proposal. They are requesting a \$175,000 cost increase.

Discussion and Analysis

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

Project Number	Project Name	Current Grant Amount	Cost Increase Request	Percent Increase	Proposed Grant Amount
18-2356D	Deer Lake	\$404,000	\$100,000	25%	\$504,000
18-2349D	Lake Cavanaugh	\$490,000	\$175,000	36%	\$665,000
	Total Project Cost	\$894,000	\$275,000		\$1,169,000

Cost Increase Policy

The board’s policy on cost increases is outlined in *Manual 4: Development Projects* on page 36. Specifically, the policy states:

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

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

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

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

Additionally, *Manual 9: Boating Facilities Program* further defines the policy for cost overruns. It states that overruns are the responsibility of the sponsor; however, if unused funds are available, RCO may consider a cost increase.

Available Funds

The two projects described in this memo are requesting increases that range from 25 to 36 percent or a total of \$275,000. There are enough funds available in the Recreation Resources Account to cover the amounts requested since four BFP State Category projects closed this year without using their full grant allocations. Since these requests exceed 10 percent of the project's approved grant, the requests are presented for the board's consideration

Analysis

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

Alternatives Considered

Lake Cavanaugh Alternatives: WDFW considered reducing the cost by eliminating one or more scope elements such as the boarding float, toilet or paving. To do so, however, defeats the overall intent of the project proposal and would not improve barrier-free access. At this time the floats are purchased and ready for installation and paving the site is needed to enhance accessibility.

Another alternative would be to delay and reapply for funds in the next grant round. This option could prove to be costly because of the shelf life of some of the permits and the expense of putting the project out to bid again. After considering options, WDFW decided the most efficient and cost-effective option was to request a cost increase.

Deer Lake Alternatives: WDFW considered reducing the cost by eliminating one or more scope elements such as the boarding float, paving, or boat launch. To do so, however, defeats the overall intent of the project proposal and would not improve accessibility. At this time the floats are purchased and ready for installation.

Another alternative would be to delay and reapply for funds in the next grant round. This option could prove to be costly because the permits have a limited shelf life and soliciting bids again could prove to be quite expensive. After considering options, WDFW decided the most efficient and cost-effective option was to request a cost increase.

Conditions Causing the Overrun

WDFW has had a history of completing their boating projects within the original budgets and has in fact returned funds from several projects that came in under budget.

The rising prices of raw materials such as lumber and steel has been challenging because it impacts the cost of construction, which has significantly increased over the last year due to high demand and low production. Across the state, contractors are experiencing a high volatility in the pricing of materials, which has forced them to be very conservative in their estimates to prevent them from having to pay out of pocket for the material increases. In addition, there are significant contractor shortages because many are working to complete projects delayed previously because of the COVID-19 pandemic. WDFW says the escalating costs were unexpected and have contributed to their budget deficits.

Elements in the Agreement

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the cost increases as requested.

Next Steps

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



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Recognition of Volunteer Service

Prepared By: Tessa Cencula, Volunteer and Grants Process Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the years of service by agency and community member volunteers on the advisory committees that the Recreation and Conservation Office uses to assist in its grant programs.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-13

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the proposed recognitions.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) relies on volunteers to help administer its grant programs. Volunteers provide a strategic balance and perspective on program issues.

Their activities, experience, and knowledge help shape program policies that guide RCO in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants.

The following individuals have completed their terms of service or have otherwise bid farewell after providing valuable analysis and excellent program advice. Outdoor enthusiasts in Washington will enjoy the results of their hard work and vision for years to come. Staff applauds their exceptional service and recommends approval of the attached resolutions via Resolution 2022-13 (consent).

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Nicole Czarnomski	State Agency Representative	2

Boating Programs Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Dennis Lefevre	Local Agency Representative	6

Community Forests Program Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Kaola Swanson	Nonprofit Representative	2

Firearm and Archery Range Recreation Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Phil Shave	Community Member Representative	6

Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Erica Schmitz	Local Agency Representative	2

No Child Left Inside Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Dana Bowers	Local and Education Agency Representative	3

WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Tristan Klesick	Farmer Representative	4

WWRP State Lands Development Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Rex Hapala	State Agency Representative	8

WWRP Trails Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Michelle Griffin	Community Member Representative	2

Attachment A

Individual Service Recognitions



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Nicole Czarnomski

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Nicole Czarnomski served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of ALEA projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Dr. Czarnomski's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Dr. Czarnomski.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Dennis Lefevre

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

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2022, Dennis Lefevre served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Boating Programs Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of boating projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Lefevre dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Lefevre.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Kaola Swanson

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Kaola Swanson served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Community Forests Program Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of Community Forests Program projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Ms. Swanson's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Ms. Swanson.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "W".

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Phil Shave

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

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2022, Phil Shave served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Firearm and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of FARR projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Shave's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Shave.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

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

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Erica Schmitz

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Erica Schmitz served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of LWCF projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Ms. Schmitz's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Ms. Schmitz.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Dana Bowers

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

WHEREAS, from 2019 to 2022, Dana Bowers served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of NCLI projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Ms. Bowers' dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Ms. Bowers.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "W".

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Tristan Klesick

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

WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2022, Tristan Klesick served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of WWRP Farmland projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Klesick's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Klesick.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Rex Hapala

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

WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2022, Rex Hapala served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Lands Development Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of WWRP State Lands Development projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Hapala's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Hapala.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite".

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Michelle Griffin

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Michelle Griffin served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Trails Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of WWRP Trails projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Ms. Griffin's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Ms. Griffin.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 25, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "W".

Ted Willhite, Chair

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2022-13
October 25-26, 2022 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 25-26 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2022-13

A. Board Meeting Minutes

- July 26-27, 2022
- August 3, 2022

B. Time Extensions:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Point Whitney Access Redevelopment, [16-2308](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Samish River Unit Parking and Recreation, [16-1469](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Simco 2016, [16-1346](#)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters Boat Launch Redevelopment, [16-2544](#)
- Department of Natural Resources, Camas Meadows Forest Rare Plant Restoration, [16-1636](#)
- King County, Cougar Mountain Precipice Trailhead Development, 16-1363
- City of Seattle, Don Armeni Boat Launch Renovation, [16-2356](#)
- City of Shoreline, Shoreview Park Trail and Creek Improvement, [16-1621](#)
- South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District, South Whidbey Campground Phase 1, [16-1884](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Inholdings and Adjacent Properties, [16-1974](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Klickitat Trail, [14-1634](#)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission, Willapa Hills Trail- Marwood Farms Acquisition, [16-1926](#)
- Tonasket Junior Baseball, Chief Tonasket Park Ball Field Complex Renovation, [16-2033](#)
- Washington Farmland Trust, Reiner Farm in Snohomish County, [16-1358](#)

C. Cost Change:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Deer Lake Access Redevelopment, [18-2356](#)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lake Cavanaugh Access Redevelopment, [18-2349](#)

D. Volunteer Recognitions

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Approved Date: October 25, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Recreation and Conservation Office Report (Director's Report)

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, Marguerite Austin, Kyle Guzlas, Brent Hedden, Mark Jarasitis, and Susan Zemek

Summary

This memo summarizes key agency activities.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Agency Updates

Updating the Statewide Recreation and Conservation Plan

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff continue to work with stakeholders and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to update the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan*, also known as SCORP.

Two advisory committees wrapped up their work in July by identifying a list of priority outdoor recreation issues and recommendations for addressing those issues. The board provided feedback in August to guide the development of the *Unifying Strategy* or implementation



plan. RCO policy staff will present the plan to the board at its October meeting, which will be followed by a public review period. The final plan will be presented to the board in January 2023 and then submitted to the Governor's Office and the National Park Service (NPS) for adoption and approval.

Report Reviews Equitable Grant Distribution

In the 2021-2023 operating budget, RCO received a proviso to identify possible changes to recreation and conservation grants that would result in the equitable distribution of recreation grants and reduce barriers that might prevent underserved communities from receiving grants. To conduct the review, RCO contracted with The Prevention Institute, which used data from the past three grant cycles and input from stakeholders and communities to develop



recommendations on how to improve access to funding. In addition, RCO met with the Office of Equity and several Governor's commissions to discuss the review and included their insights as part of the effort. The Prevention Institute recommended creating a new grant program, changing some processes and evaluation criteria, and ensuring that underserved communities are engaged with grant programs. The Prevention Institute noted that some grant recipients faced challenges with RCO's complex grant application process and reimbursement payment method, lacked knowledge of RCO's grants, felt a true or perceived lack of opportunity, and felt other issues deterred them. RCO has received the final report and submitted it to the Legislature. The next step is to develop a path for implementing many of the recommendations, some of which would require additional staff and funding.

Employee News

Eli Asher joined the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) in August as a policy specialist. He is leading production of the biennial *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* report, coordinating statewide salmon recovery policies with regional salmon recovery plans, forming and maintaining strategic partnerships, and communicating progress on salmon and orca recovery. A skilled storyteller and technician, Eli brings nearly 20 years of experience in restoration implementation, recovery planning, and salmon policy to this position. Eli holds a bachelor's degree in speech communication from the University of Washington, a master's degree in natural resource management from Central Washington University, and a decade of service to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, where he was most recently interim deputy director of the Natural Resources Department. Eli lives with his wife, daughter, and Labrador retriever in Union, where he can watch Bigg's orcas hunt harbor seals and anglers pursue Chinook



salmon from his desk. An avid omnivore and epicure, he is happiest on a boat, mountain, or intertidal beach, gathering wild food for his family.

Hayley Edmonston joined the Recreation and Conservation Grants Team in October as an outdoor grant manager. Hayley has worked in the parks and conservation field for nine years with a focus on climate change. She started her career as a park ranger at Mount Rainier and Glacier National Parks and has since worked as a management analyst at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in California, a senior project manager at Forterra, and most recently as an environmental planner with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. She has a Master of Public Administration degree in environmental policy and a Bachelor of Arts in Law, Societies, and Justice, both from the University of Washington. Since both of her parents are park rangers, Hayley spent much of her childhood with national parks as part of her backyard. She loves hiking, camping, backpacking, and running. She will work from her home in Seattle.



Alison Greene left RCO in September after nearly 7 years to take a job as an environmental scientist helping with the Hanford Nuclear Waste cleanup efforts in Richland. She will be writing the permits required to complete the clean-up. While at RCO, Alison has been a top-notch grants manager and managed much of the grants in Eastern Washington. She also was our first employee to try the new Bringing Your Baby to Work program.



Andrea Hood joined the Recreation and Conservation Grants Team in September as an outdoor grant manager. Her entire career has been in the natural resources field. She was the Northwest Straits program coordinator for Department of Ecology; an eight-year environmental the Department of Health, where she coordinated agency water quality improvement work to support recovery in Puget Sound; an environmental planner Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), where she contracts for the Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead conservation district employee, where she secured state, and private grants for natural resource projects; and a landscape architect, where she plans and construction documents for outdoor spaces. Andrea earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and master's degree in environmental management from Yale University. Andrea is an enthusiastic outdoor



the planner for multi-shellfish with the managed team; a federal, protection developed

recreationist who loves water sports like kayaking and sailing. She and her husband and two grown children enjoy hiking and spending time in the great outdoors. She will work from her home office in Bellingham.

Bart Lynch started at RCO in August as a data specialist for the Data Team. Bart primarily handles PRISM support requests, setting up new user accounts, and fulfilling data requests. Bart has spent the past four years as a marketing assistant at CCI Solutions, where he performed database queries, designed marketing products, and completed other Web-based tasks. Before that, he worked as a graphic designer, design developer, and university lecturer teaching art and design courses. In his spare time, Bart enjoys making art, walking with his wife and two kids, and tending to the yard.



Erin Souza joined RCO as an administrative assistant in September. She staffs the reception desk and supports the GSRO. Erin comes from the DFW, where she spent the past 2 years as an administrative assistant in the Wildlife Program. Before that, she completed a communications internship at the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shortly after graduating with her bachelor's degree in communication studies. In her free time, she enjoys exercising those communications skills by volunteering as a social media content creator at a farm sanctuary in Rainier. She is happily married and loves spending time with her husband and dog, Bowie.



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** met in August and discussed the forecast report, which documents the land that the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the DFW, and the DNR intend to acquire in the next biennium. The lands group will next meet November 30.



The **Invasive Species Council** met September 29 in Airway Heights. The day before, there was a field tour of the Liberty Lake Watercraft Inspection Station, which included a watercraft inspection, canine handling, and decontamination demonstration. At its meeting, the council discussed the application of the incident

management system to invasive species, Japanese beetle quarantine and eradication efforts, and a middle Columbia River northern pike response plan.

The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** met in August and approved \$82 million for board-funded projects, RCO administration, lead entity capacity, and regional fisheries enhancement group project planning costs. The board also agreed to request additional funding for lead entity capacity and select regional organizations. The board met again in September and awarded nearly \$76 million in grants for salmon recovery, including two large grants in its Targeted Investment Program for projects that will increase Chinook salmon, the primary food for endangered orcas. The SRFB also forwarded an additional \$58 million in grant requests for 55 projects to the Governor and Legislature for funding consideration through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program in 2023. If approved, the combined funding would be the largest amount of money directed at salmon recovery in a single year since the board was created 23 years ago. The board will meet next December 7-8.

Legislative and Policy Updates

Legislative Update

Staff developed both capital and operating budget packages which were submitted to the Office of Financial Management on September 20. In addition to the capital budget requests, RCO submitted five operating requests:

- Lead Entities and Salmon Regions operating budget increase
- Hire of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator
- Hire of a Tribal Liaison
- Hire of a Data Coordinator
- Additional money for Flowering Rush control

The Governor's budget will be released in mid-December.

Policy Updates

Staff have continued to develop the Planning for Recreation Access (PRA) grant and is currently accepting project applications. This is a new office program that will fund planning, pre-design, and technical assistance grants with a focus on diverse urban neighborhoods and small rural communities that lack outdoor recreation access. The 2021 legislature provided \$2.325 million toward this effort, and RCO's new Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities Fund (COAFF) is contributing up to \$750,000.

With a simple application process and no match requirements, this program is designed to be accessible to new applicants and those less familiar with RCO's current granting

practices. The PRA advisory committee, public comment, and staff have shaped the evaluation criteria, which focus on community characteristics, recreation impacts, engagement and outreach, and opportunities for success. Applications will close in mid-November with awards anticipated by mid-January.

Grant Management Section

Evaluation of Spring Cycle Projects

Thirteen director appointed advisory committees participated in reviewing and evaluating 241 grant applications submitted by 103 local, state, and tribal governments and nonprofit conservation and recreation organizations. RCO staff hosted six pre-evaluation meetings for written evaluation processes and several days of virtual meetings for programs that use an “in-person” presentation process. Staff will present the results of the evaluations as outlined in Items 7 through 13 at the October meeting and ask the board to approve the ranked lists of projects for submittal to the Governor and Legislature for funding consideration.

Fall Grant Cycle is Underway

Staff kicked off the fall grant cycle on August 10 with a series of three application webinars that focused on the four grant programs shown below.

<i>Grant Program</i>	<i>RCO Presenter</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Boating Facilities Program	Henry Smith	38
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	Ashly Arambul	24
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities and Recreational Trails Program	Brian Carpenter and Jesse Sims	73

Megan Duffy and Brock Milliern welcomed applicants to the virtual sessions, shared information about historical funding for each program, and encouraged participants to work closely with their outdoor grants managers to make sure they received answers to their questions. In each webinar, staff described the grant program, eligibility requirements, deadlines, program changes for 2022, and how to apply for a grant. Karl Jacobs helped staff answer applicant questions at the end of each session.

Applications for Fall Cycle



Applicants are preparing applications for acquiring and developing motorized boating access sites, creating and maintaining backcountry trails, and renovating shooting ranges. There are currently 119 pre-applications in PRISM Online, RCO's application database. Applicants must submit their grant applications by November 1. The board will approve ranked lists in April 2023 and award grants at the June meeting.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grants

RCO is accepting applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program. Administered by the NPS, this program provides grants to acquire or develop parks in communities with little or no access to outdoor recreation areas. The focus is on economically disadvantaged communities near urban areas. Projects must be in cities or towns with a population of at least 30,000 people and the community must have a poverty rate of at least 20 percent. Applicants may request up to \$9.58 million, however, there is a one-to-one match requirement. NPS has more than \$192 million available for this nationwide competition. Applications are due to RCO by November 1, 2022. See Item 5 for more information about this grant program.

Federal, State, and Local Officials Visit Legacy Projects in Seattle

Allison Dellwo joined Shannon Estenoz, U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, for a tour of two Seattle area projects on October 3. King County staff and community members led Executive Dow Constantine and guests on a tour of Skyway Park ([16-1934](#)). This newly renovated park is in the poorest and most ethnically diverse zip code in King County, where nearly every public health indicator, such as heart disease, obesity, and limited access to healthy food, is alarmingly higher than anywhere else in the county. A \$355,000 federal Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant was used for a new mini-soccer arena, play area, and creating a new pedestrian entry way into the park along a vacated street right of way.



The second stop on the tour was at the Garfield Community Center where Seattle staff hosted a roundtable discussion with community members, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Seattle's Mayor Bruce Harrell, and Assistant Secretary Estenoz. The guest toured Garfield Super Block ([21-1305](#)), which was awarded \$2 million this year for comprehensive renovation of a park in an area that is poor and has a disproportionately small amount of open space. In this dense residential area, 21 percent of the population is under the age of 19 compared with 15 percent in Seattle as a whole.

The tour wrapped up with a media event where Assistant Secretary Estenoz spoke about increased funding (\$192 million) for ORLP and the emphasis on equity for areas like these. The overall purpose of the tour was to listen to the community and applaud them for the work that is going into projects like these.

\$100 Million to Improve Safety and Mobility for Biking and Walking

Jesse Sims spent most of August evaluating grant applications for the Safe Routes to School Program and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) offers grants to local agencies to plan for and develop trails or access routes so children can walk or bike to school safely. WSDOT administers this competitive grant program, which also provides funds for technical assistance. This year, the review committee evaluated more than 300 grant applications for the two programs. The committee conducted independent reviews in August and met on August 31 to finalize the scoring and review the ranked list for each grant program. The lists of projects will be submitted to the 2023 Legislature for funding consideration. WSDOT expects approximately \$100 million for these grants.

State Organization for Boating Access Conference

Karl Jacobs headed to Cleveland, Ohio to participate in the 2022 Education and Training Symposium put on by the [States Organization for Boating Access \(SOBA\)](#). The August 29- September 1 symposium was for professionals and affiliate organizations actively engaged in improving and expanding public recreational boating facilities throughout the United States. There were numerous sessions on recreational boating facilities and waterways management. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted a training session on the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program and the Clean Vessel Act. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, DFW, and RCO will host the 2023 national symposium.



Project Administration

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

Program	Active Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	31	0	31
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	64	1	65
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	11	1	12
Community Forests Program (CFP)	6	0	6
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	9	0	9
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	16	11	27
No Child Left Inside (NCLI)	78	0	78
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	89	2	91
Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	7	0	7
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	40	3	43
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	241	3	244
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	53	4	57
Total	645	25	670

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between July 1 and September 30, 2022. This quarter the team closed 22 projects! Click on the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, photos, maps, reports, etc.

Grant Services Section

Advisory Committees

This summer, 119 advisors from around the state shared their time and knowledge on 13 advisory committees.

- [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee](#)
- [Community Forests Advisory Committee](#)
- [Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee](#)
- [Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee](#)
- [Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee](#)
- [Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee](#)
- [Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee](#)
- [Local Parks Advisory Committee](#)
- [State Lands Development Advisory Committee](#)
- [State Parks Advisory Committee](#)
- [Trails Advisory Committee](#)
- [Water Access Advisory Committee](#)
- [Youth Athletic Facilities Advisory Committee](#)

In May and June, advisors reviewed applications to offer applicants feedback about projects (Technical Review Meetings). Advisors came together again in August and September to score applications (Evaluation Meetings). They spent approximately 3040 hours over the course of the summer reviewing and evaluating projects, both in written and presentation formats.

RCO utilized a virtual platform for facilitation and live streamed all the meetings on the agency's YouTube webpage.

This year, RCO was pleased to offer stipends to advisors who are not paid by their workplace to participate on an advisory committee. Twenty-six advisors took advantage of the stipend program this round. RCO is looking forward improving and growing the stipend program in the future to help ensure advisory committee service is accessible to all Washingtonians and a variety of perspectives are reflected on our advisory committees.

Outdoor Learning Grants Update

All children deserve equitable access to outdoor spaces where they can learn, play, and grow. However, access to outdoor educational opportunities is inequitable. From reducing stress, to improving mental and physical health, outdoor-based learning helps kids thrive. Research shows that kids who participate in outdoor educational activities are more likely to graduate, are better behaved in school, have more relationships with peers, higher academic achievement, more critical thinking skills, and more direct experience of scientific concepts. They also have better leadership and collaboration skills, and a deeper engagement with learning, place, and community.

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature funded the Outdoor Learning Grants program, with a goal to develop and support outdoor educational experiences for students in Washington public schools. The grant program is managed by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), which partnered with the RCO to administer the grant program during the summer 2022.

Eligible programs include Pre-K through 12th grade experiential youth outdoor education program activities learning in, for, and about the outdoors. Programs must develop and support educational experiences for students in Washington public schools. Grants are available to support existing capacity and to increase future capacity for outdoor learning experiences.

Programs should have a focus on outdoor education aligned with the Washington State content learning standards and the development of social and emotional learning skills. Programs are also encouraged to review the *Since Time Immemorial Curriculum* developed by the Office of Native Education at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and infuse traditional ecological knowledge into the field experiences for students. In implementing student educational experiences, outdoor education providers should ensure equitable access for students in all geographic regions, and high levels of accessibility for students with disabilities.

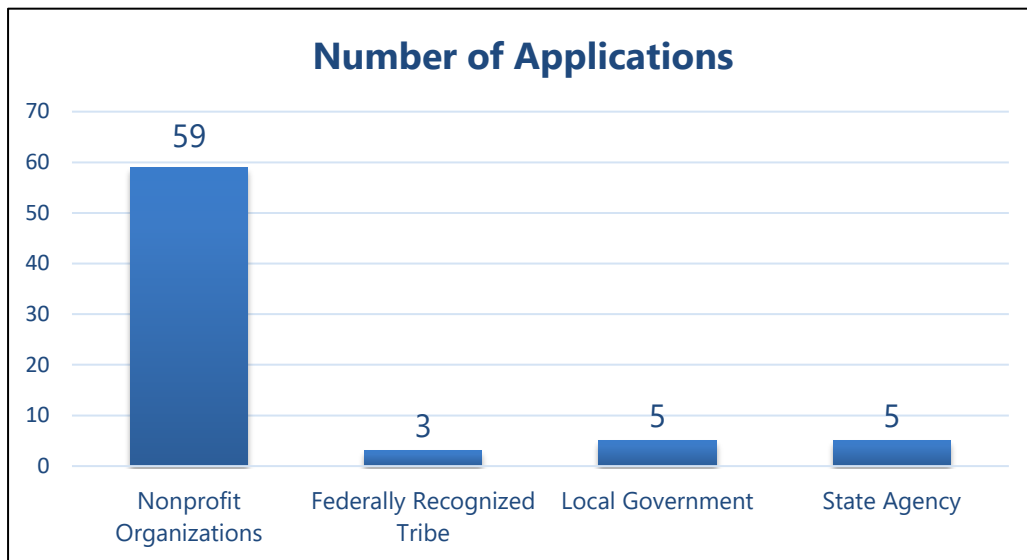
The grant process, from application to grant award, was expedited for this funding program for the 2022-23 school year.

Item	Date
Application Webinar, Applications Open	August 10, 2022
Pre-applications Due	August 19, 2022
Applications Due	September 1, 2022
Advisory Committee Orientation	September 7, 2022
Evaluation	September 7, 2022 – September 21, 2022
Grants Awarded	October 2022
Successful Applicant Webinar	October 5, 2022
Project Period of Performance	October 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

RCO and OSPI conducted extensive communication and targeted outreach over the course of 4 weeks leading up to the opening of the application cycle. Outreach included:

- Development of [Outdoor Learning Grant Webpage](#)
- Mass email announcement utilizing PRISM listserv (5,000+ contacts)
- Outreach to 29 federally recognized tribal chairs and tribal education department directors
- Meetings with the Outdoor School Education Consortium, WA School Principles Education Foundation, Washington Parks and Recreation Association
- Hosted an application webinar - [2022 Outdoor Education and Recreation Application Webinar](#). This webinar had 376 registrants. Approximately 250 individuals attended the live webinar and many more have viewed the recorded webinar that was distributed to the listserv and posted on the [Outdoor Learning Grant Webpage](#).

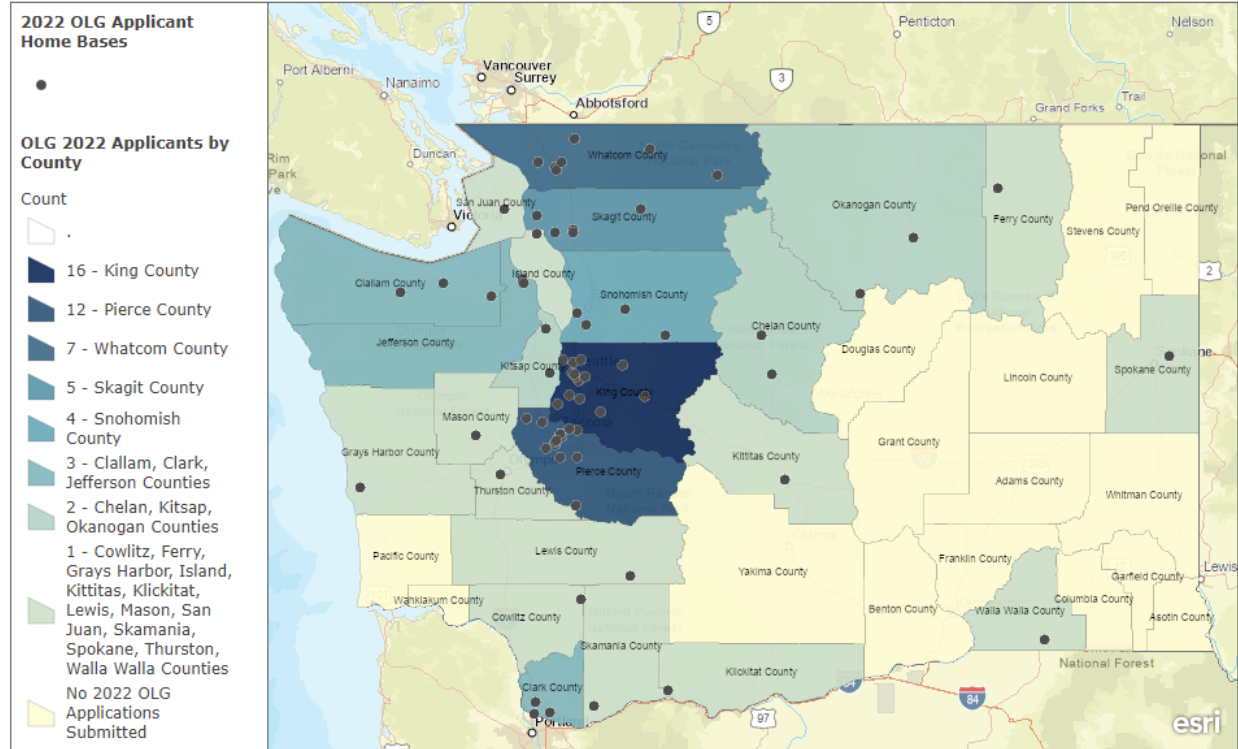
A total of 72 applications were submitted by the September 1, 2022, deadline from a wide range of organizations. The primary outdoor education provider submitting applications were nonprofit organizations.



Nonprofit applicants include Washington outdoor schools and institutes, environmental education organizations, community-based organizations, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and land trusts. The three federally recognized tribes include the Lummi Nation, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, and the Swinomish Tribe. Local government applicants include city and county government departments, and State agencies include the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the University of Washington and conservation districts.

The total funding request for all applications is \$8,030,448. Grant requests ranged from \$25,000 to \$250,000. For the 2022-23 school year, there is \$1,850,000 available for program support.

OLG 2022 Applicants by County



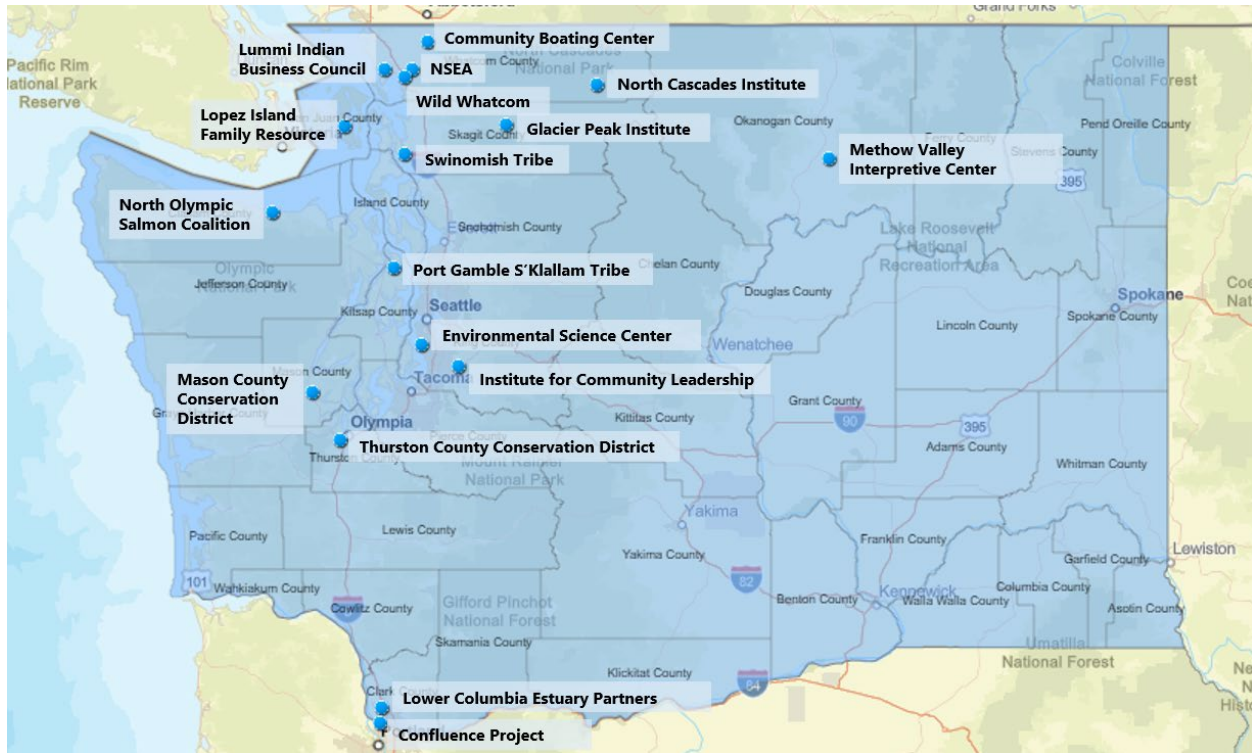
Applications were evaluated by the Outdoor Learning Grant Advisory Committee over a two-week period in September. The Advisory Committee is composed of practitioners who have extensive experience in outdoor education, have statewide experience, and are representative of the diversity of Washington State.

Outdoor Learning Grants Advisory Committee

- **Shandy Abrahamson**, OSPI Career Connected Learning Tribal Engagement Specialist, Office of Native Education
- **Raina Baker**, Camp Beausite Northwest and American Camp Association
- **Greg Barker**, WA School Principles Education Foundation
- **Kandi Bauman**, Evergreen State College & University of Washington
- **Chase Buffington**, Washington Outdoor Education Consortium
- **Mona Halcomb**, OSPI Native American Student Success Program Supervisor, Office of Native Education
- **James E King**, Diverse Environmental Leaders
- **Kathryn Kurtz**, Pacific Education Institute
- **Martin LeBlanc**, LBC Action
- **Chris Liu**, Outdoor Asian

- **Siri Nelson**, LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- **Elizabeth Schmitz**, OSPI Environmental and Sustainability Education Program Supervisor
- **Scott VanderWey**, Seattle Public Schools

A total of 17 projects were awarded grants for the 2022 cycle. The ranked list and scoring detail can be found on the [Outdoor Learning Grant](#) website or [here](#).



Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through August 31, 2022 (Fiscal Month 14). Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3 percent. The "Budget" column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Grant Program	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	Includes Re-appropriations 2021-2023	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Grant Programs							
ALEA	\$19,570,000	\$17,230,711	88%	\$2,339,289	12%	\$3,342,701	19%
BFP	\$35,395,000	\$32,796,602	93%	\$2,598,398	7%	\$7,089,916	22%
BIG	\$4,894,722	\$4,894,722	100%	\$0	0%	\$688,997	14%
FARR	\$1,742,000	\$1,125,804	65%	\$616,196	35%	\$303,514	27%
LWCF	\$5,876,000	\$5,876,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,989,184	51%

NOVA	\$19,270,000	\$17,396,538	90%	\$1,873,462	10%	\$5,088,310	29%
RTP	\$5,012,157	\$4,614,031	92%	\$398,126	8%	\$2,442,365	53%
WWRP	\$208,928,000	\$182,790,121	87%	\$26,137,879	13%	\$33,221,844	18%
RRG	\$5,991,000	\$5,699,436	95%	\$291,564	5%	\$511,160	9%
YAF	\$21,422,000	\$19,038,430	89%	\$2,383,570	11%	\$4,256,448	22%
Subtotal	\$328,100,879	\$291,462,395	89%	\$36,638,484	11%	\$59,934,439	21%

Administration

General							
Operating Funds	\$9,804,831	\$9,804,831	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,979,504	51%
Grand Total	\$337,905,710	\$301,267,226	89%	\$36,638,484	11%	\$64,913,943	22%

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

Board Revenue Report:

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through July 31, 2022 (Fiscal Month 14).

Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3%.

Program	Biennial Forecast		Collections
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$18,827,803	\$10,152,730	53.9%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$13,876,395	\$7,592,303	54.7%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$662,320	\$356,512	53.8%
Total	\$33,366,518	\$18,101,545	54.3%

Revenue Notes:

- BFP revenue is from the un-refunded marine gasoline taxes.
- NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads, and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits.
- FARR revenue is from \$2.16 of each concealed pistol license fee.
- These figures reflect the most recent revenue forecast in June 2022. The next forecast will be in February 2023.

WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	\$353,837,226	\$317,280,393	90%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$231,406,522	\$208,673,621	90%
Department of Natural Resources	\$198,848,005	\$158,217,532	80%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$168,096,326	\$138,304,820	82%
Nonprofits	\$50,243,493	\$35,345,123	70%
Conservation Commission	\$5,440,924	\$1,596,588	29%
Tribes	\$2,807,431	\$1,741,411	62%
Other			
Special Projects	\$735,011	\$735,011	100%
Total	\$1,011,414,938	\$861,894,499	85%

Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2023

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Data current as of September 22, 2022.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding	90%	80%	●	8 of 10 agreements have been mailed on time this fiscal year.
Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding	95%	67%	●	2 of 3 projects were under agreement within 180 days.
Progress reports responded to within 15 days	90%	90%	●	RCFB staff received 280 progress reports and responded to them in an average of 7 days.
Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date	85%	63%	●	5 of 8 projects have closed on time.
Projects in Backlog	5	25	●	There are 25 RCFB projects in the backlog needing to be closed out.
Compliance inspections done	125	4	●	1 inspection has inspected 4 worksites.

Attachments

Attachment A: Table of closed projects from April 1 – June 30.

Projects Completed and Closed from July 1, 2022, to September 30, 2022

Project Number ⁱ	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
16-1685D	Port of Longview	Willow Grove Park Renovation	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	9/30/2022
18-2447P	Colville Confederated Tribes	Nicholson Beach	Boating Facilities Program, Local	9/29/2022
16-2565P	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Penrose Point Pier Replacement Plan	Boating Facilities Program, State	9/16/2022
18-1834D	Lynnwood	South Lynnwood Park Renewal	Land and Water Conservation Fund	9/15/2022
19-1063E	Eastern Washington University	Palouse Prairie Restoration and Education Program	No Child Left Inside, Tier 1	9/1/2022
19-1179E	Youth and Family Link Program	Link's Outdoor Adventures	No Child Left Inside, Tier 1	9/30/2022
18-2466D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Capitol Forest Non-Motorized Trail Development	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	9/1/2022
18-2430P	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Tiger Summit Trailhead Design	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	9/1/2022
18-2511D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Yacolt Burn Non-Motorized Trail Bridges	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	9/1/2022
18-2454D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Reiter Foothills Off-Road Vehicle Trail Development	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	9/21/2022
18-2306M	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Ranger District North Zone Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance 2020-2022	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	9/9/2022

Project Numberⁱ	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
18-2305M	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Ranger District South Zone Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance 2020-2022	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	9/20/2022
16-1699A	Methow Conservancy	Lehman Uplands Conservation Easement	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Critical Habitat	9/27/2022
19-1535A	Whatcom County	Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation	9/6/2022
20-1542A	Olympia	Lilly Road Parcel Acquisition	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks	9/29/2022
16-1827D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Raging River State Forest Trail System Development, Phase 2	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Lands Development	9/1/2022
16-1985A	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Moran State Park-Lawrence Point Acquisition	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Parks	9/19/2022
18-1480A	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Moran State Park-Wilcox Property	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Parks	9/15/2022
18-1704A	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Youngren Property-Moran State Park	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Parks	9/21/2022
18-1891A	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Green River Gorge-Butt Property	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Parks	9/15/2022
18-1942A	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Mount Spokane Day Mountain Inholding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, State Parks	9/20/2022

Project Number ⁱ	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
16-2027D	Snohomish County	North Creek Regional Trail	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Trails	9/30/2022

ⁱA=Acquisition, C=Acquisition and Development, D=Development, E=Education/Education and Enforcement, M=Maintenance, P=Planning, R=Restoration



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Equity Review

Prepared By: Leah Dobey, Policy Specialist

Summary

In 2021, the state legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to conduct an equity review of the agency's grant programs to identify opportunities toward improving equitable distribution of recreation grants and reducing barriers that might prevent underserved communities' success in RCO programs. This review was completed in August 2022 and included several recommendations

RCO has considered the impact and effort required for each recommendation and is creating an action plan, to drive implementation and further work.

This memo summarizes the action planning process and provides examples of high priority recommendations. Further examples will be provided during staff's presentation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

In the 2021 operating budget, the legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to conduct an equity review of the agency's recreation and conservation grant programs to identify barriers that may prevent historically underrepresented communities from participating in and receiving RCO grants. RCO contracted with Prevention Institute to complete this review. Prevention Institute analyzed granting outcomes from the past three funding cycles (2016-2020), RCO's granting procedures, emerging research, and iterative community engagement feedback to produce findings and recommendations.

Prevention Institute's recommendations include creating a new grant program, changing some processes and evaluation criteria in current grant programs, ensuring that underserved communities are engaged with grant programs, providing grant support for such communities, and building applicant capacity. Prevention Institute's final report also noted that some grant recipients faced challenges with RCO's complex grant application process and reimbursement payment method, lacked knowledge of RCO's grants, and felt a true or perceived lack of opportunity, among other deterring issues.

In August 2022, RCO submitted the final report to the legislature and has since been developing an action plan to guide implementation of the recommendations.

Action Planning

Prioritization Process

Within six broad recommendations, Prevention Institute provided 45 specific recommendations to guide RCO's steps moving forward. These recommendations range from less complex changes that can be made in-house within a shorter timeframe and no additional resources, to those that will require significant Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), stakeholder, and/or legislative input over a longer period of time, and additional staffing or funding. Many recommendations overlap or implementation of one may affect another, requiring that RCO consider recommendations together, to help avoid any potential unintentional consequences.

To guide initial prioritization, staff considered the impact scale of each recommendation and level of effort required for implementation. Recommendations were then categorized into the themes below and identified general timeframes to begin work. The implementation timeline of different recommendations may shift over time as deeper analyses and outreach occur.

Technical assistance: Includes opportunities to support applicants through project development and the application process.

Scoring criteria: Includes changes to existing criteria or the addition of new criteria.

Representation: Includes changes to improve representation on the board and advisory committees, and better address and support needs of tribal governments.

Grant payment structure: Includes changes to support applicants who cannot pay upfront and wait for reimbursement.

Funding set asides: Includes changes to reserve funding in existing grant programs or create new programs for targeted populations.

Collaboration: Includes opportunities to expand RCO's reach and help facilitate collaboration among project sponsors and their partners.

Capacity building: Includes allowing more varied project costs and increasing RCO's ability to support applicants.

Analysis: These recommendations require additional research and analysis to better determine need, feasibility, and a path forward.

Moderate to high priority recommendations were mostly related to analysis, technical assistance, scoring criteria, and representation.

Following prioritization, a timeline to begin implementation was identified for different recommendations: near-term (0 – 12 months), mid-term (13 – 24 months), or longer-term (25+ months). Examples of recommendations that have been identified as high priority and nearer-term include developing performance measures to track impacts of equity efforts, permanently adopting the remote presentation option, implementing an equity-focused communications strategy, and updating evaluation criteria to address access gaps, community vulnerability, and community engagement.

Next Steps

RCO is continuing to refine this action plan and assess how the associated workload overlays with existing agency and board priorities and staff capacity. RCO will also integrate the work related to this equity review with the agency's new Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Impact Review and PEAR Strategic Action Plan, which all state agencies are required to adopt and implement, per [Executive Order 22-04](#).



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Projects

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, provides an overview of applications started for the 2022 grant cycle, and provides an opportunity for review of the project proposals in an open public meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) permanently delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to approve projects for submittal to the national competition, following review by the LWCF Advisory Committee and an opportunity for public comment in an open public meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

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

The ORLP Program funds projects designed to acquire or develop outdoor recreation sites that are located within or abutting an incorporated city or town with a population of 30,000 or more (as of the 2020 Census). The goal is to fund projects that serve and are directly accessible to economically disadvantaged communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources, i.e., in a park desert. The community must

also have a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or that is at least ten percentage points higher than that of the project city, county, and state rate, whichever is higher. When evaluating grant proposals, a national panel will prioritize projects that will directly connect people to outdoor places and:

- provide new recreational opportunities, particularly those that will increase access to nature’s benefits, such as green spaces, shady areas (via tree cover), and natural landscapes that help cool the air and reduce urban heat island effects, reduce pollution, and have positive effects on mental and physical health;
- empower and engage members of the target community in the project development and design of the plans for the park;
- create or expand public-private partnerships that leverage matching share resources (e.g., money or donations of land, supplies, or services, etc.);
- benefit from a high degree of coordination among the public, multiple levels of government, and the private sector; and
- advance goals of, or meet, priority recreation needs identified in numerous local, regional, state plans and/or initiatives.

In addition to the objectives listed above, projects must meet the goals identified in and in alignment with at least one priority of their state’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

In 2021, Washington state submitted four ORLP applications to NPS and three were selected for funding.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program Policies

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

Eligible Applicants	State and local governments (cities, counties, park districts, port districts, special purpose districts) and federally recognized Native American tribes.
Eligibility Requirements	Applicants must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish planning eligibility, • Represent a jurisdiction of at least 30,000 people, and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project must serve an economically disadvantaged community within a half-mile or ten-minute walk.
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition Development and renovation Combination of acquisition and development
Match Requirements	At a minimum, grant recipients must provide a 1:1 match from state, local or private sources.
Funds Available	\$192 million
Fund Limits¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum grant request: \$300,000 Maximum grant request: \$9,580,000 <p>Note: The cost estimate defines the maximum federal share. This policy is to prevent scope changes that might alter the competitive nature of the project. In other words, no cost increases.</p>
Public Access	Required for the whole project area (e.g., entire park).
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property acquired must be developed within three years. Project sponsors must record language against the title of the assisted property stating that it must be preserved for public outdoor recreation uses in perpetuity. The conversion rules found in the Land and Water Conservation Act applies.

2022 Grants Cycle

The NPS is now processing grant applications for the ORLP. To ensure applicants from the state of Washington had an opportunity to participate in this competition, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff began soliciting grant proposals in early September. Two applicants have begun applications for grant proposals requesting almost \$6 million. Applications are due to RCO on November 1, 2022. A summary of the pending proposals is included in Attachment A.

Typically, Washington’s LWCF advisory committee would use the federal evaluation criteria to review, rank, and recommend projects for consideration. The director would then consider submitting the highest ranked projects to the NPS for the national completion. However, there is no limit on the number of applications each state may submit to NPS for ORLP, so ranking is unnecessary. The advisory committee will help review the grant proposals using the federal evaluation criteria and provide feedback to

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

improve the projects. Advisory committee members will also recommend whether to forward each project to the NPS for the national competition.

While the board delegated authority to the director to submit ORLP applications to the NPS at its July 2018 meeting, staff must provide an update to the board each grant cycle and a summary of the grant applications submitted for review in an open public meeting. This meeting serves that purpose.[Strategic Plan Link](#)

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

Projects considered for the ORLP program support board adopted priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Next Steps

The federal deadlines for submitting applications to NPS for this ORLP grant round are January 31 and May 31, 2023. As recommended by the LWCF advisory committee, and if approved by the director, RCO staff plans to forward the applications to NPS for consideration. If there is applicable public comment at the board meeting, staff will incorporate those comments into the proposals.

Attachments

- A. Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program: Project Proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2022

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Project Proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2022

Number	Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
22-2059 Development	Martin Luther King Jr. Park Community Pool	City of Yakima Parks and Recreation	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$9,000,000
	<p>Description: The City of Yakima will use this grant to construct a public swimming pool in east Yakima. A swimming pool was located in Martin Luther King Jr. Park in the past, but was removed almost 20 years ago due to the aging infrastructure. The proposed project is to construct a swimming pool with a zero depth entry wading area, restrooms, showers, and changing areas. The park is located in and will serve a community that is underserved in terms of park resources.</p>				
Number	Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
22-2066 Development	Holly Neighborhood Wetland Park	City of Everett	\$1,462,500	\$1,462,500	\$2,925,000
	<p>Description: The City of Everett will use this grant to acquire approximately 3.1 acres of property for future development of a wetland park in the Holly Neighborhood of south Everett. The property is located near the intersection of Holly Drive and 100th Street SW. Acquisition will allow the city to create new passive recreational opportunities in a community underserved by parks. The south portion of the site currently hosts a palustrine scrub shrub wetland in the basin for Swamp Creek, which is part of the Lake Washington watershed. Acquiring these parcels for use as parks and open space will improve Swamp Creek's seasonal headwaters system and provide passive recreational opportunities. Future development would likely include walking loops, wetland overlook, a nature-based playground, and a community garden.</p>				

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022
Title: Grant Program Framework
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

At its October 2022 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) will be asked to adopt the ranked lists of projects for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Youth Athletic Facilities Program (YAF). The board must submit these lists to the Governor by November 1, 2022, for consideration in the biennial budget. This memo summarizes the grant process and outlines the decisions that the board must make.

Board Action Requested

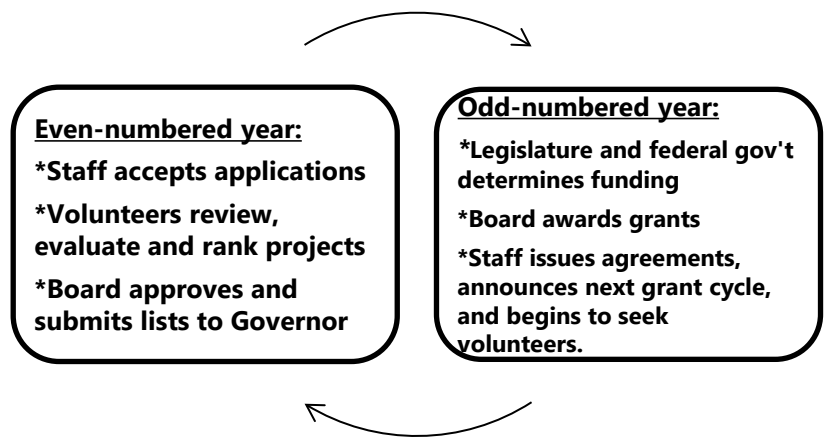
This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

The spring/summer grants cycle was completed September 2022. Grants in the ALEA, LWCF, WWRP and YAF programs are used to purchase, develop, renovate, or restore parks, open spaces, athletic fields, trails, water access sites, farms, forests, and habitat areas.

The 2022 grant cycle can be summarized as shown in this graphic. The process is described in detail in the following sections.



Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Accounts

The WWRP is divided into three accounts, encompassing twelve categories, as shown in Attachment A. The Recreation and Conservation Board (board) will review all twelve categories at its October meeting.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will brief the board on the funding allocations for the ALEA, LWCF and YAF programs during the program specific presentations.

Preparing for the 2022 Grant Cycle

Planning

Some of RCO's grant programs require that the applicant have a valid outdoor recreation or habitat conservation plan in place. In early 2021, staff sent notices to potential applicants with expired planning eligibility reminding them to update their comprehensive plans if they wished to apply for grant funding during the 2022 LWCF and WWRP grant cycle.

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteer recruitment began in early 2021 with emails, social media posts, press releases, personal phone calls, and information on RCO's Web site. Stakeholders and other interested organizations supported our efforts by including the notices in their communications. Staff recruited volunteers to conduct project reviews and evaluations for this grant cycle.

Altogether, 119 volunteers agreed to help with the spring 2022 grant cycle. Volunteers included federal, state, and local agency representatives, citizens, scientific experts, and representatives of organizations interested in parks, trails, farms, forests, and habitat conservation.

Our volunteers continue to provide an amazing service to the citizens of Washington State. The time (estimated at over 2,000 hours) and expertise they commit to reviewing and evaluating RCO grants helps to ensure a fair, open process and best funded projects.

Announcement of 2022 Grant Cycle

In fall 2021, RCO staff began advertising the 2022 grant cycle. Staff issued press releases and posted notices on the agency Web site and various social media platforms. Additionally, the director and outdoor grants managers spoke to various interest groups and potential applicants were notified via email, newsletters, and personal contact.

Application and Evaluation Process

Application Webinar

On February 17, 2022, staff conducted an application webinar. During the webinar, staff outlined the types of grants available, described the application, review, and evaluation processes, and answered questions. 383 individuals attended the live virtual workshop.

On February 22, 2022, staff conducted a second application webinar for applicants interested in grants to preserve farms and forests. The goal was to increase awareness for and participation in the working lands categories of WWRP and the Community Forests Program. 45 individuals attended this session.

In addition, both webinars were recorded and made available on the agency's Web site for those who could not participate in real time.

Grants Manager Site Visits

Beginning summer 2021 until the project review meetings in May and June of 2022, grants managers met with applicants on site and online to review their projects and discuss eligibility and grant program requirements.

Application Deadline

RCO received 264 grant applications requesting nearly \$217 million by the May 3 and June 1 deadlines (the May 3 deadline was extended one month for the WWRP Farm and Forest Account), This represents a 17 percent decrease in the number of grant applications received as compared to two years ago. While there are fewer applications, the funds requested increased by 4 percent.

Grant Program	Project Proposals	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Project Cost
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	11	\$5,716,000	\$22,076,364	\$27,792,364
Land and Water Conservation Fund	33	\$43,843,555	\$86,540,672	\$130,384,227
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	176	\$154,848,377	\$213,733,341	\$368,581,718
Youth Athletic Facilities	44	\$12,274,619	\$43,113,403	\$55,388,022
	264	\$216,682,551	\$365,463,780	\$582,146,331

Update for 2022

RCO rolled out its PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Scoring Module last biennium. Instead of the paper-based process used since RCO's inception, volunteers provided comments and submitted scores directly into the PRISM database via an online portal. This tool reduces the risk of errors and expedites information sharing with evaluators and applicants.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RCO once again offered online only project review and evaluation meetings. Also, the meetings were broadcast live on YouTube and the director made surprise appearances to thank volunteers for their work. All PRISM Online users, including all members of the advisory committee, had to set-up new user accounts via Secure Access Washington.

Staff will highlight other board approved changes during the presentation of the ranked lists at the October meeting.

Project Review Meetings

RCO staff and teams of volunteers held technical review meetings in May and June. These meetings gave applicants an opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback on the technical merits of the proposal and suggestions about ways to refine the project scope, design, cost estimates, and presentation. The reviews were done via online meetings.

RCO used a board-approved written review process for four WWRP categories: Farmland Preservation, Forestland Preservation, State Lands Development and Renovation, and State Lands Restoration and Enhancement. RCO staff reviewed the WWRP Natural Areas category and YAF projects.

After project review, grant managers forwarded comments to each applicant outlining items that needed additional work, along with a schedule of key deadlines. Most applicants revised their grant proposals based on the comments and recommendations made during the project review. All changes were completed by the technical completion deadline, which varied by program or category.

Project Evaluation Meetings

During the months of July, August, and September, volunteer advisory committee members evaluated 236 proposed projects. (Note: As the process moved forward, 33 projects were withdrawn by applicants or disqualified by RCO staff because they were ineligible, missed established deadlines, or were not ready to proceed.)

Evaluations in some programs or categories (WWRP Farmland Preservation, WWRP Forestland Preservation, WWRP Natural Areas, WWRP State Lands Development and Renovation, WWRP State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, and YAF) were conducted through a written process, while all others were online meetings. During the

online evaluations, applicants had 20 to 30 minutes to present their project by responding to board adopted evaluation criteria and answering advisory committee questions. Advisory committee members scored each criterion for each project.

After evaluations were complete, staff reviewed the overall scores for each project and shared the results with the advisory committee members. Preliminary ranked lists were then made available to applicants and the public via the RCO Web site.

Public Comments

[RCW 79A.15.110](#) requires state and local agencies and nonprofit conservancies to review proposed WWRP acquisitions and confer with the county or city legislative authority that has jurisdiction over the project area¹. The local legislative body may submit a letter to the board stating its position about the project. Staff makes these letters available to the Governor and the Legislature.

Public correspondence received by RCO in advance of the October board meeting will be provided to the board. Although the comments are for WWRP grant applications, in some instances the same correspondence applies to matching grants submitted for the ALEA, LWCF, or the YAF grant program.

Attachment B includes public correspondence that will be attached to the ranked lists sent to the Governor's Office. An additional opportunity for public comment will occur at the October board meeting.

Board Action Required in October 2022

In October, staff will ask the board to approve the ranked list for each program (a total of 236 projects).

By law, the board must approve ranked lists of WWRP projects for each of the funding categories and submit the lists to the Governor no later than November 1, 2022. The ALEA and YAF lists are also submitted to the Governor for consideration. Staff also include the lists in the capital budget request that is submitted to the Office of Financial Management. Because there are federal funds available for the LWCF Program, staff will be asking the board to approve the ranked list and delegate authority to the director to

¹ State or local agencies or nonprofit nature conservancies shall review the proposed project application and confer with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under this chapter.

award grants following National Park Service (NPS) approval of RCO's applications for federal funds for each project.

Ranked Lists and Alternates

Items 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 on the October agenda present preliminary ranked lists of projects for each grant program, information about the program and evaluation, and a summary of each proposal. The ranked lists include the project number, name, applicant, total score, grant request, match amount, and total amount.

Policy states that the board will submit alternate projects for each WWRP category. The alternates must total 50 percent of the dollar amount requested for each category, with no fewer than six alternates when possible. The amount of funding for 2023-25 is still unknown, so projects are not marked as alternates on the preliminary ranked list.

To help ensure an adequate list of alternates are included, staff recommends that the board submit the complete ranked list of approved projects for each grant program and category.

Next Steps

WWRP Legislative Approval

The Governor submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation level and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The Legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the Governor but cannot add to or re-order the list.

The Legislature also sets an appropriation level for ALEA and YAF, while the LWCF funding is determined by the federal government through the NPS. The legislature, as part of the capital budget, will authorize the expenditure of any federal funds.

Final Approval in 2023




Following the adoption of the budget next year, staff will ask the board to approve the final lists of projects and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Until the appropriation is known, it is difficult to predict which projects will receive funding. All parties are cautioned to not consider the lists approved by the board at the October 2022 meeting to be final.

Attachments

- A. Allocation of WWRP Funds
- B. Letters Regarding WWRP Acquisition Project Proposals

Allocation of Funds Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Allocation by Account and Category (Set by Statute 79A.15)²

<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> 45% Habitat Conservation Account </div> 	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> 45% Outdoor Recreation Account </div> 	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px;"> 10% Farm and Forest Account </div> 
Categories		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% Critical Habitat 25% Natural Areas 15% Riparian Protection 10%* State Lands Restoration and Enhancement 15% Urban Wildlife Habitat <p><i>*or \$3 million, whichever is less</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% Local Parks <i>40%-50% must be acquisition</i> 10%* State Lands Development and Renovation 30% State Parks <i>40%-50% must be acquisition</i> 20% Trails 10% Water Access <i>75% must be acquisition</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% Farmland Preservation Category 10% Forestland Preservation Category

² 79A.15 was revised and adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2016.

Letters Regarding Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Acquisition Project Proposals

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support or opposition) received by RCO during the application process.

RCW 79A.15.110 requires state and local agencies and nonprofit conservancies to review proposed WWRP acquisitions and confer with the county or city legislative authority that has jurisdiction over the project area³. The local legislative body may submit a letter to the board stating its position about the project. Staff makes these letters available to the Governor and to the legislature.

Letters for Projects in Ranked Order by Category – County Commissioners

Critical Habitat Category

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| • 22-1630A Klickitat Oaks | Klickitat County | Rank 1 |
| • 22-1275A Kane Ranch Conservation | Douglas County | Rank 4 |

Farmland Preservation Category

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • 22-166A2 Bell's Farm | Oak Harbor
Office of the
Mayor | Rank 1 |
| • 22-1524A Mid Valley Farm | Clallam County | Rank 7 |
| • 22-1533A Nash's Organic Produce | Clallam County | Rank 9 |
| • 22-1541A Davenport Cattle | Klickitat County | Rank 10 |
| • 22-1722A Parlette Orchard | Chelan County | Rank 15 |

Local Parks Category

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------|
| • 22-1650A Leffler Field | Chelan County | Rank 33 |
| • 22-1325A Malaga Waterfront Park | Chelan County | Rank 36 |
| • 22-1682A Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park | Mason County | Rank 44 |

³ State or local agencies or nonprofit nature conservancies shall review the proposed project application and confer with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under this chapter.

Natural Areas Category

- 22-1289A Dabob Bay
- 22-1379A Onion Ridge

Jefferson County Rank 6
Stevens County Rank 7

Riparian Protection Category

- 22-1295A Stavis
- 22-1245A Thorp Reach

Kitsap County Rank 2
Kittitas County Rank 10



KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



115 W COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612

JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1
 DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2
 DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 511 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
 154 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
 2352 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler,

We support Columbia Land Trust's \$2.5 million request for the Klickitat Oaks Wildlife Corridor. This federal funding will leverage state funding through Washington's Wildlife and Recreation Program protecting vital natural resources in our county.

The Klickitat River and its resources are a jewel in the State of Washington. This corridor is a key link for the Pacific Flyway giving habitat for migrating birds. It provides climate resilience through connected landscapes and diverse topography; forest resources; and natural beauty and places for people to enjoy through birding, fishing, hunting and hiking.

Columbia Land Trust has led the East Cascade Oak Partnership with diverse representation from counties, landowners, tribes and community partners. Through collaboration and input, a strategic plan with the highest priority Oregon white oak habitats left in Washington were identified. We understand that the vast majority of these oaks are in the Klickitat corridor. This funding will be the vital piece to ensure conservation of a critical corridor of migratory bird habitat in south central Washington State. The Klickitat Oaks Wildlife Corridor is 2,666 acres of strategically located, high value Oregon white oak habitat utilized by priority neo-tropical migratory and resident bird species for spring migration and breeding habitat.

If acquired, we know Columbia Land Trust will manage it for intact and connected Oregon white oak habitat, public access open space, economic benefits. The Corridor property itself includes some of the highest quality remnant oak habitat in the State, providing a significant and measurable lift to efforts to conserve the best remaining Oregon white oak habitat in Washington.

Sincerely,

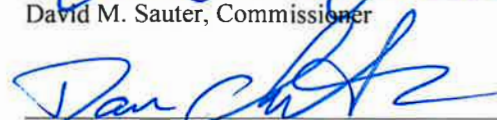
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Klickitat County, Washington



 Jacob Anderson, Chairman



 David M. Sauter, Commissioner



 Dan Christopher, Commissioner

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DAN SUTTON 1ST DISTRICT

KYLE STEINBURG 2ND DISTRICT

MARC S. STRAUB 3RD DISTRICT

April 26, 2022

Douglas County Commissioners
Curt Soper
Executive Director
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
18 N. Wenatchee Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Support for RCO Grant Application #22-1275 Kane Ranch, Douglas County

Dear Curt,


The Douglas County Commission is aware that the the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is applying for a grant through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to acquire a conservation easement on the 3,100 acres Kane Ranch in Douglas County. This letter indicates our support for this effort in the hope that the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program will award grant funding for this project in the Critical Habitat category.

The Commission understands that the establishment of the Kane Ranch conservation easement will protect important habitat for Greater sage-grouse, a state endangered species, and for other native and declining species of concern. The project will benefit our agricultural community by helping to implement Douglas County's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). The county's VSP encourages conservation actions that are compatible with agricultural activities as a way to protect and enhance critical areas at the watershed scale.


Further, the Multi-Species General Conservation Plan (MSGCP) that is in place in Douglas County, and which is an important aspect of the VSP Plan, requires a certain number of acres to be maintained in shrub-steppe habitat. The 3,100 acres gained in conservation through the Kane Ranch help offset losses from expiration of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in Douglas County. Adding the Kane Ranch to the adjacent Keane and Breiler completed conservation easements means that over 13,000 acre in private and public lands are forever conserved for wildlife and sustainable ranching.

Please accept this latter as our statement of support for this project.

Douglas County Board of Commissioners,



Marc S. Straub, Chair



Dan Sutton, Vice Chair

City of Oak Harbor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BOB SEVERNS
MAYOR



865 S.E. BARRINGTON DRIVE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277
(360) 279-4500

June 28, 2022

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Ryan Elting, Conservation Director
765 Won Road, C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Subject: Objection to Conservation Easement Acquisition in Oak Harbor, Island County
RCO Grant Application #22-1662

Dear Mr. Elting,

The City of Oak Harbor appreciates this opportunity to comment on the grant application. While the City fundamentally supports the work of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, the Oak Harbor City Council respectfully disagrees with the particular location for this land preservation process for the reasons listed below and therefore opposes the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Application #22-1662. Unfortunately, the City was not included in the early planning of the grant process and was unable to provide input to allow all parties to work together on common goals.

The land in question is comprised of several parcels either fronting, or very near, State Route 20 south of the City of Oak Harbor. The Urban Growth Area boundary of the City is contiguous with the highway frontage on the east side, and approximately 1200 feet to the north, of the proposed trust land. City limit boundaries are an equal distance from the north, and roughly 950 feet away to the east. It is also important to note that approximately 54% of the proposed trust land is within the City's existing Joint Planning Area.

State Route 20 is the main highway carrying traffic to and from the City of Oak Harbor, including residents, commuters, visitors, and deliveries. It is truly the main artery for commerce on Whidbey Island, and there are few, if any, safe and reliable alternatives for north-south travel on the island, especially in this particular area. As such, the highway provides a natural path for future urban expansion of the City to the south.

In other directions, the City is hemmed-in by various natural or man-made impediments to growth. To the north, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) and the flight paths associated with its runways prevent anything but low-density industrial and limited commercial development. To the west are wetland areas and another Whidbey Camano Land Trust preservation area at the Fakkema Farm and ultimately, the Salish Sea. Easterly from Oak Harbor are Navy-owned lands and areas impacted by flight paths and the Salish Sea.

Preventing development along this existing thoroughfare will cause development pressure to expand in other directions – to the west along Ft. Nugent Road, to the south along Boon Road, Scenic Heights Road, Miller Road and Balda Road – all existing lightly traveled county roadways that would require significant improvements to handle additional traffic. In the long-term, the effect of placing a constraint on this land increases urban sprawl as development expands around the trust land and onto parcels farther away from established travel routes.

Additionally, utilities would have to be extended into those far-flung areas, creating additional cost to the City and its existing residents, but also flying in the face of sound planning practices. At this time, the City has utility services very near the proposed trust lands, but not extending beyond or in other directions that development would be forced into if this land were to be restricted. Longer travel times for commuters passing by undeveloped areas into employment centers to the north of the site would create additional water and air pollution and other environmental impacts.

The goals of the 1990 WA State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.020(1&2)) address growth by encouraging development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner and the lessening of sprawl by reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into low-density development. The City has made, and is in the process of making, several changes to land development regulations to address the first point by removing barriers to construction of accessory dwelling units, allowing for greater flexibility in mixed-use developments, and increasing residential densities and reducing minimum lot sizes – preventing development on the trust land would contradict these goals.

There is a documented need for additional land capacity to accommodate housing in this community. According to the recently completed Housing Action Plan, *“the city has sufficient land to accommodate roughly 56 percent of the projected 2,900+ additional residents through 2036.”* In other words, existing lands available for urban development will only house slightly over half of the anticipated need for the next 14 years.

Expansion of the City’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) will be necessary to address future growth, and is mentioned in several places within the 2019 City of Oak Harbor Comprehensive Plan – Urban Growth Element:

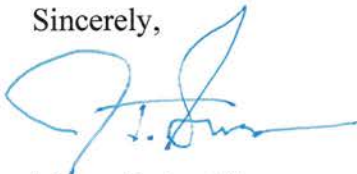
Policy 1.b. - Ensure that sufficient land in the UGA is available to provide reasonable development opportunities to accommodate twenty years of population and employment growth.

Policy 1.c. - Progress toward eliminating unincorporated enclaves in order to provide for the most efficient provision of urban services within the UGA.

The proposed trust lands could potentially house hundreds of new residents and commercial development. With sound planning practices and flexible development standards, the area could be a model for planning in this unique island environment. When the City envisions development in areas such as this, it is not 'typical' sprawl – it is a community that includes a mix of uses including residential, commercial, recreational, and open spaces. Development that is contiguous to existing neighborhoods and reduces the dependence on automobiles, rather than increasing it.

Again, the City supports the worthy goals of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, just not in this particular location. Accordingly, we are requesting that the Whidbey Camano Land Trust withdraw RCO Grant Application #22-1662 to allow the opportunity to work together on revising the grant application to balance urban and rural interests. If the application continues as currently proposed, the City of Oak Harbor requests that the Washington RCO, Governor, and State Legislature deny this grant request.

Sincerely,



Mayor Robert Severns



July 27, 2022

City of Oak Harbor
Mayor Bob Severns
865 S.E. Barrington Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Dear Mayor Severns,

Thank you for your letter dated June 28, 2022, regarding the City's objection to the Land Trust including 70 acres of the 130-acre property owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC (the 70 acres is "subject property") in our state farmland grant application ("farmland grant") because it is within the Joint Planning Area ("JPA"). To clarify, the Land Trust does not own the subject property now, nor will it ever; it will remain private property with a conservation easement, not as "trust lands".

Please note that half of the 70 acres in the JPA (~35 acres) is designated by the County and City as a wetland critical area that is part of the larger Waterloo Marsh (Tax lot R13209-057-4540) and is identified by the City as a protection priority (see attached information). Therefore, we assume it is the remaining 35 acres (or 27% of the subject property) that the City is concerned about ("subject 35 acres").

Until this farmland grant, we were only vaguely aware of the JPA and its significance - please accept our apologies. Such notification was not a requirement of the farmland conservation easement we purchased on the 315-acre Fakkema Farm in 2016, which used \$1 million in County Conservation Futures Funds with the strong support of all three County Commissioners, including Jill Johnson. So, we were surprised to learn that it is in the JPA. Nevertheless, in that case, because Fakkema Farm was immediately adjacent to the City, we deliberately left out the easternmost 50 acres of the farm from the conservation easement to accommodate future urban growth. The owners later came back to ask if we would purchase a conservation easement on those 50 acres, and we declined because it was so obviously a high priority for future development and in a much more immediate timeframe than the subject 35 acres. We do recognize and support the critical need throughout Island County for more housing, especially affordable housing.

In the current case, the City's by its own admission is many years away (20 years or more) from expanding into the subject 35 acres. It may very well be much longer that that or never happen at all depending on future circumstances which none of us can accurately predict, including losing access to water supplies from the Skagit River, a Navy downsizing releasing surplus lands, an earthquake destroying the bridge, or any number of unknown conditions.

Following Ryan's presentation, City Council members remarked that placing a conservation easement on this property "*would be catastrophic for urban growth*" and "*this project is the worst thing that could happen for the future of the City*". Ryan pointed out that the subject 35 acres had sat on the active real-estate market for years and asked why the City didn't purchase the acreage during this time. He received no response from the Council, but it does make sense that the City would not buy property today when it is uncertain if and when it might be needed for growth.

Given that situation, the recent past owners of these properties were left to sell them on the open market. It may be decades, if ever, that the subject 35 acres is needed by the City to expand urban growth and during that time the subject 35 acres can be either be maintained in agriculture with no significant infrastructure, as desired by the new private property owner today, or developed into three 10-acre minimum estate lots as allowed by the current rural agriculture zoning, the latter constituting the "highest and best use" in appraisal terms.

But just as with three developed homesites on the property, a conservation easement on the subject 35-acres in no way removes the City's ability to condemn the property (or in lieu of condemnation) if needed. The State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) granting agency has a process for accommodating "conversion" on grant funded projects like this one. And the reality is that condemning a single open farmland parcel, versus three house sites, would be much more cost-effective for the City, if the need arises. This of course is neither our hope nor intention for any of our conservation projects, but a point it feels necessary to make in this case. **To be clear, placing a conservation easement on the subject 35 acres does not preclude its future annexation into the City or subsequent development under RCO's existing conversion process.**

In the meantime, while it remains in farmland and open space, the property can continue to serve the public good, furthering many of the goals of the City's current Comprehensive Plan (see attached information).

Lastly, we received a call from City employee, David Kuhl, expressing interest on the part of some Council members to meet with us. We are certainly willing to do this if the private property owners are also willing, and Ryan will discuss this with them in the coming weeks and get back to you.

Sincerely Yours,



Patricia Powell
Executive Director

Attachment

ATTACHMENT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The 35 acres in the JPA that is designated as wetland critical area and part of Waterloo Marsh:
 - a. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2019), identifies properties that may be suitable to create an open space link between Waterloo Marsh and Swantown Lake.
 - b. Element 5 of the City's Comprehensive Plan – Open Space Section:
 - Item 15. Identify properties that may be suitable to create an open space link between Waterloo Marsh and Swantown Lake.
2. The subject 35 acres that is in the JPA and could be developable in the future and, in the meantime, the following sections of Element 5, Open Space section of the City's Comprehensive Plan are consistent with having it in farmland until needed by the City:
 - a. Statement on Page 86: Open Space is a signature element that helps to define the quality of life in Oak Harbor. Important for habitat and places for people to enjoy the area's scenic beauty and cultural heritage (*farms are part of this*). Open Space can serve many functions within a community. Those functions may include agriculture and forestry, wildlife habitat, wetlands protection, groundwater protection, flood management, view corridors, etc.
 - b. Identify, designate and protect open space lands that provide forage, migration and habitat for wildlife.
 - c. Item 9: Promote the conservation of open space that are in both public and private ownership.
 - d. Item 10: Utilize open space conservation as a method to establish a "green belt" around the urban core of the City.
 - e. Item 11: Identify important "view corridors" that provide visual access to scenic vistas.
 - f. Item 12: Protect open spaces that provide important ecological functions and values.
 - g. Item 13: Work with Island County staff to identify opportunities for cooperation in preserving open space areas within the City's UGA, as well as within the city/county JPA.
 - h. Item 18: Review and revise, as necessary, the City's development regulations to ensure that adequate provisions are made to preserve open space as land is developed.

22-1524 Mid Valley Farm
Letters of Support

**Board of Clallam
County Commissioners**



MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
BILL PEACH, District 3

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@co.clallam.wa.us

Jim Jones, Jr. County Administrator

May 24, 2022

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Grant Funding for RCO projects #22-1524 and 22-1533

Dear Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office:

The Board of Clallam County Commissioners wish to share our support of North Olympic Land Trust acquisitions 22-1524 and 22-1533 to acquire properties Mid Valley Farm and Dungeness Hub Nash's, WA, Clallam County.

Conserving the 56-acre Mid Valley Farm on the edge of rapidly development Sequim, in integral to the operations of one of only two remaining dairies in the area, Maple View Dairy.

Conservation of the 10-acre Dungeness Hub will ensure that its more than 7.5 acres of prime farm soils and vital packing shed and cold storage will remain available for productions and distribution. The property is at the capstone of over 600 acres of conserved land for farming, water flow, and river restoration in Dungeness.

Thank you for considering the property acquisition grant.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten signature of Mark Ozias in blue ink.
Mark Ozias, Chair

Handwritten signature of Randy Johnson in blue ink.
Randy Johnson

Handwritten signature of Bill Peach in blue ink.
Bill Peach

22-1533 Dungeness Hub
Letters of Support



MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
BILL PEACH, District 3

**Board of Clallam
County Commissioners**

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@co.clallam.wa.us

Jim Jones, Jr. County Administrator

May 24, 2022

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Grant Funding for RCO projects #22-1524 and 22-1533

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Thank you for considering the property acquisition grant.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mark Ozias, Chair


Randy Johnson


Bill Peach



22-1541 WWRP FP #10



KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

115 W COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • FAX 509 773-6779 • VOICE 509 773-4612

JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1

DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2

DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3

May 3, 2022

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO BOX 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To Whom It May Concern:

The Klickitat County Board of County Commissioners strongly support the Grant for the Davenport Agricultural Conservation Easement RCO Grant #22-1541A through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Farmland Preservation Program administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

If awarded, the grant will be used to purchase an easement on 5,900 acres in the central area of Klickitat County. We support the Davenport's work with Central Klickitat Conservation District (CKCD) and the Washington State Conservation Commission to conserve farmland in a region that is currently seeing rapid population growth, subdivision of working lands and development in the form of residential housing and industrial energy projects. We commend the Davenports for their willingness to step forward to preserve working lands that support the regional economy as well as the agricultural and ranching heritage of this community.

Per county policy we support farmland conservation, especially when it protects working lands and fosters continued production of food and fiber for our nation. The Board of Commissioners support CKCD's efforts and recognized their past and future success in helping the county to accomplish its natural resource and agricultural related goals and policies established in the Klickitat County Comprehensive Plan.

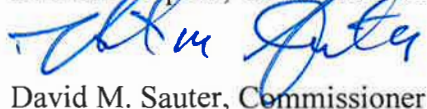
The Klickitat County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Farmland Preservation Program fund this valuable farmland conservation opportunity.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington


Jacob Anderson, Chairman


Dan Christopher, Commissioner


David M. Sauter, Commissioner



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
 STATE OF WASHINGTON
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
 WENATCHEE, WA 98801
 PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

RECEIVED

SEP - 2 2022

WA STATE
 RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

August 22, 2022

Recreation & Conservation Office
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia, WA 98504
 ATTN: Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Manager

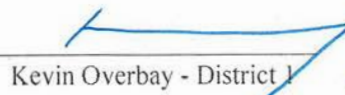
Dear Kim,

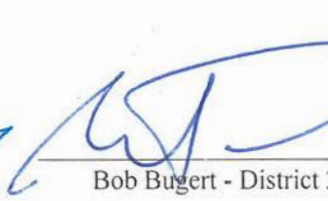
On behalf of the Board of Chelan County Commissioners we would like to take this opportunity to weigh in on the proposed WWRP Farmland Preservation project, the Parlette Orchard (Grant # 22-1722 ACQ). Chelan County is known internationally for its tree fruit production, and is the home to some of the nation's most productive cherry, apple, and pear orchards. However, in spite of the central role these orchards play in our community's history and current economy, we are seeing a rapid increase in conversion of these valuable irrigated orchard lands, as development pressure in the region increases and land prices skyrocket. These dynamics have only accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, as more businesses have shifted to remote work and new buyers enter the market for rural estates. At the same time, the pandemic laid bare the risks inherent in our state's regional food systems and emphasized the urgent need to secure our agricultural land base for food security and economic stability.

As one of the first conservation easement projects seeking to protect irrigated orchard land in Chelan County, the Parlette Orchard project would permanently protect a valuable 60-acre cherry farm, which was founded by a deeply respected local community member. Bob Parlette established a significant legacy in protecting Chelan County's natural resources, outdoor spaces, and recreational trails - with this project, he and his family could also help spur an investment in protecting the County's unique and important agricultural lands for the future.

As such, we would like to express our organization's support for the proposed project, as an important step in demonstrating the potential for farmland conservation in Chelan County. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, and thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,


 Kevin Overbay - District 1


 Bob Bugert - District 2


 Tiffany Gering - District 3



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
 STATE OF WASHINGTON
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
 WENATCHEE, WA 98801
 PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

May 2, 2022

Manson Park & Recreation District
 Robin Pittman
 P.O. Box 590
 Manson, WA 98831

RE: Leffler Field


Dear Robin,

The Chelan County Commission is aware that the Manson Park & Recreation District is seeking support from the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office for the full acquisition and development of Leffler Field. This letter indicates the support of the Commission for this project and the application in the hope that grant funding will be awarded.

The redevelopment of Leffler Field will significantly enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities offered within the most densely populated area. It will also have an immeasurable effect on the mental and physical health of Chelan County residents, while boosting the local economy. The recreational and economic impacts of the proposed project will greatly benefit the Manson community and Chelan County, as a whole.

The Commission understands that this project will increase green space, provide public restrooms, additional parking and a park and ride for Link Transit commuters. In 2019, the Commission allocated \$500,000 in funding from the Rural County Tax Fund for Phase 1 and we are happy to provide a statement of support for this project now.

Board of Chelan County Commissioners


 Kevin Overbay, Chairman


 Tiffany Gering, Commissioner


 Bob Bugert, Commissioner



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY
STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
WENATCHEE, WA 98801
PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

CATHY MULHALL
County Administrator
cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us

CARLYE BAITY
Clerk of the Board
Carlye.baity@co.chelan.wa.us

July 14, 2022

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear RCO Grant Manager:

It is our pleasure to write a letter of support for the Malaga Waterfront Park grant applications to the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP).

Over the past three years, the Chelan County Natural Resource Department (CCNRD), the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (PUD) and the Malaga-Colockum Community Council have worked tirelessly and collaboratively with the local community to assess the feasibility of establishing a waterfront park near downtown Malaga. Together, they have advanced an exciting and viable park design and are ready to move to implementation. The grant proposals will support the acquisition of 30 acres of waterfront property in Malaga for public water access and park development. Despite being on the Columbia River, Malaga currently has no shoreline parks or parks that provide public river access and has long been identified as the highest need community in Chelan County for shoreline access.

We fully support the effort to develop a waterfront park in Malaga and look forward to seeing this long-term community dream become a reality.

Sincerely,


KEVIN OVERBAY
1st District
kevin.overbay@co.chelan.wa.us


BOB BUGERT
2nd District
bob.bugert@co.chelan.wa.us


TIFFANY GERING
3rd District
tiffany.gering@co.chelan.wa.us



MASON COUNTY
BOARD
OF
COMMISSIONERS

1ST District
RANDY NEATHERLIN

2ND District
KEVIN SHUTTY

3RD District
SHARON TRASK

Mason County Building 1
411 North Fifth Street
Shelton, WA 98584-3400
(360) 427-9670 ext. 419
Fax (360) 427-8437

July 19, 2022

Re: Sweetwater Creek Park Project

To Whom It May Concern,

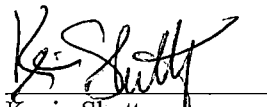
Please accept this letter of support for the Sweetwater Creek Park project that will provide an increased educational and accessible recreational opportunities and amenities to the Belfair Urban Growth Area (UGA) and will result in the removal of significant fish passage barrier for salmon.

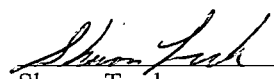
The Port of Allyn, in partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, has presented this outstanding opportunity for the County to collaborate with the Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Mason School District, and other local governments to bring much needed recreational opportunities to the UGA. These community non-profits and municipal entities continue to explore the framework for joint and long-term maintenance and operations of the proposed park. It is our expectation that development of the Sweetwater Creek Park project will make every effort to remove fish passage barriers, particularly dams (WDFW site ID 15.0504 0.26 and 15.0504 0.32) present on the proposed site as part of the park's development. Project partners, both public and private, should endeavor to work with the Skokomish Indian Tribe, who counts this area among their usual and accustomed fishing grounds, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Transportation, and Mason County to achieve this goal. This is especially important in light of secured funding to widen State Route 3 in the area of Sweetwater Creek in the coming years.

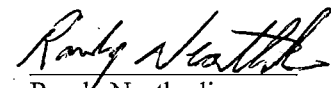
The Board of Mason County Commissioners understands the important role parks play in creating a vibrant, urban community. With the exception of the .15-acre Bill Hunter Park, there is no public park space within the Belfair UGA boundary. We welcome the partnerships this project brings together to increase park access that complements the outdoor learning opportunities already available through the North Mason School District programs in partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.

The Board of Mason County Commissioners support the applications for funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office and will work with project proponents to establish the framework and mutual collaboration necessary to bring the park forward.

Sincerely,


Kevin Shutty,
Chair


Sharon Trask,
Commissioner


Randy Neatherlin,
Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Kate Dean, District 1 Heidi Eisenhour, District 2 Greg Brotherton, District 3

May 9, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2022

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

RE: RCO Grant Application #22-1289A - Additions to the DNR Dabob Bay Natural Area

We are sending this letter to support DNR acquiring two parcels featuring saltwater shoreline and mature riparian forest which will add about 8 acres to the Natural Area Preserve portion of Dabob Bay Natural Area. The natural area is located in the Hood Canal region of Puget Sound in Jefferson County.

We are especially supportive of these acquisitions as they will add 809 feet of naturally functioning shoreline that includes 662 feet of streams to the Natural Area. The project parcels are in close proximity to other recently acquired Dabob Bay properties managed by DNR for conservation in perpetuity.

These acquisitions support Jefferson's County's Shoreline Master Program by contributing to no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and processes and enabling restoration of shorelines that have been in impacted in the past – in this case via removal of a small, low-value recreational trailer on one of the parcels.

In addition to directly conserving shoreline processes for a natural rate of sedimentation and woody debris that aids ecological function of Dabob Bay's high-quality coastal spits, this project will enhance education and research opportunities in the natural area, and potentially serve as low-impact environmental education access as additional parcels in this area are acquired in the future.

In short, we support these additions to this important conservation area because of the benefits – both environmental and recreational – that our county receives from conserved areas.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

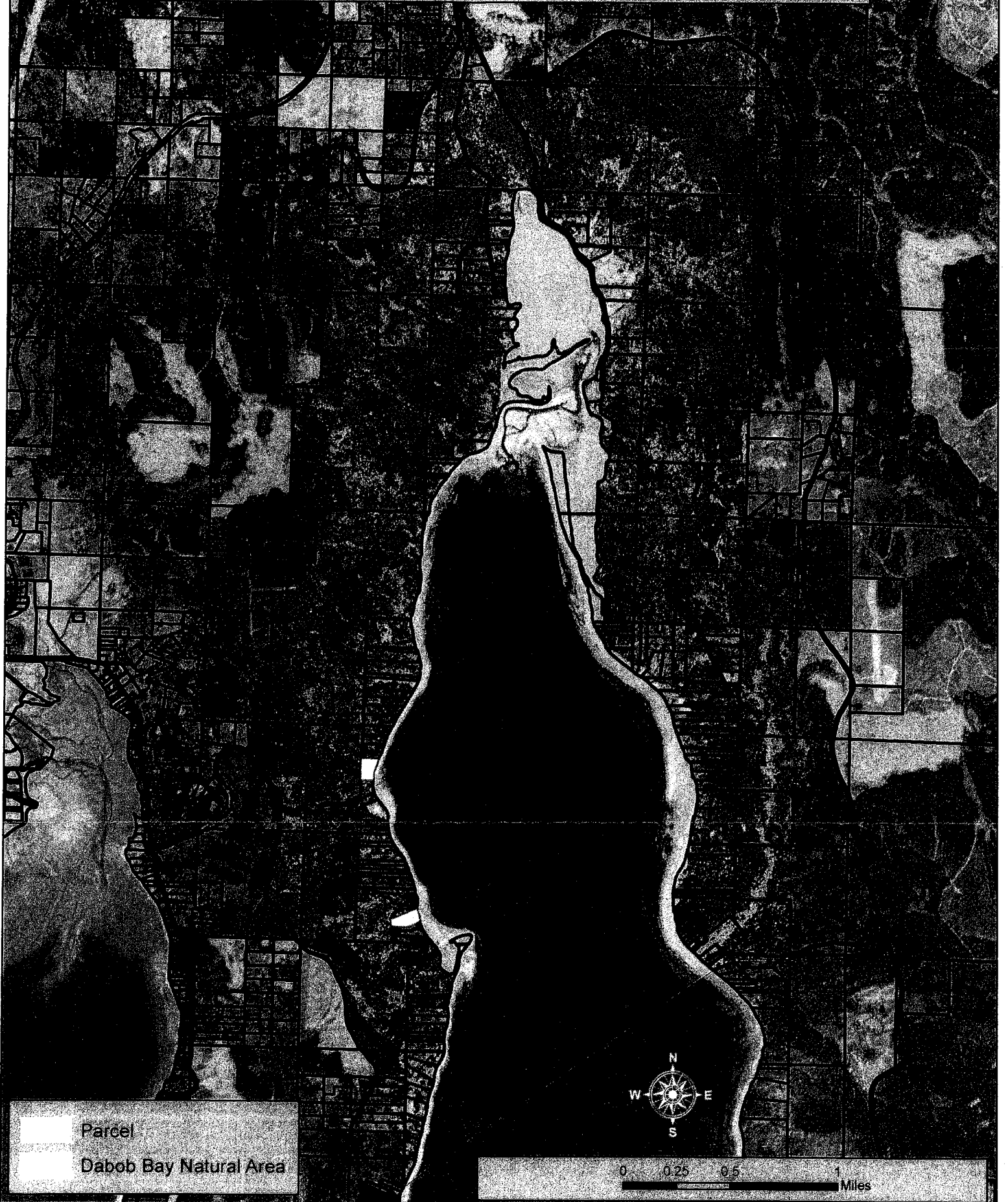
Approved telephonically
Kate Dean
District 1

Heidi Eisenhour
Heidi Eisenhour, Chair
District 2

Greg Brotherton
Greg Brotherton
District 3

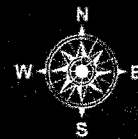
Cc:
DNR Natural Areas Program Manager, Curt Pavola
DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Section Manager, Tim Stapleton

Parcels 701205012 and 701201009
within Dabob Bay Natural Area Boundary



Parcel

Dabob Bay Natural Area

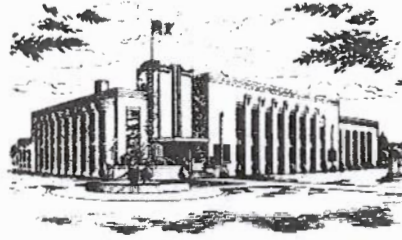


0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Wes McCart
District No. 1

Mark Burrows
District No. 2

Greg Young
District No. 3



Jonnie R. Brown
Clerk of the Board

Karla Hood
Assistant Clerk of the Board

Tammi Renfro
Administrative Assistant

Stevens County Commissioners

Mailing Address: 215 South Oak St; Colville, WA 99114-2861

Location Address: 230 East Birch, Colville

Phone: 509-684-3751 Fax: 509-684-8310 TTY 800-833-6388

Email: commissioners@stevenscountywa.gov

May 2, 2022

To: Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve, Land Acquisition Grant #22-1379A

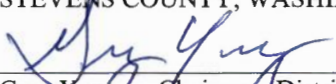
The Stevens County Commissioners would like to submit this letter, for the record, in support of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) proposal for grant funding.

The proposed acquisition of approximately seven hundred (700) acres for the Project would provide the opportunity to protect and study a diverse ecosystem including wetland, pond, forest, and bald ecological communities and further provide educational opportunities from local K-12 school to university level students to experience increasingly rare portions of Washington's natural heritage. The creation of the Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve would further protect numerous Natural Heritage Program (NHP) Plan priority features and provide a critical contribution to the conservation, education, and research objectives associated with the statewide system of natural areas. The ability to protect and study unique, rare, and natural features at this location will benefit not only the citizens of Stevens County, but also provide educational opportunities state-wide.

The Board of Stevens County Commissioners support the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the pursuit of Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant funding for this project.

Thank you,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Greg Young – Chairman, District 2



Wes McCart – Commissioner, District 1



Mark Burrows – Commissioner, District 3

cc: Curt Pavola, Natural Areas Program Manager



KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Efficient, accessible and effective county services

Robert Gelder
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido
DISTRICT 2

Edward E. Wolfe
DISTRICT 3

April 25, 2022

Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Stavis Bay NRCA Acquisition Grant Application 22-1295A

Dear Recreation & Conservation Office,

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners urges you to support the Stavis Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area grant application proposed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The proposal would allow 169 acres to be purchased to preserve important riparian, forest and nearshore habitat along Hood Canal.

This acquisition would provide high-quality wildlife habitat in an area that has seen shrinking natural areas in recent years. This acreage contains Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife priority habitats including freshwater wetlands, instream and riparian habitat, estuaries, marine shoreline and mature forests.

Hood Canal has a history of low dissolved oxygen levels that have caused fish kills and stress on marine life. The Canal is also very important to several Tribes as it is their usual and accustomed fishing area. Commercial and recreational fisheries are also dependent on the health of Hood Canal. This project will prevent further decline of the health of Hood Canal by preventing development and environmental degradation in the Stavis Bay area.

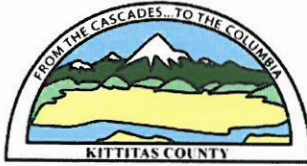
Thank you for your considering DNR's grant request.

Sincerely,

Edward E. Wolfe
Chair

Charlotte Garrido
Commissioner, District 2

Robert Gelder
Commissioner, District 1



Kittitas County, Washington
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One
 Cory Wright

District Two
 Laura Osiadacz

District Three
 Brett Wachsmith

July 7, 2022

Mitch Long, Executive Director
 Kittitas Conservation Trust
 120 W Pennsylvania Ave Suite 207
 Roslyn, WA 98941

Re: Kittitas County Support for Thorp Acquisition Project

Dear Mr. Long,

At the April 11, 2022 Kittitas County Public Works Study Session, you shared with the Board of County Commissioners that the Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) is working to secure 235 acres adjacent to Thorp for the purposes of open space and habitat protection and to assess the potential for restoration and flood mitigation activities to benefit fish, wildlife, and the community of Thorp. KCT intends to work with the Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District and other partners to assess the potential for flood mitigation activities that will benefit fish, wildlife, and the community of Thorp.

Kittitas County recognizes that the proposed acquisition will secure the opportunity for integrated floodplain management. We are supportive of the proposed acquisition, with the understanding that:

- the Flood Control Zone District will be engaged in assessment and design efforts, and that flood alleviation opportunities, in addition to habitat restoration goals, will be considered in these efforts; and
- management of the acquired property will take opportunities for broader community benefits into consideration, as possible given potential restrictions associated with funding. We note that allowing access by on-river users for passive recreation may provide this type of benefit.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Arden Thomas, Water Resources Manager at arden.thomas@co.kittitas.wa.us or 509-962-7523.

Respectfully,

Laura Osiadacz
 Chairman



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund
Approval of Final Ranked List and Delegation Authority for
Awarding Grants for 2023-25

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 25 project proposals for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. This memo describes the program, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. There are currently funds available for grants and staff anticipates additional funds for federal fiscal year 2023. Staff asks the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the final ranked list of projects and delegate authority to the director to award grants pending Congressional approval of funds and approval of legislative funding authority in the 2023-25 state capital budget.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-14

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the final ranked list of projects as shown in Table 1 and delegate authority to RCO’s director to award grants.

Background

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to states to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources for current and future generations. Rules governing the program are in the [LWCF State Assistance Program Federal Financial Assistance Manual](#). Grants fund the purchase of land and development of recreation facilities, including campgrounds, playgrounds, trails, fishing access,

swimming pools, ice-skating rinks, athletic fields, picnic sites, and various support amenities.

A prerequisite for a state’s participation in this program is the adoption of a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and development of an open project selection process. The National Park Service (NPS) approved Washington’s current [SCORP](#), *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*, in November 2017. The SCORP sets priorities used to develop state program policies and the project evaluation criteria. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) policies and the evaluation criteria for LWCF are in Manual #15, *Land and Water Conservation Fund*.

Program Summary

There were several new policies for the LWCF Program, effective this year. The most significant changes:

- The board increased the grant limits to \$200,000 minimum with a \$2 million maximum request.
- Applicants must provide copies of all required federal permits (including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit). If the project does not need a federal permit, applicants must provide documentation of that decision, including which federal regulator made this determination
- Applicants must complete the environmental documentation and cultural resources before the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) can submit the proposal to NPS.
- RCO modified PRISM Online to increase security, add a cultural resources mapping tool, and revise the match metrics on the Cost Summary page.

A summary of program policies is shown in the table below:

Land and Water Conservation Fund	
Eligible Applicants	State agencies, local agencies (cities/towns, counties, park, port, school, and special purpose districts), and federally recognized Native American tribes
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	The minimum fund request is \$200,000 with a maximum request of \$2 million.
Match Requirements	A minimum 1:1 non-federal matching share is required for all applicants.

Public Access	Public access is required.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired must be developed within three years. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.

Before issuing a project agreement, the NPS requires applicants to additionally:

- Address any outstanding conversions or other non-compliance issues,
- Have in hand required federal permits, including an approved Army Corp of Engineers permit, if needed. If the project does not need a federal permit, applicants must provide documentation of that decision including which federal regulator made this determination,
- Complete required environmental and public reviews of the project
- Establish adequate control and tenure of property to be developed,
- Applicants must complete all items before RCO can submit their grant proposal to NPS for their consideration.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty-five LWCF project proposals, requesting \$32.9 million, were evaluated by members of the LWCF Advisory Committee on August 24 and 25. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the RCO director, included the following representatives, all of whom are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about park and recreation resource management:

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
Lisa Clausen, Seattle	Citizen
Kitty Craig, Seattle	Citizen
Kevin Killeen, Bellevue	Citizen
Jen Burbidge, Lacey Parks and Recreation Department	Local Government
Jason Lederer, City of Renton	Local Government
Al Vorderbrueggen, City of Spokane	Local Government
Nikki Fields, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	State Government
Cortney Higgins, Washington Department of Natural Resources	State Government
Mark Teske, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Government
Sam Stivers* National Park Service	Ex-Officio

**Participated in the technical review meeting only*

The nine advisory committee members reviewed the final grant proposals virtually, and used RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module for scoring the projects. The scores given were based on criteria adopted by the board. The presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency.

The results of the evaluations are provided for board consideration in Table 1 – *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 25 and during the post-evaluation meeting on September 1, staff met with the LWCF Advisory Committee to debrief the application materials, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results. The committee liked the PRISM Review and Evaluation Module.

The advisory committee discussed the evaluation criteria and commented that the diversity of projects made it difficult to score at times, for example active versus passive recreation projects. The committee also noted that it was difficult to determine where the demographic criteria should be scored as it was somewhat duplicative in the first and second criteria, *Need* and *Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation*. This criteria was also difficult to score given that some applicants did not clearly define or connect the need with the service area. The committee also suggested allowing applicants to use a broader range of demographic measures than what is currently in the evaluation criteria to better represent the service area for the project. Some evaluators gave similar scores to all projects on *Sustainability* and *Cost Efficiencies*, and it was noted that applicants do not seem to have a consistent understanding of what constitutes cost efficiencies. The advisory committee noted that there was a variety of ways that service area was defined and that applicants could use assistance with explaining how and why they defined the area.

The advisory committee also shared thoughts about challenges, such as the overlap between *Need* and *Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation* as identified above. While the committee highlighted improvements for the project selection process, they were comfortable with the resulting ranked list.

Program Funding

Congress approves funding for the LWCF grant program. The funds are from leases of offshore oil and gas resources, recreation fees, sale of surplus real property, and motorboat fuel taxes. The Great American Outdoors Act provided permanent funding for the LWCF by investing \$900 million a year from offshore oil and natural gas royalties in conservation and recreation opportunities across the country. Another portion of the fund comes from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). This is a revenue

sharing model for oil and gas producing states. The act directs a portion of the revenue, generated from oil and gas production offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, to the LWCF.

Current Funding

When the board approved the final ranked list for the 2021-23 biennium, the board delegated authority to the director to award grants using existing available funds (from federal fiscal year 2020) and funds from federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The director gave preliminary approval to 23 projects requesting nearly \$11 million. Two applicants withdrew their proposals and three applicants waived their rights to a stateside grant after learning they were the recipients of larger grants from the LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, a nationwide competitive grant program. Even though the director approved small cost increases for the remaining 18 projects to help defray some of the escalating pre-agreement expenses, there were enough funds from federal fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to fund all projects and RCO's administrative costs. There remains \$700,784 from federal fiscal year 2021.

Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, sent a letter to Governor Inslee on May 27, 2022, with the Certificate of Apportionment for the LWCF for federal fiscal year 2022. Washington State's apportionment is:

Source of Federal Funds	Amount
LWCF	\$4,070,016
GOMESA	\$1,734,665
Total	\$5,804,681

This amount combined with unspent fund from federal fiscal year 2021, less indirect costs (\$257,420) for program administration, means currently there is \$6,248,045 for this ranked list.

Funding Strategy and Delegation Authority

RCO accepts applications once each biennium. With board approval, staff would use unspent funds from the current biennium (federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022) and funds for the new biennium (federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024) for the projects shown in Table 1.

While there are funds currently available, staff is not asking the board to award grants, but instead to delegate authority to the director to award grants. Before awarding these federal grants, NPS must review and document project readiness before they will issue an agreement to the state of Washington. This means completion of all pre-construction activities including receipt of federal permits and required environmental and cultural resources clearance. This approval took ten months for two projects, 17 months for nine, projects, 22 months for two projects, and there are five projects that are still working on pre-construction activities.

If the board delegates authority to RCO's director, this gives the flexibility needed to submit applications to NPS that meet the readiness criteria and to fund them as soon as NPS issues the state agreement.

Certification of Match Required

State and local agency applicants must provide a minimum fifty percent or 1:1 match for a LWCF grant. Applicants must certify that they have matching funds available before the funding meeting.¹ Staff notified applicants of this requirement on June 20 and August 15, with the certification deadline set for September 15, 2022. All applicants certified their match.

Public Comment

There are several letters of support or concern for LWCF projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents that are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of funding for these projects supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects supports the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for LWCF grants support board adopted priorities in SCORP.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the final ranked list of projects shown in Table 1 – *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*. Also, staff recommends the board delegate authority to the RCO director to award grants, contingent on NPS review. In addition, with Congressional approval of funds for federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024 and Legislative approval of additional spending authority in the 2023-25 state capital budget, the director will award grants to eligible alternates on the 2023-25 ranked list. Resolution #2022-14 is provided for board consideration.

¹ Washington Administrative Code 286-13-040(3)

Next Steps

If the board approves the final ranked list, the director will award grants to the ranked list of projects using monies currently available and any additional funds that become available for the next two federal fiscal years. The Legislature will set the LWCF funding authority in the state capital budget pending Congressional approval of stateside funding for federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The director will report on the funding decisions in the quarterly director's report.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-14, including Table 1 – *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map of Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects
- C. Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Descriptions, 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-14
Land and Water Conservation Fund
Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 and Delegation Authority**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 25 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, the projects acquire and develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, thereby supporting policies in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide; and

WHEREAS, these LWCF projects were evaluated by advisory committee members using the Open Project Selection Process approved and adopted by the National Park Service and the board, thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the approval of these grant proposals will occur in an open public meeting thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner and the board's principles to make strategic investments that are guided by community support and established priorities; and

WHEREAS, the projects in *Table 1 –Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked Lists of Projects, 2023-25* have met program eligibility requirements as stipulated in the *Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Washington Administrative Code 286, and Manual 15, Land and Water Conservation Fund*; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington currently has a LWCF apportionment of \$5.8 million in federal funds and may receive additional apportionments for federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted the 2021-23 state capital budget, which includes spending authority for federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for the current biennium and may approve additional spending authority for the 2023-25 biennium;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 - Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25, and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board delegates authority to the director to award the existing available funds and funds for federal fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to the projects based on the ranked list, subject to federal approval and Congressional funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board authorizes the director execute project agreements and amendments necessary to facilitate project implementation upon notification of the federal awards.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1–Land and Water Conservation Fund
Final Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25

Resolution 2022-14

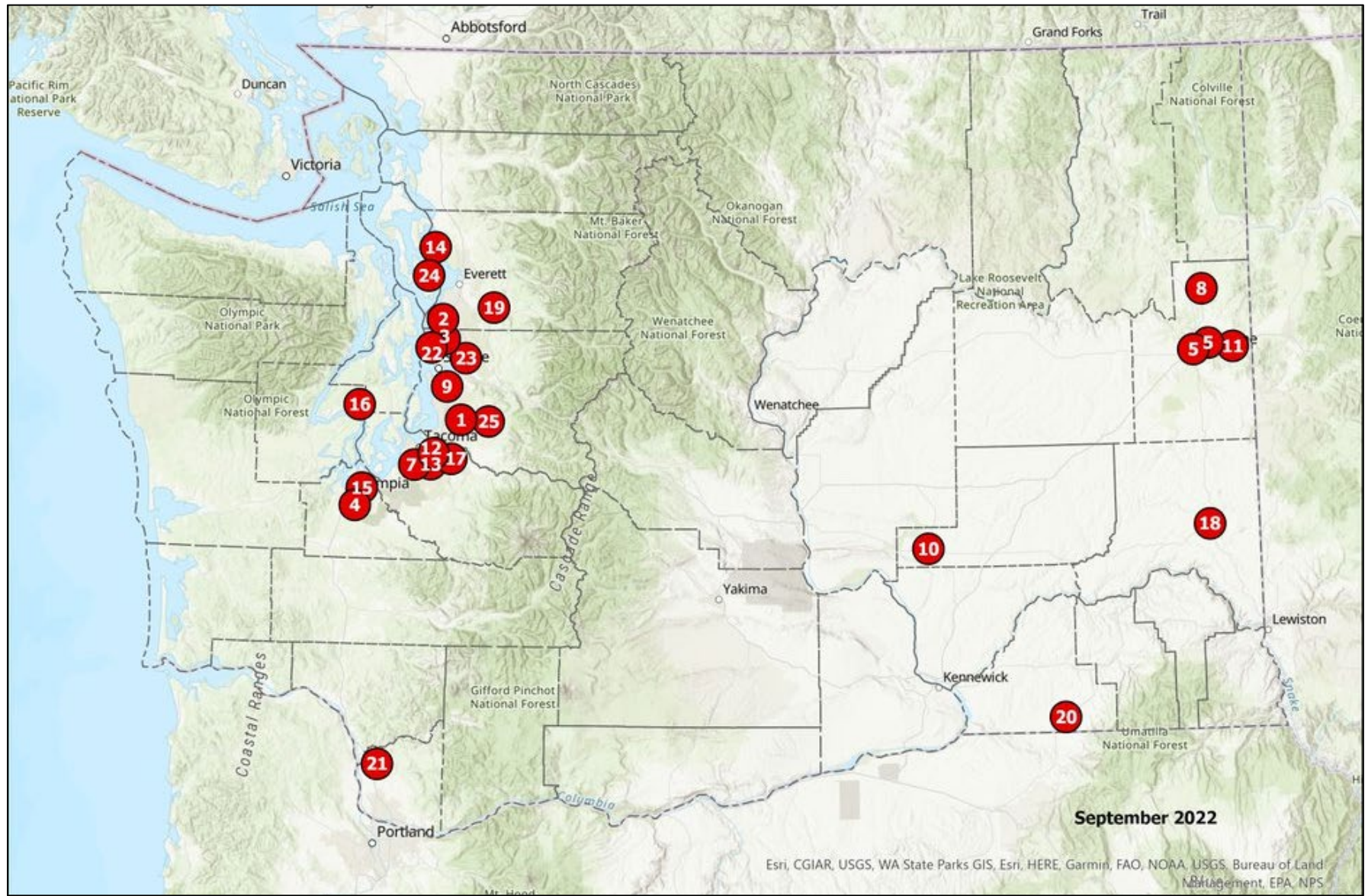
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Total	Pending Awards for FFY 2022
1	46.11	22-1479 A	Kent	Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park	\$2,000,000	\$4,750,000	\$6,750,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
2	45.22	22-1264 D	Lynnwood	Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail	\$2,000,000	\$2,367,058	\$4,367,058	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000
3	43.44	22-1258 D	Seattle	Little Brook Park Improvements	\$800,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,800,000	\$4,800,000	\$800,000
4	43.33	22-1299 D	Olympia	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase 1	\$2,000,000	\$11,500,438	\$13,500,438	\$6,800,000	\$1,448,045 ²
5	43.22	22-1473 D	Spokane	Make Beacon Hill Public Phase 2	\$1,060,000	\$1,074,000	\$2,134,000	\$7,860,000	Alternate
5	43.22	22-1583 D	Spokane	Riverfront Park South Suspension Bridge Renovation	\$1,400,000	\$1,414,500	\$2,814,500	\$9,260,000	Alternate
7	42.67	22-1724 D	Lakewood	Wards Lake Park Phase 2	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	\$10,510,000	Alternate
8	42.06	22-1430 D	Spokane County	Bear Lake Regional Park Phase 1 Renovation	\$1,383,323	\$1,585,000	\$2,968,323	\$11,893,323	Alternate
9	42.00	22-1253 D	Seattle	Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$12,893,323	Alternate
10	41.83	22-1644 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails	\$600,000	\$658,120	\$1,258,120	\$13,493,323	Alternate
11	41.33	22-1694 D	Spokane Valley	Greenacres Park Phase 2	\$1,000,000	\$1,061,761	\$2,061,761	\$14,493,323	Alternate
12	40.67	22-1703 D	Fife	Wedge Park Revitalization	\$418,822	\$418,822	\$837,644	\$14,912,145	Alternate
13	40.39	22-1310 D	Pierce County	Orangegate Park Phase 1	\$1,000,000	\$5,837,000	\$6,837,000	\$15,912,145	Alternate
14	39.06	22-1399 D	Snohomish County	Kayak Point Waterfront Improvements Phase 2	\$2,000,000	\$3,569,112	\$5,569,112	\$17,912,145	Alternate

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Total	Pending Awards for FFY 2022
15	39.00	22-1608 D	Lacey	Greg Cuoio Park	\$2,000,000	\$3,529,819	\$5,529,819	\$19,912,145	Alternate
16	38.89	22-1590 C	Port of Allyn	Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park	\$828,075	\$1,099,077	\$1,927,152	\$20,740,220	Alternate
17	38.78	22-1392 D	Sumner	Seibenthaler Park Phase 1 Spray Park	\$762,500	\$762,500	\$1,525,000	\$21,502,720	Alternate
18	38.56	22-1488 D	Colfax	Pool Update	\$1,530,000	\$1,597,500	\$3,127,500	\$23,032,720	Alternate
19	36.56	22-1434 D	Monroe	North Hill Area Park	\$2,000,000	\$3,013,500	\$5,013,500	\$25,032,720	Alternate
20	36.17	22-1751 D	Walla Walla	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000	\$26,282,720	Alternate
21	36.06	22-1526 D	La Center	Holley Park Playground	\$383,036	\$383,036	\$766,072	\$26,665,756	Alternate
22	36.00	22-1262 D	Seattle	Soundview Playfield Renovation	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$28,665,756	Alternate
23	35.78	22-1389 D	Bellevue	Bridle Trails 140th Avenue Northeast Neighborhood Park	\$2,000,000	\$2,240,000	\$4,240,000	\$30,665,756	Alternate
24	33.50	22-1448 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Community Park Outdoor Amphitheater	\$215,000	\$281,000	\$496,000	\$30,880,756	Alternate
25	33.28	22-1599 D	King County	Rock Creek Horse Park	\$2,000,000	\$3,268,297	\$5,268,297	\$32,880,756	
Total					\$32,880,756	\$57,410,540	\$90,291,296		\$6,248,045

¹Project types: A=acquisition, C=combination of acquisition and development, D=development

²Partial funding. Eligible for full funding if additional funds become available.

State Map for Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects



Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Criteria Summary

The *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board *Unifying Strategy* establish priorities for funding outdoor recreation in Washington State. The evaluation questions below incorporate the plans' priorities identified specifically for the LWCF. This priority rating system is part of the LWCF open project selection or evaluation process.

LWCF Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored by	#	Title	Project Type Questions	Maximum Points	Priority
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All projects	15	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	2	Need satisfaction and diversity of recreation	All projects	10	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of threat and viability	Acquisition	10	Board
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project design	Development	10	Recreation and Conservation Plan
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability	Development and Combination	5	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	6	Community support	All projects	5	Board
Advisory Committee	7	Cost efficiencies	All projects	5	Board
RCO Staff	8	Proximity to people	All projects	1.5	State law
RCO Staff	9	County population density	All projects	1.5	State law
RCO Staff	10	Applicant compliance	All projects	0	National Park Service
Total Points Possible = 58					

Land and Water Conservation Fund, Detailed Scoring Criteria

Scored by the Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** Considering the availability of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?
2. **Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation.** To what extent does this project fill the need described in Question 1 and provide or contribute to the diversity of outdoor recreation assets within the service area area, and address the priorities for underserved populations and health recommendations in the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022?
3. **Immediacy of Threat and Viability.** Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site? (acquisition and combination projects only)
4. **Project Design.** Is the project well designed? (development and combination projects only)
5. **Sustainability.** Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant organization's sustainability plan or how the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan were considered.
6. **Community Support.** To what extent has the community been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed about the project and provide input?
7. **Cost efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

8. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?
9. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?
10. **Applicant Compliance.** Is the sponsor in compliance with its RCO grant agreements?

Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Scores, 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name Point Range	1. Need 0-15	2. Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation 0-10	3. Immediacy of Threat and Viability 0-15	4. Project Design 0-10	5. Sustainability 0-5	6. Community Support 0-5	7. Cost Efficiencies 0-5	8. Proximity to People 0-1.5	9. County Population Density 0-1.5	10. Applicant Compliance -2-0	Total
1	22-1479 A	Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park	13.00	8.00	14.33			3.67	4.11	1.50	1.50	0.00	46.11
2	22-1264 D	Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail	13.00	8.67		8.67	4.22	4.11	3.56	1.50	1.50	0.00	45.22
3	22-1258 D	Little Brook Park Improvements	13.33	8.44		8.00	4.00	4.33	3.33	1.50	1.50	-1.00	43.44
4	22-1299 D	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase 1	12.67	7.56		8.22	3.67	4.56	3.67	1.50	1.50	0.00	43.33
5	22-1473 D	Make Beacon Hill Public Phase 2	12.00	8.00		8.89	3.44	4.44	4.44	1.50	1.50	-1.00	43.22
5	22-1583 D	Riverfront Park South Suspension Bridge Renovation	13.00	8.44		9.11	3.44	4.11	3.11	1.50	1.50	-1.00	43.22
7	22-1724 D	Wards Lake Park Phase 2	13.33	9.33		7.11	3.56	4.22	3.11	1.50	1.50	-1.00	42.67
8	22-1430 D	Bear Lake Regional Park Phase 1 Renovation	12.33	7.78		8.67	4.22	4.11	3.44	0.00	1.50	0.00	42.06
9	22-1253 D	Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark	11.67	8.44		8.22	3.33	4.78	3.56	1.50	1.50	-1.00	42.00

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name Point Range	1. Need 0-15	2. Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation 0-10	3. Immediacy of Threat and Viability 0-15	4. Project Design 0-10	5. Sustainability 0-5	6. Community Support 0-5	7. Cost Efficiencies 0-5	8. Proximity to People 0-1.5	9. County Population Density 0-1.5	10. Applicant Compliance -2-0	Total
10	22-1644 D	Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails	12.33	9.11		7.78	3.89	4.00	3.22	1.50	0.00	0.00	41.83
11	22-1694 D	Greenacres Park Phase 2	11.67	7.78		8.00	3.11	4.11	3.67	1.50	1.50	0.00	41.33
12	22-1703 D	Wedge Park Revitalization	12.33	7.56		8.00	3.00	4.00	2.78	1.50	1.50	0.00	40.67
13	22-1310 D	Orangegate Park Phase 1	11.67	8.00		7.78	3.56	4.11	3.78	0.00	1.50	0.00	40.39
14	22-1399 D	Kayak Point Waterfront Improvements Phase 2	12.00	7.56		8.44	4.00	3.89	2.67	0.00	1.50	-1.00	39.06
15	22-1608 D	Greg Cuoio Park	10.33	6.89		7.56	4.00	4.67	3.56	1.50	1.50	-1.00	39.00
16	22-1590 C	Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park	11.33	7.56	3.33	4.11	3.89	4.33	4.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.89
17	22-1392 D	Seibenthaler Park Phase 1 Spray Park	10.67	7.33		7.33	2.78	4.22	3.44	1.50	1.50	0.00	38.78
18	22-1488 D	Pool Update	13.00	7.56		7.56	3.67	3.89	2.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.56
19	22-1434 D	North Hill Area Park	11.00	6.22		6.67	3.22	3.67	2.78	1.50	1.50	0.00	36.56
20	22-1751 D	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	11.33	6.67		7.56	2.67	3.67	3.78	1.50	0.00	-1.00	36.17

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name Point Range	1. Need 0-15	2. Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation 0-10	3. Immediacy of Threat and Viability 0-15	4. Project Design 0-10	5. Sustainability 0-5	6. Community Support 0-5	7. Cost Efficiencies 0-5	8. Proximity to People 0-1.5	9. County Population Density 0-1.5	10. Applicant Compliance -2-0	Total
21	22-1526 D	Holley Park Playground	11.33	6.44		6.89	3.00	3.44	3.44	0.00	1.50	0.00	36.06
22	22-1262 D	Soundview Playfield Renovation	10.67	6.22		7.56	3.67	3.44	2.44	1.50	1.50	-1.00	36.00
23	22-1389 D	Bridle Trails 140th Avenue Northeast Neighborhood Park	10.33	6.22		7.33	3.33	3.78	2.78	1.50	1.50	-1.00	35.78
24	22-1448 D	South Whidbey Community Park Outdoor Amphitheater	8.67	6.00		7.11	2.78	3.78	3.67	0.00	1.50	0.00	33.50
25	22-1599 D	Rock Creek Horse Park	10.00	5.78		7.33	3.00	3.11	3.56	0.00	1.50	-1.00	33.28

Advisory Committee scores Questions 1-7; RCO staff scores Questions 8-10

Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2023-2025

Kent

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Expanding Clark Lake Park

The City of Kent will use this grant to buy the remaining 17 acres of private land in Clark Lake Park, completing city ownership of 150 acres for the park. Located on the East Hill of Kent, Clark Lake Park is surrounded by dense residential development. The addition of the 17 acres will allow for completion of a loop trail with views of Clark Lake and opportunities for a more formal use area in the park. The park is used primarily for walking, hiking, birdwatching, and other passive-use recreation. Kent will contribute more than \$4.7 million in Conservation Futures² grant, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, cash, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1479)

Lynnwood

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Building a Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail

The City of Lynnwood Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department will use this grant to build an accessible boardwalk and two wildlife viewpoints on the shoreline of Scriber Lake in Scriber Lake Park. The City will build about a quarter-mile of elevated boardwalk and lake viewpoints, improve connections to a floating dock, update two parking stalls and the route from the parking lot to the boardwalk to be accessible to people with disabilities, and restore the lake's natural hydrology and habitat. With 24 acres of wetlands, a lake, streams, trails, forest, and hillsides, Scriber Lake Park provides a haven for wildlife and a respite from the city for people. The city's only public lake supports a variety of waterfowl, osprey, largemouth bass, perch, river otter, and beaver. The goal of the project is to provide year-round access to the natural environment for residents of the city's lowest income neighborhood. Lynnwood will contribute more than \$2.3 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a private grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1264)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$800,000

Improving Little Brook Park

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the 1-acre Little Brook Park to include a community garden, seating walls, a central lawn, picnic tables and grills, and a looped walking path—all interwoven under large trees with views

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.

of a stream. This community led project would improve this northeast Seattle park that is the only public green space in a high-density, diverse, low-income neighborhood. Separate projects will provide interpretive signs about stream water quality and complete the street frontage as a park extension. Seattle will contribute \$1 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1258)

Olympia

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Beginning Development of the Yelm Highway Community Park

The City of Olympia will use this grant to begin development of the 60-acre Yelm Highway Community Park. In this first phase of development, the City will build a rectangular field with synthetic turf and lights, a playground, two basketball courts, six pickleball courts, 1.25 miles of walking paths, a mountain bike skills area, a dog park, a restroom, a picnic shelter, and a 176-stall parking lot. This first phase will coincide with the Olympia School District's construction of a lit, synthetic turf, rectangular field and track on abutting land. Combined, the two fields will lay the groundwork for the future addition of two more fields on the park property to fully build out a soccer complex. These will be Olympia's first dedicated rectangular fields in its park system. Soccer players have long requested dedicated, quality fields in Olympia. Additionally, players of other rectangular field sports are on the rise, such as lacrosse, rugby, football, and ultimate Frisbee, and need field space. These fields will serve a variety of park users year-round. Olympia will contribute more than \$11 million in cash and grants from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and state Youth Athletic Facilities program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1299)

Spokane

Grant Requested: \$1,060,000

Improving Beacon Hill Recreation Area

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Spokane County, will use this grant to expand and enhance public access and add amenities to the 566-acre Beacon Hill Recreation Area and its 46-mile trail system in the heart of the city and county. The two agencies will renovate, expand, and significantly improve two trailheads, connect the two trailheads with new trails to the nearby Centennial Trail, create a new climbing trail, install a new bouldering playground, and update support facilities. Beacon Hill has been at the epicenter of mountain biking and climbing in the region for decades as well as a popular neighborhood recreational area for hiking, dog-walking, trail running, and more. Spokane will contribute more than \$1 million in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1473)

Spokane**Grant Requested: \$1,400,000****Repairing Riverfront Park's South Suspension Bridge**

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to replace the bridge deck, rails, corroded steel, and ends of the south suspension bridge over the Spokane River in downtown Spokane's Riverfront Park. Originally installed for Expo 1974, the bridge provides excellent views and is a major recreational connection for walkers, runners, cyclists, and sightseers. The south part of the bridge recently was closed due to critical risk of failure. Bridge decking has failed, railings do not provide adequate fall protection, and significant portions of the steel framing are corroded and failing. This grant will extend the life of an extremely popular attraction in the city's most popular urban park. Spokane will contribute more than \$1.4 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project.

(22-1583)

Lakewood**Grant Requested: \$1,250,000****Continuing Development of Wards Lake Park**

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to continue development of the 27-acre Wards Lake Park, which is a natural area park in a very diverse, low-income, and underserved area of the city. The City will build two, nature-based adventure playgrounds; a restroom; and trails and pathways to connect and expand access throughout the park. In addition, the City will separate a soon-to-be-built BMX (dirt bike racing) track from walking trails and sensitive areas with fencing and other natural materials. The City also will open heavily vegetated areas to create safe lines of sight while preserving and enhancing important natural areas such as wetland buffers, old-growth forest, and oak prairie areas. Finally, the City will expand parking at the main entrance, extend sidewalks, and add a parking area and trailhead in the southern part of the park. The City will furnish the park with picnic shelters, tables, benches, bike racks, lights, and garbage cans, and wayfinding and interpretive signs. The work is intended to enhance underused and difficult to manage areas, remove and replace aging infrastructure, and add elements to make the park more inviting and accessible to all. Lakewood will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1724)

Spokane County**Grant Requested: \$1,383,323****Renovating Bear Lake Regional Park**

Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to expand and enhance access to Bear Lake for swimming, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking in Bear Lake Regional Park. The County will remove retaining walls, six sets of concrete and metal stairs, an undersized wood fishing pier, and a picnic shelter. These features will be replaced by sand and boulder beaches along designated swimming areas, a floating

swim dock, three low-maintenance fishing piers, a designated launch area for paddlers, a new picnic shelter, and parking and pathways for people with disabilities. The County will also put in a septic drain field and reopen the restroom. The 66-acre Bear Lake Regional Park is 15 miles north of Spokane, adjacent to State Route 2. Public lakefront access is limited in the county and these improvements are critical for meeting high demands for water access at Bear Lake. Spokane County will contribute more than \$1.5 million in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1430)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Building a Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a skateboard facility in Rainier Beach Playfield in southeast Seattle. Rainier Beach is one of the most demographically diverse communities in Seattle and among the most underserved in park resources. The grant will help pay for demolition, erosion control, grading, and installation of stormwater infrastructure, a skateboard facility, picnic shelters, a circular pathway, seating, tables, and landscaping. There are two adjacent public schools to the playfield. The project is community driven with residents bringing project ideas to the department, proactively securing funding for the planning and design stages using Seattle Neighborhood Matching Funds, and participating in outreach including large public meetings, classroom visits, and events at the site. Seattle will contribute \$1.5 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1253)

Othello

Grant Requested: \$600,000

Adding a Spray Park and Renovating Trails in Kiwanis Park

Othello will use this grant to build a spray park, renovate walking trails, and add lighting in Kiwanis Park, one of only two active parks in the community of nearly 9,000 residents. The project's goal is to make this park, known for its family-oriented, informal recreation, an appealing, safe, accessible park that will be more useable now and into the future for all ages of users. This project also will meet the residents' desire for free, safe, healthy, youth-centric activities in a community, where kids are 39 percent of the population, the poverty rate is 27 percent, and 88 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. The spray park, which will be designed primarily for children 12 and younger, will be a welcome cooling center during Othello's hot summers. Installing park-wide lighting will improve security and address a significant graffiti problem in a park that has many trees and dark areas. Lighting also will extend the useable hours for park activities and facilities. The walking trails have deteriorated since they were built in the 1970s and are no longer accessible for anyone using a wheelchair, pushing a stroller, or riding a bike. The City will resurface the trails to restore connections that tie together

all park areas. Othello will contribute \$658,120 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1644)

Spokane Valley

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Continuing Development of Greenacres Community Park

The City of Spokane Valley will use this grant to continue development of Greenacres Community Park by adding a tennis court, six pickleball courts, two basketball courts, a backstop, a community garden, shade structures, and trees. The City also will expand the playground and splash pad, add 17 parking spaces, pave an existing perimeter path, and renovate the disc golf course to create a 3-hole introductory course with practice green. Spokane Valley will contribute more than \$1 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, cash, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1694)

Fife

Grant Requested: \$418,822

Revitalizing Wedge Park

The City of Fife will use this grant to add a permanent restroom, replace the playground and small gazebo, and resurface the basketball half-court in the 2.4-acre Wedge Park. Although the park is small, it is highly use because of its convenient location directly off Valley Avenue East and near multiple apartment complexes. Currently, the park only has a portable restroom, a play structure in poor condition, a playground with portions blocked off for safety, and a basketball court with cracks and dips. Fife will contribute \$418,822. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1703)

Pierce County

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Beginning Development of Orangegate Park

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to begin development of the 150-acre Orangegate Park, which now is a forest with informal trails in the Summit-Waller community at the intersection of 84th Street East and 46th Avenue East. A half-mile of the Pipeline Trail, which is a regional, paved, non-motorized commuter trail connecting Tacoma to South Hill, will cross through the park. The County will build a 97-space parking lot, a universally inclusive nature play area, picnic shelters, a restroom, a 5-acre enclosed dog park, trails, and signs. The County also will add a safe road crossing at 84th Street East with a trail connection south to the Pipeline Trail. The park will serve a variety of users, including pedestrians, dog walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Pierce County will contribute more than \$5.8 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, cash, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1310)

Snohomish County**Grant Requested: \$2,000,000****Continuing Improvement of Kayak Point Park Waterfront**

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Division will use this grant to improve Kayak Point Regional Park's waterfront and day-use area. The County will develop one-third mile of meandering promenade, seven beach access paths, two beach overlooks, and a quarter-mile of soft-shore berm for native marine shoreline plantings. In addition, the County will move 10 picnic shelters, update 2 restrooms, update the playground, build a gathering and performance plaza, install 3 new picnic shelters, and update the utility systems for stormwater, electrical, and septic throughout Kayak Point Park's day-use area. Kayak Point Regional Park is south of Stanwood, on the eastern shores of the Salish Sea. This project will complete renovations at a well-loved facility that provides public access to more than a half-mile of shoreline, one of the few public boat launches in the area, and a fishing pier. Snohomish County will contribute more than \$3.5 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1399)

Lacey**Grant Requested: \$2,000,000****Beginning Development of Greg Cuoio Park**

The City of Lacey will use this grant to plan and begin development of 139 acres in Greg Cuoio Park, which is partially in the city and partially in Thurston County, between the intersections of Draham and Carpenter Roads to the south and Hawks Prairie and Carpenter Roads to the north. The City will develop safe entry off a busy county road, 50 parking stalls, about 2 miles of trails, 18 holes of disc golf, a park shelter, sitting and open play areas, and the first phase of a large all-access playground. The City also will add signs, a portable restroom enclosure, and maintenance and emergency access. The project's goal is to provide public access to outdoor recreation space with a focus on passive use and protecting the wetlands, sensitive habitat areas, and streams. Lacey will contribute more than \$3.5 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1608)

Port of Allyn**Grant Requested: \$828,075****Developing Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park**

The Port of Allyn, in partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, will use this grant to buy nearly 1 acre and develop the 5-acre Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park. The Port will build a viewing platform, a pier, loop trails with lights, a picnic shelter, a nature-themed playground, restrooms powered by solar panels, and 13 parking stalls. The Port also will expand a pond to accommodate water activities and fishing, improve landscaping and habitat, and erect botanical markers, signs, and interpretive displays. Volunteers will restore the historic waterwheel that is a feature of the park. The Port used a previous grant to buy 5 acres in north Mason County, near

Belfair, for the park. The trail will connect to Hood Canal trail systems including the adjacent Theler Trail. The Port of Allyn will contribute more than \$1 million in a local grant, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and donations of labor, land or property interest, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1590)

Sumner

Grant Requested: \$762,500

Developing New Features in Seibenthaler Park

The City of Sumner will use this grant to develop and renovate Seibenthaler Park. Sumner will build its first spray park, modify the basketball court to be a multipurpose court, create space for a permanent restroom, move the dog park to its permanent location at the north side of the park, add two parking spaces for people with disabilities, and build paths to connect many of the newest features. The project will benefit the nearby underserved neighborhoods in the north section of Sumner. Sumner will contribute \$762,500 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1392)

Colfax

Grant Requested: \$1,530,000

Upgrading Colfax City Pool

The City of Colfax will use this grant to rehabilitate the Colfax City Pool in Schmuck Park, off State Route 195 on the Palouse River. The pool, locker room, and restrooms are more than 50 years old and past their useful life. The City will fix a 35,000 gallons per day leak, replace the non-functioning wading pool with a splash pad, create an entry for people with disabilities, and renovate the locker room. These improvements will provide access to the facilities for people with disabilities, add recreational features, and reduce operational and maintenance costs. Colfax will contribute more than \$1.5 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, a state appropriation, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1488)

Monroe

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Beginning Development of North Hill Area Park

The City of Monroe will use this grant to finalize the design and develop 3 acres of the 5-acre North Hill Area Park, which is at 134th Street Southeast and 191st Avenue Southeast. The City will create 1 acre of open space play areas, install utilities, create hard-surface trails, create a 10-stall parking lot, and build a viewing plaza and picnic shelter. There are limited recreation sites in the North Hill area of the city, requiring most residents to drive to reach such opportunities. The City will keep all mature trees at the park and install a raingarden with native vegetation to handle stormwater from the parking lot. The new park will capitalize on views of the Olympic Mountains, Mount Rainier, and Skykomish Pass and include interpretive signs identifying them. Monroe will

contribute more than \$3 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1434)

Walla Walla

Grant Requested: \$1,250,000

Building Inclusive Playground in Pioneer Park

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to build an all-inclusive playground at Pioneer Park for people with disabilities. The playground will feature many natural features along with elements that represent the community. The current playground is outdated and not accessible for people with disabilities. Pioneer Park is the crown jewel of Walla Walla's park system and is used heavily by the community. Walla Walla will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and a local appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1751)

La Center

Grant Requested: \$383,036

Updating and Expanding the Holley Park Playground

The City of La Center will use this grant to replace an aging, unsafe, and outdated playground in Holley Park. The City will replace the play structure for ages 2-5 and expand the playground by adding a play structure for ages 5-12. In addition, the City will install benches for parents watching their kids, resurface the playground with recycled materials, renovate restrooms, add sidewalks and pathways, add shade by planting native trees, reconfigure landscape irrigation, and add recycling stations, picnic tables, and lighting. La Center will contribute \$383,036 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and a local appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1526)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Renovating Soundview Playfield

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate a grass playfield in the 10-acre Soundview Park in northwest Seattle. The City will install about 114,000 square feet of multi-purpose, all weather synthetic turf and field amenities including a lighting system, a looped walking path, bleachers, and seat walls. The City also will improve the stormwater, electrical, and irrigation systems. The project's goal is to upgrade a well-loved park's field that frequently is unplayable because of wet and muddy conditions. This project will enhance playability, improve safety, and create an accessible facility. This project is important to the community because youth participation in active sports is growing, while land for new sports facilities is limited. Game-quality fields and accessible facilities are particularly lacking in this area of Seattle, where the demand is high and most nearby playfields are grass. This project will support Little Leagues, youth baseball and softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and ultimate

Frisbee. Seattle will contribute \$2 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, state Youth Athletic Facilities program, and a local appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1262)

Bellevue **Grant Requested: \$2,000,000**
Developing the Bridle Trails 140th Avenue Neighborhood Park

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to develop a 1.6-acre neighborhood park with a playground, picnic shelter, restroom, parking, walking paths, benches, landscaping, and a lawn area. This park features a combination of passive and active use elements, offering visitors a variety of recreation opportunities serving a range of ages and is accessible to nearby low-income, multi-family housing. The eastern edge of the park abuts 5 acres that includes a protected wetland. The City will remove invasive plants around the wetlands and plant native plants. Bellevue will contribute more than \$2.2 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1389)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District **Grant Requested: \$215,000**
Building an Outdoor Amphitheater in South Whidbey's Community Park

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to build an outdoor amphitheater to host a range of recreation activities and events in South Whidbey's Community Park. Theatrical and musical performances, poetry readings, and educational presentations are important recreational components of life on South Whidbey, and the Community Park does not have a facility well-suited to host these activities. The amphitheater will be built in an area of the park partially cleared of significant trees and with sloping terrain to accommodate a seating area. At the base of the slope, a partially sheltered stage will be built and electrical service will be routed to the stage to support lighting and power for microphones, speakers, and other equipment for performances. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute \$281,000 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, staff labor, equipment use, and donations of cash and services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1448)

King County **Grant Requested: \$2,000,000**
Building the Rock Creek Horse Park

The King County Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to develop a new horse park in the Danville-Georgetown Open Space near Maple Valley. The horse park will include a large arena; a small, covered arena; horse trailer parking; conditioning and cart track; restroom; a show and event administration building; and a storage building. King County will contribute more than \$3.2 million in a grant from the Washington

Wildlife and Recreation Program, a local grant, and a state appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1599)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account:
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Andrea Hood, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Ten projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the program, review and evaluation process, and preliminary ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which will then be forwarded to the Governor for inclusion in the 2023-25 capital budget.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2022-15

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) provides funds for preservation, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic lands for public purposes. Grants may be used to acquire, develop, or renovate facilities that provide access to aquatic lands and associated waters. "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. These lands were dedicated at statehood for maritime trade, transportation, agriculture and commerce, and are vital to the state's economy.

Primary goals of the ALEA program include re-establishing natural, self-sustaining ecological functions on aquatic lands, providing people with access to the water, and increasing public awareness of aquatic lands as an irreplaceable public heritage. Policies

governing the program are outlined in [Manual #21, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program](#).

Program Summary

There were changes this year to the PRISM Online application database that included increased security, revised match metrics, and an enhanced cultural resources tool. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved two changes for the 2022 ALEA grant cycle, which are included in the “What’s new this year?” section of the summary table below.

Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, local and state agencies, special purpose districts
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Restoration or habitat enhancement or creation • Combination projects involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both acquisition and development or restoration ○ Both development and restoration
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000,000 maximum for acquisition and combination (acquisition and development or restoration) projects. No more than \$500,000 may be for development or restoration costs. • \$500,000 for restoration or development projects and combination (restoration and development) projects.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent matching share is required for <u>all</u> applicants
Public Access	Public access to aquatic lands must exist or be included in the project proposal.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must be adjacent to a “navigable”¹ water body. • Property acquired, developed, renovated, or restored must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.
What’s new this year?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstated 50 percent match requirements. • Created a carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option.

Revenue and Fund Distribution

The ALEA grant program is funded with revenue generated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the management of state-owned aquatic lands. Revenue sources include the lease of state-owned aquatic lands and the sale of valuable materials (e.g., geoduck harvest rights).

¹ Defined in Washington State Constitution, Article XVII, and 33 Code of Federal Regulations 32.

The state treasurer deducts DNR management costs and payments to towns from the total funds that the state receives. The remaining funds are placed into the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. The Legislature appropriates the funds to various state agencies, including the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), for the following purposes:

- Funding aquatic lands restoration and enhancement projects,
- Purchasing or protecting aquatic lands for public purposes, and
- Providing and improving access to the lands.

During the last five biennium, the source of funds varies. For example, the Legislature has opted to use all or a portion of state bond monies to fund ALEA projects for the last three biennium.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Ten Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) projects, requesting over \$5.7 million, were submitted for funding consideration. The ALEA Advisory Committee used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank projects on August 30, 2022, using video conferencing for the virtual evaluation meetings. The twelve advisory committee members below were selected and appointed by the RCO director for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about public access to and the enhancement and protection of aquatic resources:

Advisory Committee Members	Representing	Affiliation
Hubie Dolan, Seattle	Habitat	Citizen
Chen-Yeh Goh, Camano Island	Habitat	Citizen
Dave Hays, Olympia	Habitat	Citizen
Mike Perfetti, Tukwilla	Habitat	Local Agency
Gabriel Cruden, City of Kettle Falls	Recreation	Local Agency
Carrie Hite, City of Port Townsend	Recreation	Local Agency
Erin Lavery, Camano Island	Recreation	Local Agency
Ethan Newton, City of Covington	Recreation	Local Agency
Heather Kapust, Department of Ecology	Habitat	State Agency
Brittany Poirson, Department of Natural Resources	Habitat	State Agency
Chris Waldbillig, Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat	State Agency
Jessica Logan, State Parks and Recreation Commission	Recreation	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meetings, staff met with the ALEA Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials, technical review and evaluation meetings, evaluation criteria, and scoring results. The advisory committee used RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module to score grant proposals. The virtual meetings were streamed live to a free internet site to ensure the sessions were open to the public expressed appreciation of the organization, training, and all the efforts to make this a successful grant cycle.

ALEA advisory committee members appreciated the extra effort that applicants put into preparing for the evaluation meeting. They talked about applicant's responses to the *Need for Public Access* criterion. They think an applicant needs to be specific and explain how the project scope addresses health disparities or the needs of the underserved. The advisory committee recognized the challenge with scoring the *Urgency and Viability* criterion for acquisition or combination projects, particularly when the applicant had already purchased the property under a "waiver of retroactivity". This is a challenging criterion for all advisory committee members. Despite this challenge, the advisory committee had no suggested changes for board consideration.

Overall, the committee was pleased with the quality of the projects, the evaluation process, and the preliminary ranked list.

Public Comment

There are several letters of support or concern for ALEA projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitat and recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the ALEA program support board-adopted priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* via Resolution #2022-15.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor submits the ALEA projects list to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-15, including Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25
- B. State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects
- C. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Descriptions, 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-15
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, ten Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) program projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all ten ALEA projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 21, *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*; and

WHEREAS, these ALEA projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to such lands and associated waters, thereby supporting policies in the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022 and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for both conservation and recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of ALEA projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Herzog

Resolution seconded by: Member Burgess

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution 2022-15

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	
1	61.42	22-1475 C	Bellingham	Boulevard Park Shoreline and Access Enhancement	\$500,000	\$561,503	\$1,061,503	
2	59.00	22-1672 A	San Juan County Land Bank	Watmough Bay Addition	\$1,000,000	\$1,626,457	\$2,626,457	
3	57.42	22-1732 A	Chelan County	Malaga Waterfront Park Acquisition	\$216,442	\$216,442	\$432,884	
4	55.25	22-1257 D	Seattle	Carkeek Park Rail Overpass	\$500,000	\$3,100,000	\$3,600,000	
5	54.67	22-1593 A	Seattle Public Utilities	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Reach Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,317,500	\$2,317,500	
6	52.58	22-1731 D	Port of Edmonds	Port of Edmonds North Portwalk Development	\$500,000	\$7,901,284	\$8,401,284	
7	50.83	22-1351 D	Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Renovation and Upgrade	\$500,000	\$2,679,745	\$3,179,745	
8	47.67	22-1713 C	Steilacoom	Garrison Springs Creek and Estuary Restoration	\$500,000	\$3,013,500	\$3,513,500	
9	47.33	22-1648 C	Port Orchard	Port Orchard Waterfront Plaza and Enhancement	\$500,000	\$2,008,000	\$2,508,000	
10	44.33	22-1532 D	Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Waterfront Park Dock Extension	\$500,000	\$1,104,684	\$1,604,684	
					Total	\$5,716,442	\$23,529,115	\$29,245,557

Project types: A=acquisition, C=combination of two or more acquisition, development, or restoration elements, D=development, R=restoration

State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

The ALEA program strives to fund projects focused on two main program purposes:

1. Protection and Enhancement: to improve or protect aquatic lands for public purposes.
2. Public Access: to provide and improve public access to aquatic lands.²

Applicants may submit projects that focus on a single purpose or a project that focuses on both. Here are the three separate scoring tables.

Evaluation Criteria Summary Tables

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Protection or Enhancement

Projects that meet the single program purpose of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands should address those annotated elements within each question under the heading *Protection or Enhancement Projects*.

Question	Purpose	Project Type	Points	
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Fit with Protection Goals	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	15
3	Need for Protection	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	20
5	Suitability for Protection	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	10
7	Urgency and Viability	All	Acquisition	10
			Acquisition and Restoration	5
8	Restoration Design and Viability	Protection and Enhancement	Restoration	10
			Acquisition and Restoration	5
10	Community Support	All	All Project Types	10
Scored by RCO Staff				
11	Growth Management Act Preference	All	All Project Types	0
12	Proximity to People	All	All Project Types	1
			Total	66

²Revised Code of Washington 79.105.150(1)

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Public Access

Projects meeting the single program purpose of providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address those annotated elements under the heading *Public Access Projects*.

Question	Purpose	Project Type	Points	
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
2	Fit with Public Access Goals	Public Access	All Project Types	15
4	Need for Public Access	Public Access	All Project Types	20
6	Suitability for Public Access	Public Access	All Project Types	10
7	Urgency and Viability	All	Acquisition	10
			Acquisition and Development	5
9	Development Design and Viability	Public Access	Development	10
			Acquisition and Development	5
10	Community Support	All	All Project Types	10
Scored by RCO Staff				
11	Growth Management Act Preference	All	All Project Types	0
12	Proximity to People	All	All Project Types	1
			Total	66

Projects Meeting Both Program Purposes Protection or Enhancement AND Public Access

Applicants whose projects meet both program purposes of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands and providing or improving public access to aquatic lands may receive up to five additional points by receiving a higher weighted score under Question 1.

Question	Purpose	Project Type	Points	
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Fit with Protection Goals	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	10
2	Fit with Public Access Goals	Public Access	All Project Types	10
3	Need for Protection	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	10
4	Need for Public Access	Public Access	All Project Types	10
5	Suitability for Protection	Protection and Enhancement	All Project Types	5
6	Suitability for Public Access	Public Access	All Project Types	5
7	Urgency and Viability	All Purposes	Acquisition	10
			Acquisition, Development, and Restoration	5
8	Restoration Design and Viability	Protection and Enhancement	Development and Restoration	5
			Acquisition, Development, and Restoration	2.5
9	Development Design and Viability	Public Access	Development and Restoration	5
			Acquisition, Development, and Restoration	2.5
10	Community Support	All Purposes	All Project Types	10
Scored by RCO Staff				
11	Growth Management Act Preference	All Purposes	All Project Types	0
12	Proximity to People	All Purposes	All Project Types	1
			Total	71

ALEA Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

- 1. Fit with ALEA Protection Goals** *(RCW 79.105.150)*
 How well does this project fit the goals to enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands? *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
- 2. Fit with Public Access Goals.** How well does this project improve or provide public access to aquatic lands? *(Public Access projects or Both)*
- 3. Need for Protection** *RCFB Resolution 2017-32*
 What is the need for this project and how will this project address the priorities for underserved populations and health in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022?* *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
- 4. Need for Public Access**
 What is the need for this project and how will this project address the priorities for underserved populations and health in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022?* *(Public Access projects or Both)*
- 5. Suitability for Protection**
 Is the site well suited for the intended uses? *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
- 6. Suitability for Public Access**
 Is the site well suited for the intended uses? *(Public Access or Both)*
- 7. Urgency and Viability.**
 Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site?
(All acquisition or combination projects answer this question.)
- 8. Restoration Design and Viability** *RCFB Resolution 2016-03*
 How does the project address the stated restoration or enhancement need? Is the project well designed? Will the project lead to sustainable ecological functions and processes over time?
(All restoration and enhancement or combination projects answer this question.)

9. Development Design and Viability

RCFB Resolution 2016-03

How well does the project address the stated public access need? Is the project well designed? Will the project result in public access to aquatic lands that protect the integrity of the environment?

(All public access development or combination projects answer this question.)

10. Community Support

To what extent has the community been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed about the project and provide input? What is the level of community support for the project? (All projects)

RCO Staff Scored (All projects)

11. Growth Management Act Preference

RCW 43.17.250

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act? *(All projects)*

12. Proximity to People

RCW 79A.25.250

RCO is required by law to give funding preference to projects located in populated areas. Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. *(All projects)*

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Scores 2023-25

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Fit with Protection Goals	2. Fit with Public Access Goals	3. Need for Protection	4. Need for Public Access	5. Suitability for Protection	6. Suitability Public Access	7. Urgency and Viability	8. Restoration Design and Viability	9. Development Design and Viability	10. Community Support	11. Growth Management Act Preference	12. Proximity to People	Total
		Point Range	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-20	0-5	0-10	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-10	-1-0.0	0-1.0	
1	22-1475C	Boulevard Park Shoreline	8.33	9.17	7.83	8.50	4.17	4.50		4.25	4.67	9.00	0.00	1.00	61.42
2	22-1672A	Watmough Bay Addition	9.67	8.17	8.67	7.50	4.75	4.08	8.83			8.33	-1.00	0.00	59.00
3	22-1732A	Malaga Waterfront	8.33	8.50	7.67	8.67	3.83	4.42	8.33			8.67	-1.00	0.00	57.42
4	22-1257D	Carkeek Park Rail Overpass		12.75		15.67		8.50			8.33	9.00	0.00	1.00	55.25
5	22-1593A	Cedar River Upper Royal	13.50		16.33		9.00		8.83			6.00	0.00	1.00	54.67
6	22-1731D	Port of Edmonds Portwalk		12.25		14.33		8.67			7.83	8.50	0.00	1.00	52.58
7	22-1351D	Luther Burbank Park		11.50		14.67		8.17			7.67	8.83	-1.00	1.00	50.83
8	22-1713C	Garrison Springs Creek	10.50		15.67		6.67		3.25	3.42		7.17	0.00	1.00	47.67
9	22-1648C	Port Orchard Waterfront Plaza	5.83	6.83	6.17	7.33	3.25	3.67		2.75	3.00	7.50	0.00	1.00	47.33
10	22-1532D	Waterfront Park Dock		9.50		12.00		7.50			7.50	6.83	0.00	1.00	44.33

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-10; RCO staff scores Questions 11-12

Project types: A=acquisition, C=combination of two or more acquisition, development, or restoration elements, D=development, R=restoration

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2023-2025

Bellingham **Grant Requested: \$500,000** **Enhancing Boulevard Park Shoreline and Improving Access**

The City of Bellingham will use this grant to restore and enhance two beaches in Bellingham. For the eastern beach, the City will install a new retaining wall further inland and move an eroding trail. Utilities and a storm drain trench also will be relocated within the park. For the western beach, the City will install a small retaining wall and rocks and remove invasive blackberry bushes. This will increase safe access to the shoreline. For each site, educational signs and plants will be added. The plants will aid in mitigating the impacts from sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Surf smelt will benefit from the project and have been documented to spawn at the site. Bellingham will contribute \$561,503. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1475)

San Juan County Land Bank **Grant Requested: \$1,000,000** **Conserving Watmough Bay**

The San Juan County Land Bank will use this grant to buy nearly one-third mile of low to mid-bank, undeveloped shoreline between Watmough Bay and Rosario Strait. Along with adjacent conservation holdings, this purchase would protect a total of nearly 2 miles of shoreline. The site has a long history of use by Coast Salish peoples, features an 1870s homestead, includes two pocket beaches and tidelands, and is used by Chinook salmon and the fish they eat, as well as extensive eelgrass beds and bull kelp. San Juan County will contribute more than \$1.1 million in a grant from the salmon recovery program and voter-approved bonds. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1672)

Chelan County **Grant Requested: \$216,442** **Buying Land for a Malaga Waterfront Park**

Chelan County will use this grant to buy 8.5 acres of waterfront and 0.25 mile of shoreline along the Columbia River in Malaga for a future waterfront park. The park will provide access to the Columbia River for both motorized and non-motorized boaters. It also will have field sports, wildlife viewing, trails, scenic vistas with benches, picnic shelters, and playgrounds. Malaga has no shoreline parks, trails, or boating facilities and is the highest-need community in Chelan County for shoreline access. Chelan County will contribute \$216,442 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1732)

**Seattle
Building a Rail Overpass at Carkeek Park****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to replace the railroad crossing pedestrian bridge in Carkeek Park, which provides the only safe access in the park to the beach. The department will install a cable-stayed style bridge with the main pier located on the east side of the tracks. The bridge will be fully accessible to people with disabilities with a gentle ramp leading to a viewing platform overlooking the trains below and Puget Sound. The current design also provides stairs to the beach. Seattle will contribute \$3.1 million in a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1257)

**Seattle Public Utilities
Expanding Upper Royal Arch Reach****Grant Requested: \$1,000,000**

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to buy 20 acres of floodplain on the Upper Royal Arch Reach of the Cedar River, west of Maple Valley, to improve resting and rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmon and trout species. This includes 720 feet of river frontage to be used for future restoration. Seattle will contribute more than \$1.3 million in Conservation Futures³ and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1593)

**Port of Edmonds
Developing North Portwalk****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The Port of Edmonds will use this grant to reconstruct and renovate a 900-foot-long section of deteriorated waterfront boardwalk that extends between the Port of Edmonds Administration Building and Olympic Beach. The replacement boardwalk will be elevated to create better pedestrian separation from the adjacent fire lane and to improve pedestrian accessibility. The port also will install restrooms, landscaping, lighting, wayfinding signs, and parking. The Port of Edmonds will contribute more than \$7.9 million in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1731)

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.

Mercer Island
Renovating Luther Burbank Park Waterfront

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to install a floating dock for non-motorized small craft, overwater stairs, a viewing deck and outdoor classroom, and restrooms in Luther Burbank Park. The City also will expand the cobble beach with a route accessible to people with disabilities, pave the plaza, and add furnishings, landscaping, signs, and art. This project is the cornerstone of a comprehensive waterfront improvement initiative by the City to renovate a 50-year-old boating facility and expands its offerings. Mercer Island will contribute more than \$2.6 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1351)

Steilacoom
Restoring Garrison Springs Creek and Estuary

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Town of Steilacoom will use this grant to restore a freshwater creek and estuarine habitat in Garrison Springs Creek that was previously lost to industrial development more than 100 years ago. The creek flows through several culverts and under a derelict paved area before discharging directly into Chambers Bay and Puget Sound. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry water under roads. Restoring the creek and establishing an off-channel pocket estuary will provide much needed fish habitat in Puget Sound. Steilacoom will contribute more than \$3 million in a federal appropriation, a state appropriation, and donations of land or property interest and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1713)

Port Orchard
Enhancing Port Orchard Waterfront Plaza

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to develop the downtown waterfront. The City will remove an old seawall, armoring, and debris; regrade the shoreline to a gently sloping beach area; and construct a light-transmitting overwater structure. The City will also replace an aging waterfront sidewalk and remove a commercial structure and parking lot. Port Orchard will contribute more than \$2 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1648)

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Extending a Waterfront Park Dock

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District will use this grant to develop a waterfront park dock extension for non-motorized sailing and paddle boards on in Eagle Harbor. This will expand public access and provide space for sailing and

paddle sport instruction. The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District will contribute more than \$1.1 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1532)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Youth Athletic Facilities: Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists for 2023-2025

Prepared by: Ashly Arambul, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 34 Large Grants category and two Small Grants category proposals for the Youth Athletic Facilities Program. This memo describes the program, evaluation process, and ranked lists. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked lists, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution #: 2022-16

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked lists of projects shown in Table 1 and Table 2

Background

The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program provides funds for development of new outdoor athletic facilities, renovation of existing facilities, or a combination of acquisition of land and development or renovation of athletic facilities serving youth and communities. The program priority is to enhance or develop facilities that serve people through the age of 18 who participate in sports and athletics.

The program encourages multi-generational use, which means applicants may submit proposals for facilities sized for adults, but primarily serve youth. Improvements may

include development or renovation of athletic fields, hard courts, outdoor swimming pools, running tracks, and support amenities such as restrooms and parking.

The board’s policies for YAF focus on increasing participation in outdoor recreation, sustaining our state’s outdoor recreation assets, and recognizing the social, economic, and health benefits of outdoor recreation, particularly for youth. These were areas of importance for the [Governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation](#). A recommendation in the [Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance in Washington State](#) highlights the importance of preserving the state’s “foundational assets” that includes facilities for playing sports. The study recommends helping local governments add high-capacity sports fields and multifunctional turf fields that provide greater capacity and flexibility, which is a priority for YAF. Board policies and evaluation criteria are included in [Manual 17, Youth Athletic Facilities](#).

Program Summary

There were several changes to YAF for this grant cycle. The Pandemic Response Match Relief policy of 2020 was suspended and the match requirements were reinstated including the ten percent non-state, non-federal match requirement and the *Matching Shares* evaluation criterion. The newly created carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option was also introduced.¹ Additionally, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff implemented several changes to PRISM Online. Applicants are now required to set up a Secure Access Washington account to use PRISM Online, a cultural resources mapping tool was added, and match metrics on the Cost Summary page were revised.

A summary of current program policies is shown in the table below:

	Large Grants	Small Grants
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • Counties • Native American tribes • Park districts • Qualified nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities (10,000 residents or fewer) • Counties (6,000 residents or fewer) • Native American tribes • Park districts (10,000 residents or fewer) • Qualified nonprofit organizations (The population of the jurisdiction where the project lies must meet the cities/counties criterion.)

¹ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2021-02

Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or renovation • Combined land acquisition and development or renovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or renovation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 to \$350,000 • No limit on the total project cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75,000 maximum • Total project cost may not exceed \$150,000.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 percent of the appropriation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 percent of the appropriation
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent • Exception: Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. 	
Public Access	Required	
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must include items found within the field of play that are essential for the competitive sport to occur. Exception: This requirement does not apply to stand-alone accessibility improvement projects in the Small Grants category. • Property acquired must be developed within five years and must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Facilities renovated or developed must remain for public outdoor recreation for a minimum of 20 years after RCO accepts the project as complete. 	

Program Funding

YAF funding comes from the sale of general obligation bonds. At the August 2022 meeting, the board agreed to request \$10.9 million as part of the state capital budget. If approved, that amount would provide more than enough funding for applications submitted in 2022. RCO will not know the outcome of that request until next year after the Legislature approves the capital budget.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Thirty-six project proposals, requesting nearly \$10.5 million, were evaluated by members of the YAF Advisory Committee between August 1 and September 1, 2022. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the RCO director, include citizen and local agency representatives who have expertise and experience in local land use issues,

park and recreation resource management, engineering and design, and community or youth athletics.

The following table lists the 10 advisory committee members who reviewed and evaluated projects using board-adopted evaluation criteria:

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
*Brian Bowes, Okanogan	Citizen
Michelle Bly, Lewiston	Citizen
Nic Mather, Longview	Citizen
Garrett Michaud, Redmond	Citizen
Brent Stenman, Poulsbo	Citizen
Lawrence Witkowski, Lacey	Citizen
Sean Conway, City of Renton	Local Agency
Bob Leonard, City of Everett	Local Agency
Ariel Smith, City of Long Beach	Local Agency
Dustin South, City of Anacortes	Local Agency

*Participated in evaluation of the YAF Small Grants category only.

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A: *Table 1 –Youth Athletic Facilities, Large Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 –Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff hosted two virtual meetings with the YAF Advisory Committee. The August 1 orientation meeting provided an opportunity for staff to review key policies and the evaluation criteria with the committee and to reintroduce use of the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module.

The committee met to debrief and assess the evaluation process and scoring results on September 7, 2022. Members were concerned about an applicant that provided uncharacteristically brief responses to the evaluation criteria and noted the efforts of this inexperienced applicant to compete in the grant program. The committee wanted the applicant to have an opportunity for successful implementation if the project receives funding. The committee believes this is an example of a small, underserved community that has limited resources, but is working to provide recreational facilities for its residents. Overall, members were satisfied with the materials provided, the evaluation criteria, and the resulting ranked list.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these ranked lists supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding support board-adopted priorities in the [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022](#).

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for YAF projects which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and are attached to individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve Resolution 2022-16, including *Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities, Preliminary Ranked List of Large Grants Category, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Youth Athletic Facilities, Preliminary Ranked List of Small Grants Category, 2023-25*.

Next Steps

If the board approves the preliminary ranked lists, staff will forward the lists to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium, as part of the proposed capital budget. The board will approve the final lists and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-16
 - *Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities, Large Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-25*
 - *Table 2 – Youth Athletic Facilities, Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-25*
- B. State Map of Large Grants Category Projects
- C. State Map of Small Grants Category Projects
- D. Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Criteria Summary
- E. Evaluation Scores for Large Grants Category, 2023-25

- F. Evaluation Scores for Small Grants Category, 2023-25
- G. Project Descriptions for Large Grants Category, 2023-25
- H. Project Descriptions for Small Grants Category, 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2022-16
Youth Athletic Facilities
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects for the 2023-25 Biennium**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 34 Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF), Large Grants Category projects are being considered for funding and two YAF Small Grants Category projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all 36 YAF projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 17, *Youth Athletic Facilities*; and

WHEREAS, these YAF projects were evaluated by a team of local agency representatives and citizens using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved and adopted evaluation criteria thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the results of these evaluations are being considered in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects develop and renovate public outdoor recreation facilities, thereby supporting board priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Resolution moved by: Member Burgess

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

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

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	50.56	22-1261 D	Seattle	Soundview Playfield Renovation	\$350,000	\$3,650,000	\$4,000,000
2	50.44	22-1443 D	Olympia	Yelm Highway Community Park Multiuse Field	\$350,000	\$4,469,332	\$4,819,332
3	48.44	22-1685 D	Lake Stevens	Frontier Heights Athletic Field and Pickleball Court	\$350,000	\$1,637,535	\$1,987,535
4	48.22	22-1651 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Futsal Court and Restroom	\$350,000	\$95,142	\$445,142
5	48.11	22-1721 D	North Kitsap Little League	North Kitsap Little League Ball Fields Renovation	\$350,000	\$393,400	\$743,400
6	47.89	22-1741 D	Port Angeles	Erickson Playfield Tennis Court Upgrades	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
7	47.56	22-1537 D	Spokane	Underhill Park Sport Court Rehabilitation	\$330,000	\$130,020	\$460,020
8	47.22	22-1451 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	Sports Complex Artificial Turf Field	\$350,000	\$3,237,420	\$3,587,420
9	46.78	22-1743 D	Lakewood	Wards Lake BMX Bike Track	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
10	46.67	22-1385 D	Mountlake Terrace	Evergreen Playfield #5 Light Replacement	\$241,000	\$241,000	\$482,000
11	46.33	22-1387 D	Mason County	Sandhill Park Multipurpose Field	\$350,000	\$4,755,000	\$5,105,000
11	46.33	22-1753 D	Black Diamond	Black Diamond Skatepark	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
13	46.00	22-1588 D	Port Orchard	Givens Park Sport Court Remodel	\$147,000	\$147,000	\$294,000
14	45.56	22-1632 D	Lakewood	Harry Todd Pickleball Courts	\$350,000	\$250,900	\$600,900
15	45.33	22-1603 D	Puyallup	Clarks Creek North Multipurpose Field Turf	\$350,000	\$1,311,000	\$1,661,000
16	45.11	22-1252 D	Seattle	Colman Pool Renovation	\$350,000	\$3,397,360	\$3,747,360
17	44.78	22-1639 D	Woodland	Scott Hill Park Artificial Turf	\$308,914	\$132,393	\$441,307
18	44.67	22-1426 D	Snohomish County	Willis Tucker Park Ball Field Lighting	\$302,500	\$302,500	\$605,000
19	44.22	22-1487 D	Colfax	Pool Upgrade	\$350,000	\$2,477,500	\$2,827,500
20	43.78	22-1633 D	Spokane Valley HUB Sports Center	Synthetic Turf Field	\$350,000	\$972,395	\$1,322,395

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
21	43.44	22-1566 D	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	Stewart Heights Skate Park Phase 2	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$390,000
22	43.22	22-1696 D	Renton	Talbot Hill Reservoir Park Sport Courts	\$350,000	\$413,732	\$763,732
23	41.89	22-1302 D	Harmony Sports Association	Harmony Sports Complex Turf Field	\$350,000	\$715,000	\$1,065,000
24	41.56	22-1456 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Sports Complex Pickleball Courts	\$250,000	\$252,000	\$502,000
25	40.89	22-1536 D	Columbia County	Touchet Valley Golf Course Irrigation	\$143,000	\$143,000	\$286,000
26	40.44	22-1737 D	Walla Walla	Mill Creek Sportsplex Improvements	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
27	40.33	22-1704 D	Royal City	Royal City Soccer Field	\$350,000	\$76,340	\$426,340
28	38.78	22-1735 D	Leavenworth Winter Sports Club	Leavenworth Ski Hill Restrooms and Lighting	\$258,000	\$172,000	\$430,000
29	38.67	22-1705 D	College Place	Veterans Park Renovation	\$281,023	\$281,023	\$562,046
30	38.11	22-1698 D	Pomeroy	Ball Field Lighting Installation	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
31	37.44	22-1637 D	Forks	Spartan Field Upgrades	\$350,000	\$1,636,000	\$1,986,000
32	37.33	22-1699 D	Pomeroy	Pomeroy Football Field Improvements	\$350,000	\$170,685	\$520,685
33	36.89	22-1636 D	Fife	Resurfacing Tennis Courts at Dacca Park	\$77,000	\$33,000	\$110,000
34	35.78	22-1278 D	Bellevue	Newport Hills Park Synthetic Turf Replacement	\$350,000	\$627,500	\$977,500
Total					\$10,333,437	\$33,815,177	\$44,148,614

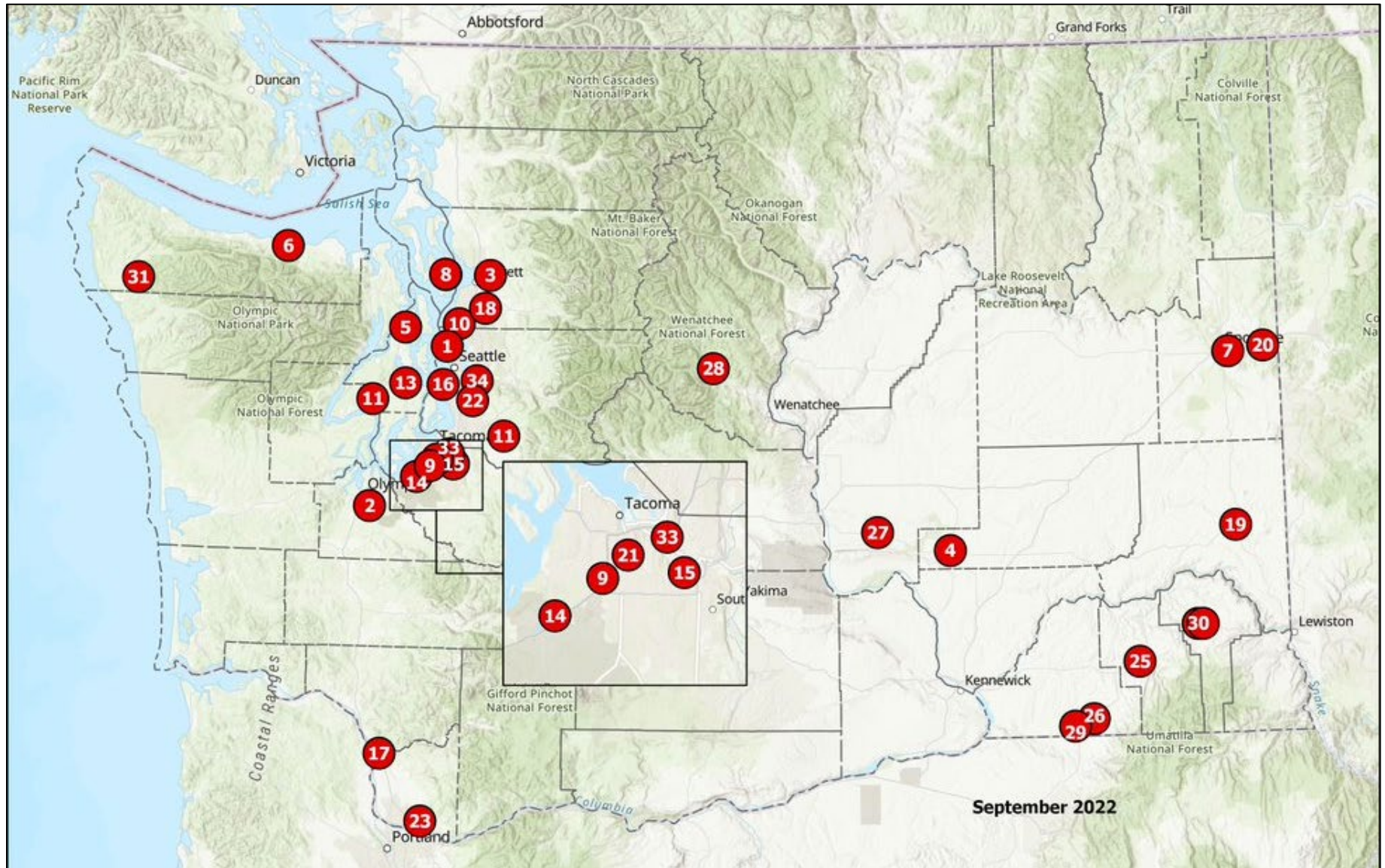
Project type: D=development

Table 2: Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	43.10	22-1539 D	Pacific County	Lions Park Field Renovation	\$72,000	\$18,000	\$90,000
2	32.00	22-1719 D	Metaline	Pickleball Courts Metaline Eagle Field	\$67,500	\$7,500	\$75,000
Total					\$139,500	\$25,500	\$165,000

Project type: D=development

State Map for Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category Projects



State Map for Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category Projects



Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Criteria Summary

Youth Athletic Facilities Program provides for development and renovation of outdoor athletic facilities serving youth and communities.

Youth Athletic Facilities Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Title	Maximum Points	Multiplier	Total
Advisory Committee	1	Need and Need Satisfaction	5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Design and Budget	5	2	10
Advisory Committee	3	Sustainability	5	1	5
Advisory Committee	4	Facility management	3	1	3
Advisory Committee	5	Availability	5	1	5
Advisory Committee	6	Readiness to proceed	3	1	3
Advisory Committee	7	Support and Partnerships	5	2	10
RCO Staff	8	Matching Shares	2	1	2
RCO Staff	9	Proximity to people	1	1	1
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	0	1	0
Total possible points = 54					

Youth Athletic Facilities Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need and Need Satisfaction.** What is the community's need for the proposed renovated youth athletic facility? To what extent will the project satisfy the needs in the service area?
2. **Design and Cost Estimate.** How well is the project designed? Does the cost estimate accurately reflect the scope of work?
3. **Sustainability.** Will the project's location or design support the organization's sustainability plan? What ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan?
4. **Facility Management.** Does the applicant have the ability to maintain the facility? How will the applicant maintain the facility?
5. **Availability.** When the project is complete, how often will it be available for competitive youth sports in a calendar year
6. **Readiness to Proceed.** What is the timeline for completing the project? Will the sponsor be able to complete the project within 3 years?
7. **Project Support and Partnerships.** To what extent do users and the public support the project?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

8. **Matching Shares.** Is the applicant providing the minimum required match?
9. **Proximity to People.** State law requires the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to give funding preference to projects in populated areas. Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.² Is the project in an area meeting this definition?
10. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?³

²Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.250

³Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Growth Management Act preference required.)

Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category Evaluation Scores, 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need and Need Satisfaction	2. Design and Budget	3. Sustainability	4. Facility Management	5. Availability	6. Readiness to Proceed	7. Support and Partnerships	8. Matching Shares	9. Proximity to People	10. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-3	0-5	0-3	0-10	0-2	0-1	-1-0	
1	22-1261D	Soundview Playfield Renovation	13.67	9.56	4.78	2.89	4.56	2.78	9.33	2.00	1.00	0.00	50.56
2	22-1443D	Yelm Highway Community Park Multiuse Field	14.33	8.67	4.56	3.00	4.33	2.78	9.78	2.00	1.00	0.00	50.44
3	22-1685D	Frontier Heights Athletic Field and Pickleball Court	14.00	8.00	4.00	2.89	4.11	2.89	9.56	2.00	1.00	0.00	48.44
4	22-1651D	Kiwanis Park Futsal Court and Restroom	14.67	9.78	4.22	3.00	4.33	2.78	8.44	0.00	1.00	0.00	48.22
5	22-1721D	North Kitsap Little League Ball Fields Renovation	14.67	8.89	4.44	2.67	4.22	2.67	9.56	0.00	1.00	0.00	48.11
6	22-1741D	Erickson Playfield Tennis Court Upgrades	13.33	9.11	3.89	3.00	3.56	2.67	9.33	2.00	1.00	0.00	47.89
7	22-1537D	Underhill Park Sport Court Rehabilitation	14.00	8.89	4.00	3.00	4.33	2.67	8.67	1.00	1.00	0.00	47.56
8	22-1451D	Sports Complex Artificial Turf Field	14.33	8.22	3.78	2.89	4.11	2.22	8.67	2.00	1.00	0.00	47.22

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need and Need Satisfaction	2. Design and Budget	3. Sustainability	4. Facility Management	5. Availability	6. Readiness to Proceed	7. Support and Partnerships	8. Matching Shares	9. Proximity to People	10. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-3	0-5	0-3	0-10	0-2	0-1	-1-0	
9	22-1743D	Wards Lake BMX Bike Track	13.67	9.11	4.56	3.00	4.22	2.56	6.67	2.00	1.00	0.00	46.78
10	22-1385D	Evergreen Playfield #5 Light Replacement	13.33	9.78	4.67	2.78	4.33	2.33	8.44	0.00	1.00	0.00	46.67
11	22-1387D	Sandhill Park Multipurpose Field	14.33	8.67	4.44	3.00	4.56	2.44	6.89	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.33
11	22-1753D	Black Diamond Skatepark	14.33	8.89	4.00	2.89	4.56	2.67	8.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	46.33
13	22-1588D	Givens Park Sport Court Remodel	13.67	8.89	4.22	2.78	3.78	2.22	8.44	1.00	1.00	0.00	46.00
14	22-1632D	Harry Todd Pickleball Courts	11.67	8.89	3.89	3.00	3.89	2.78	8.44	2.00	1.00	0.00	45.56
15	22-1603D	Clarks Creek North Multipurpose Field Turf	13.33	8.00	4.56	3.00	4.56	2.44	6.44	2.00	1.00	0.00	45.33
16	22-1252D	Colman Pool Renovation	14.00	8.67	4.11	3.00	3.56	2.11	6.67	2.00	1.00	0.00	45.11
17	22-1639D	Scott Hill Park Artificial Turf	12.33	9.11	4.44	3.00	4.67	2.89	7.33	0.00	1.00	0.00	44.78
18	22-1426D	Willis Tucker Park Ball Field Lighting	12.67	8.67	4.33	3.00	4.00	2.56	8.44	0.00	1.00	0.00	44.67
19	22-1487D	Pool Upgrade	14.33	8.22	4.33	2.89	3.56	2.44	6.44	2.00	0.00	0.00	44.22

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need and Need Satisfaction	2. Design and Budget	3. Sustainability	4. Facility Management	5. Availability	6. Readiness to Proceed	7. Support and Partnerships	8. Matching Shares	9. Proximity to People	10. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-3	0-5	0-3	0-10	0-2	0-1	-1-0	
20	22-1633D	Synthetic Turf Field	13.00	7.56	4.00	2.67	4.22	2.67	6.67	2.00	1.00	0.00	43.78
21	22-1566D	Stewart Heights Skate Park Phase 2	13.33	8.00	3.33	2.89	3.89	2.56	8.44	0.00	1.00	0.00	43.44
22	22-1696D	Talbot Hill Reservoir Park Sport Courts	11.67	8.67	3.67	2.89	3.89	2.78	8.67	0.00	1.00	0.00	43.22
23	22-1302D	Harmony Sports Complex Turf Field	12.33	8.67	4.00	2.78	4.44	2.44	4.22	2.00	1.00	0.00	41.89
24	22-1456D	South Whidbey Sports Complex Pickleball Courts	11.67	7.78	3.44	2.89	3.89	2.89	8.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	41.56
25	22-1536D	Touchet Valley Golf Course Irrigation	10.67	8.67	3.78	2.78	3.56	2.78	8.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.89
26	22-1737D	Mill Creek Sportsplex Improvements	12.67	8.22	3.78	2.89	3.00	2.67	6.22	0.00	1.00	0.00	40.44
27	22-1704D	Royal City Soccer Field	13.33	8.22	3.33	2.89	3.44	2.56	5.56	1.00	0.00	0.00	40.33
28	22-1735D	Leavenworth Ski Hill Restrooms and Lighting	12.00	7.11	3.89	3.00	3.78	2.78	6.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.78
29	22-1705D	Veterans Park Renovation	11.33	6.89	3.44	2.67	3.44	2.33	5.56	2.00	1.00	0.00	38.67

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need and Need Satisfaction	2. Design and Budget	3. Sustainability	4. Facility Management	5. Availability	6. Readiness to Proceed	7. Support and Partnerships	8. Matching Shares	9. Proximity to People	10. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-3	0-5	0-3	0-10	0-2	0-1	-1-0	
30	22-1698D	Ball Field Lighting Installation	12.33	6.67	2.67	2.67	3.44	2.56	5.78	2.00	0.00	0.00	38.11
31	22-1637D	Spartan Field Upgrades	11.33	7.56	3.00	2.67	3.67	2.67	5.56	2.00	0.00	-1.00	37.44
32	22-1699D	Pomeroy Football Field Improvements	12.67	7.11	2.67	2.67	3.56	2.33	5.33	1.00	0.00	0.00	37.33
33	22-1636D	Resurfacing Tennis Courts at Dacca Park	11.67	6.00	3.22	2.78	3.67	2.33	6.22	0.00	1.00	0.00	36.89
34	22-1278D	Newport Hills Park Synthetic Turf Replacement	10.00	6.00	3.11	2.67	3.78	2.67	5.56	1.00	1.00	0.00	35.78

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-7; RCO staff score Questions 8-10
Project type: D=development

Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category
 Evaluation Scores, 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need and Need Satisfaction	2. Design and Budget	3. Sustainability	4. Facility Management	5. Availability	6. Readiness to Proceed	7. Support and Partnerships	8. Matching Shares	9. Proximity to People	10. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-3	0-5	0-3	0-10	0-2.0	0-1	-1-0	
1	22-1539D	Lions Park Field Renovation	14.10	8.20	3.70	2.90	4.00	3.00	7.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.10
2	22-1719D	Pickleball Courts Metaline Eagle Field	8.10	8.60	2.70	2.30	3.30	2.20	5.80	0.00	0.00	-1.00	32.00

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-7; RCO staff score Questions 8-10
 Project type: D=development

Large Grants Category Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2023-2025

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Renovating Soundview Playfield

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate a grass playfield in the 10-acre Soundview Park in northwest Seattle. The City will install about 114,000 square feet of multi-purpose, all weather synthetic turf and field amenities including a lighting system, a looped walking path, bleachers, and seat walls. The City also will improve the stormwater, electrical, and irrigation systems. The project's goal is to upgrade a well-loved park's field that frequently is unplayable because of wet and muddy conditions. This project will enhance playability, improve safety, and create an accessible facility. This project is important to the community because youth participation in active sports is growing, while land for new sports facilities is limited. Game-quality fields and accessible facilities are particularly lacking in this area of Seattle, where the demand is high and most nearby playfields are grass. This project will support Little Leagues, youth baseball and softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and ultimate Frisbee. Seattle will contribute more than \$3.6 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1261)

Olympia

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Building a Multiuse Field at Yelm Highway Community Park

The City of Olympia will use this grant to build a rectangular, multiuse field at the new 60-acre Yelm Highway Community Park. The City will build a full-size, synthetic turf, multiuse field with lighting, a restroom, a kiosk, and an 88-stall parking lot. Olympia will contribute more than \$4.4 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1443)

Lake Stevens

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Developing a Sports Field and Pickleball Courts in Frontier Heights Park

The City of Lake Stevens will use this grant to develop a multiuse, synthetic turf, athletic field; four pickleball courts; and parking in Frontier Heights Park. The park is in an underserved area next to an urban growth center. This project will provide a year-round field for various sports. Lake Stevens will contribute more than \$1.6 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, cash, and donated labor. Visit

RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1685)

Othello

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Developing a Futsal Court in Kiwanis Park

The City of Othello will use this grant to develop its first official, dedicated Futsal Court in Kiwanis Park. Futsal is a fast-paced, soccer-associated game played on a hard court between two teams of five players each, including a goalkeeper. The City also will renovate nearby restrooms and build a concrete sidewalk to connect the new court with pedestrian trails. Futsal methods are excellent training techniques for improving soccer skills. The connection between soccer and futsal and, the well-known importance of each in Hispanic and Latinx cultures, is a unique and compelling aspect of this project. The court will be used by kids ages 4 to 18, who are 27 percent of Othello's population. With this court, they will have the opportunity to participate in a new City-sponsored Summer Youth Futsal League. The court also will be open for club team and adult league tournaments, scrimmages, practices, off-season conditioning, and recreational play. Othello will contribute \$95,142. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1651)

North Kitsap Little League

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Renovating North Kitsap Little League Ball Fields

The North Kitsap Little League will use this grant to renovate two baseball/softball fields at Snider Park, near Poulsbo. The league will convert the infields to synthetic turf and add LED (light-emitting diode) field lighting. The North Kitsap Little League has five fields at Snider Park but only one has lights and none have synthetic turf. The lack of adequate lighting and poor drainage of the existing dirt infields, limits the number of games and playability of the fields. The renovations will improve the reliability and availability of the fields for use throughout the year. In addition, the North Kitsap Little League hosts the Challengers program, which is an opportunity for children with special needs to play baseball/softball. The synthetic turf would make the infield accessible to children using wheelchairs. The North Kitsap Little League will contribute \$393,400 in donations of equipment, labor, materials, services, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1721)

Port Angeles

Grant Requested: \$100,000

Upgrading Erickson Playfield Tennis Courts

The Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to repaint and light the tennis courts at Erickson Playfield. Lighted courts will allow the Peninsula Tennis Club to organize youth after school and evening drop-in tennis sessions, lessons,

drills, and competitions. Port Angeles will contribute \$100,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1741)

Spokane
Rehabilitating a Sport Court in Underhill Park

Grant Requested: \$330,000

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with the nonprofit Spokane Hoopfest Association, will use this grant to redevelop a dilapidated sports court in Underhill Park in the East Central Neighborhood of Spokane. The City will replace and lengthen two basketball courts, add two additional hoops, and supply new basketball hoops, backboards, and nets. The City also will convert an unused tennis court into four pickleball courts with heavy-duty, movable nets to accommodate the growing demand for pickleball in Spokane. The City will replace the existing pickleball court fencing and build a concrete path from the courts to the corner of the park, making access to the courts accessible to people with disabilities. Sport court lights will be replaced with more energy-efficient lights. Spokane will contribute \$130,020 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1537)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District
Creating an Artificial Turf Field in the South Whidbey Sports Complex

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to design and build an artificial turf field, replacing a grass multi-sport field, in the South Whidbey Sports Complex on Whidbey Island. The district also will add field lighting, fencing, access for people with disabilities, storage, and other amenities needed to operate and maintain the field. This field would be the only artificial turf field on the south end of Whidbey Island and would extend the playable seasons to all year for soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and baseball. Additionally, lines for lacrosse and football would be included on the field to allow for these sports. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute more than \$3.2 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a private grant, a state appropriation, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1451)

Lakewood
Building a Bike Racing Track in Wards Lake Park

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to build a BMX (dirt bicycle racing) track at Wards Lake Park, a 27-acre park in the northeastern part of the city. The City will build the 0.6-mile-long, soft-surface, BMX track in an underused and difficult to manage area. The City has identified the park as an area anticipating population growth and a high-priority for upgrades to improve level of service, diversity of activities, and quality of

park experiences. This part of Lakewood is deficient in park and recreational sites and amenities and has high proportion of minority and low-income residents. The City wants to introduce the sport of biking to youth at an early age and create ways for them to advance their skills, prepare for competitions, and create a lifelong love for the sport. The closest BMX facility is more than 17 miles away and is expecting to move. Lakewood will contribute \$350,000 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1743)

Mountlake Terrace
Replacing Field Lights at Evergreen Playfield

Grant Requested: \$241,000

The City of Mountlake Terrace will use this grant to replace the lighting on Field 5 in the Evergreen Playfield Complex. The City will install three metal poles with LED (light-emitting diode) lights and retrofit four other poles with LED lighting. The work will allow the field to be used for extend hours and will improve safety for youth baseball, softball, and soccer players. Mountlake Terrace will contribute \$241,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1385)

Mason County
Building a Multi-Purpose Field in Sandhill Park

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Mason County will use this grant to design and build a multi-purpose field, the first and only rectangular field in the county's inventory. Located in Sandhill Park, outside Belfair, the field will support youth soccer, football, and lacrosse. The illuminated, synthetic turf field will be built to the north of the existing ball fields. The County also will install fencing, netting to contain balls, a 63-stall paved parking lot, a vault toilet, a level spectator area, and landscaping with native shrubs and wildflowers to support native wildlife and pollinators. Mason County will contribute more than \$4.7 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1387)

Black Diamond
Building a Black Diamond Skate Park

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Black Diamond will use this grant to replace a popular skate park that was removed from behind Black Diamond Elementary School in 2021 because it was unsafe. The City will build an in-ground, concrete skate park in the same location as the previous skate park. The City also will build a restroom, improve parking improvements, and add pathways, benches, picnic tables, and lighting. The skate park's features will incorporate history, such as a coal car and black diamonds within the ramps and bowls. A pump track also is proposed as a future phase of the skate park. Black Diamond will

contribute \$350,000 in a state grant and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1753)

**Port Orchard
Remodeling a Sport Court in Givens Park****Grant Requested: \$147,000**

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to replace a deteriorated basketball court with a combined futsal and basketball court, resurface two tennis courts to serve as both tennis and pickleball courts, install seating, and create a path to the courts that is accessible to people with disabilities in Givens Park. The City also will add fencing, lighting, goals, and hoops to the basketball court. This project seeks to satisfy two needs identified during the City's public outreach for its park planning process. The community enthusiastically supported adding pickleball courts and a Port Orchard eighth-grader, named Isaac Nguyen, presented the City with a petition signed by 229 people asking for a futsal court. Futsal is a fast-paced, soccer-associated game played on a hard court between two teams of five players each, including a goalkeeper. There are no outdoor futsal courts on the Olympic or Kitsap Peninsulas and the nearest outdoor futsal facilities are in King County. Port Orchard will contribute \$147,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1588)

**Lakewood
Adding Pickleball Courts to Harry Todd Park****Grant Requested: \$350,000**

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to convert an aging and underused tennis court in Harry Todd Park into four pickleball courts. The City also will add parking stalls and a route to the new pickleball courts for people with disabilities. Harry Todd Park is a 17-acre community park in the south side of the city along the shore of American Lake. Military bases, Interstate 5, and the lake create geographical barriers that isolate this area from the rest of the city. The park, which is the only park in this part of Lakewood, is critical to the economically disadvantaged and diverse community members who live there. The park was created in the 1950s and the tennis courts were original park amenities. Lakewood will contribute \$250,900. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1632)

**Puyallup
Improving Clarks Creek North Ball Field****Grant Requested: \$350,000**

The Puyallup Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to convert the natural surfaces of the infield and outfield in the Clarks Creek North ball field to synthetic turf. The conversion will allow the field to be used year-round for a multitude of sports including baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football. The field is shut down in the fall and winter to prevent damage. Converting the field to synthetic turf will increase its use by more than 50 percent and provide play opportunities for an additional 2,300 youth. It also will allow the City to offer a fully accessible playing surface for athletes with disabilities. Puyallup will contribute more than

\$1.3 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1603)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Renovating the Colman Pool Bathhouse

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to upgrade the bathhouse and facilities at Colman Pool in Lincoln Park. Originally built in 1941, Colman Pool is one of only two public outdoor pools in Seattle and the only public saltwater pool in King County. The pool is used regularly for practice by swim teams and recreational lap swimmers. The locker rooms remain largely unchanged since they were installed and prevent a barrier to people with disabilities. Many of the cast-iron pipes and components of the sand filter system that draws water from Puget Sound for swimming also are original. The City will renovate the locker rooms to increase access for people of all abilities, provide restrooms and changing areas (none exist), improve the caretaker residence, and provide several other improvements throughout the bathhouse and on the pool deck to increase access to all users. The City also will update the filter equipment and reinforce the bathhouse walls to withstand an earthquake. Seattle will contribute more than \$3.3 million in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1252)

Woodland

Grant Requested: \$308,914

Adding Artificial Turf to a Scott Hill Park Soccer Field

The City of Woodland will use this grant to install artificial turf on one of three soccer fields in the new Scott Hill Park and Sports Complex in the northeast part of town, off Scott Hill Road. When finished, the complex will be home to about 40 acres of sports fields, paved trails, restrooms, a covered shelter, a batting cage, concessions, and a 450-stall parking lot. Woodland will contribute \$132,393. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1639)

Snohomish County

Grant Requested: \$302,500

Lighting a Willis Tucker Park Ball Field

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism will use this grant to add lights to a ball field in Willis Tucker Park, near the City of Mill Creek. The ball field is a natural grass field that is used only during the day. Lighting will expand field use by allowing games and practices to start earlier in the spring, go later in the day, and go into the fall for both Little League and softball. Snohomish County will contribute \$302,500 in cash and donated materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1426)

Colfax
Upgrading Colfax City Pool

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Colfax will use this grant to rehabilitate the Colfax City Pool in Schmuck Park, off State Route 195 on the Palouse River. The City will fix a 35,000 gallons per day leak, create an entry for people with disabilities, and renovate the locker room. These improvements will provide access to the facilities for people with disabilities, add recreational features for children, and reduce operational and maintenance costs. Colfax will contribute more than \$2.4 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a state appropriation, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1487)

Spokane Valley HUB
Providing a Synthetic Turf Field in the HUB

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Spokane Valley HUB will use this grant to design, do earthwork, and buy synthetic turf for a multiuse field at its Liberty Lake facility. There are only two accessible synthetic turf fields for public use in Spokane County, which has more than 500,000 residents. The multiuse field will support soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, ultimate Frisbee, T-ball, and general exercise. Spokane Valley HUB will contribute \$972,395 in a private grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1633)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Expanding the Stewart Heights Skate Park

Grant Requested: \$195,000

Metro Parks will use this grant to expand the skate park in Stewart Heights Park, which is in one of the most ethnically diverse and least-served neighborhoods in Tacoma. This project will add and diversify features tailored to beginner and experienced skaters. This project is the first skate park developed in cooperation with the roller skating community. The recent influx of roller skaters to skate parks is adding new users and increasing diversity at skate parks. This grant will help complete the second phase of a three-phase project to bring the park in line with contemporary standards for public skate parks. The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will contribute \$195,000 in voter-approved bonds. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1566)

Renton
Building Pickleball Courts in Talbot Hill Reservoir Park

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Renton will use this grant to design and improve tennis and pickleball courts in Talbot Hill Reservoir Park, which is 1.5 miles south of downtown near the Interstate 405 and State Route 167 interchange. The existing courts are the only dedicated

pickleball courts in the city, but are in poor condition, with slopes, lack of barriers between the court backlines, and pooling water that creates slippery conditions. The City will convert a tennis court to two pickleball courts and improve drainage and the court surface on the existing pickleball courts. The City also will install new fencing, a covered seating area, a water fountain, a bike rack, benches, garbage containers, and paddle holders. The City also will renovate the parking lot. Renton will contribute \$413,732. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1696)

Harmony Sports Association

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Creating Synthetic Turf Fields in the Harmony Sports Complex

The Harmony Sports Association will use this grant to convert a natural grass soccer field into three, synthetic turf soccer fields with lights, in Harmony Sports Complex, which borders Camas and Vancouver. The improvements will provide a year-round playing surface for kids under the age 11. These will be the only synthetic turf 7v7 fields in Clark County. The Harmony Sports Association will contribute \$715,000 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1302)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District

Grant Requested: \$250,000

Building Pickleball Courts at the Sports Complex

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to design and build six pickleball courts with a paved walkway and storage building for court maintenance equipment at the Sports Complex. Two years ago, district staff were approached by a small group requesting to paint two pickleball courts in the Sports Complex parking lot. Since then, the district has been approached twice more to add more courts in the parking lot. The four courts painted there now have displaced needed parking. This project will provide a permanent place for pickleball participants. The Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute \$252,000 in a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1456)

Columbia County

Grant Requested: \$143,000

Improving Irrigation at the Touchet Valley Golf Course

Columbia County will use this grant to install underground sprinklers on half of the 9-hole Touchet Valley Golf Course. This new system will eliminate moving sprinklers by hand, decrease sprinkler conflict with users, resolve a water supply issue, and keep more water in the Touchet River, which is home to multiple endangered species. Underground sprinklers are being installed on the part of the golf course not owned by the County.

Columbia County will contribute \$143,000 in a local grant, a private grant, a state grant, cash, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1536)

Walla Walla

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Improving the Mill Creek Sportsplex

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to renovate the region's primary youth athletic complex—the Mill Creek Sportsplex. Originally opened in 2002, the Mill Creek Sportsplex includes three softball/baseball fields, two soccer fields, a skate park, and supporting amenities. The City will convert ball field lighting to LED (light-emitting diode), add shade structures throughout the site, improve pedestrian routes, and reconstruct three softball/baseball backstops. Walla Walla will contribute \$350,000 to the project. Walla Walla will contribute \$350,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1737)

Royal City

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Building a Soccer Field in Lions Park

Royal City will use this grant to develop a soccer field in Lions Park. The soccer field will be a natural turf field with movable goals, a perimeter fence, and parking. With the installation of this field, the City will be better positioned to address youth sports needs and expand the outdoor recreational opportunities for residents. Royal City will contribute \$76,340. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1704)

Leavenworth Winter Sports Club

Grant Requested: \$258,000

Improving Restrooms and Lighting on the Leavenworth Ski Hill

The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club will use this grant to build a restroom that will be accessible to people with disabilities next to the historic Ski Hill Lodge and improve lighting in the alpine skiing area of the Leavenworth Ski Hill. The Leavenworth Ski Hill is 1 mile from downtown Leavenworth and serves toddlers to Nordic Olympians in training. The ski hill trails have become increasingly popular year-round and serve as the home facility and practice location for the Leavenworth Middle and High School cross-county teams and Icicle Bicycle Youth Mountain Bike Team. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club will contribute \$172,000 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1735)

College Place

Grant Requested: \$281,023

Renovating Veterans Park

The City of College Place will use this grant to renovate 3.4 acres of Veterans Park. The City will add restrooms, a full-size basketball court, and two pickleball courts. This is the only parkland serving the Homestead community, which has more than 300 homes and is 25 percent youth. College Place will contribute \$281,023. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1705)

**Pomeroy
Lighting Ball Fields**

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Pomeroy will use this grant to add lighting to three of the ball fields in the Pomeroy baseball/softball complex. There is no lighting at the facility. Lighting the fields would allow for more time for practice for Little League teams and allow games to be held later in day so parents can watch their kids' games after work. Pomeroy will contribute \$350,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1698)

**Forks
Upgrading Spartan Field**

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Forks, in partnership with the Quillayute Valley School District, will use this grant to add a bathroom, fencing, and paving at Spartan Field. The City will replace the outdated barbed wired and chain link fencing around the field and play area. The City will pave the grass area to the northwest and around the new bathroom to tie these areas to the grandstand. The field is the hub of the community and used regularly for programmed events to everyday youth pick-up games. Multi-generational families enjoy the facility because it is a safe and clean environment for them to experience a healthy outdoor experience. Forks will contribute more than \$1.6 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1637)

**Pomeroy
Improving the Pomeroy Football Field**

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Pomeroy will use this grant to improve the football and track facility. The City will replace the field lights and poles, pave the parking lot, update the entrance, and repair and update the press box and storage building. If the lights aren't replaced soon, they will have to be taken down, preventing the Youth Football Program from practicing. There are no other fields in town. Pomeroy will contribute \$170,685. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1699)

**Fife
Resurfacing Tennis Courts in Dacca Park**

Grant Requested: \$77,000

The City of Fife will use this grant to resurface three tennis courts, add a backboard, replace fencing, and add pickleball lines to the resurfaced court in Dacca Park. Significant cracking has compromised the quality of the tennis courts and weeds are beginning to grow up through the cracks. The surface also is badly faded and includes various low spots where water from rain and the adjacent irrigation system pool, long after the rain and irrigation have stopped. This can create a dangerous playing surface for users. The fence posts are buried in the perimeter court surface, requiring a replacement to occur as part of the resurfacing. The project will include the addition of a backstop on the south edge of the courts to allow solo play, as well as the addition of pickleball markings to ensure alternate use of the courts. Fife will contribute \$33,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1636)

Bellevue
Replacing Synthetic Turf in Newport Hills Park

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to replace synthetic turf fields in Newport Hills Park. Synthetic turf was installed on the soccer field and baseball infield in 2011 and is beginning to degrade and consistently require maintenance to meet playing and safety standards. The City will complete engineering and design plans, remove the existing turf for use at another location, regrade the fields, repair drainage if needed, and install new synthetic turf and striping. Bellevue will contribute \$627,500. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1278)

Small Grants Category Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2023-2025

Pacific County Renovating Lions Park Field

Grant Requested: \$72,000

Pacific County will use this grant to renovate about 2 acres of school district-owned baseball fields on Knappton Road in Naselle. The work will provide enhanced, year-round, outdoor recreation opportunities for nearly 150 underserved youth ages 7-18 and community members in a high poverty county. Pacific County will contribute \$18,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1539)

Town of Metaline Building Pickleball Courts at Eagle Field

Grant Requested: \$67,500

The Town of Metaline will use this grant to add two pickleball courts at Eagle Field. With pickleball being the fastest growing sport in the United States and Governor Jay Inslee signing a bill that pickleball is the official state sport, Metaline has the space to offer people of all ages a place to play. Metaline will contribute \$7,500 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1719)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Community Forests Program: Review of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Kim Sellers, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo describes the Community Forests Program’s evaluation process and offers a summary of the applications received during the 2022 grant cycle. Five project proposals have been evaluated and ranked. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting, providing an opportunity for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to review the ranked list of projects in accordance with the budget proviso. Following board review, staff will submit the ranked list to the Governor and Legislature for funding consideration.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-17

Purpose of Resolution: Review the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Community Forest Program (CFP) was initiated in 2020 when the Legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to work with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other stakeholders to develop funding criteria and a ranked list of community forest projects for funding consideration in the 2021-23 biennial budget. The budget proviso that established the program requires board review of the project proposals. Consistent with this requirement, staff are presenting the 2023-25 projects for board consideration.

This grant program funds projects that help communities protect and enhance their surrounding forestland by acquiring land and developing collaborative models of community-based forest management and use. The purpose is to protect and maintain actively managed forestland, consistent with local land use planning, for timber harvest and community benefits. Community forests provide many public benefits including forest products, forest management, forest products manufacturing jobs, money for public services, environmental services such as clean air and water, carbon dioxide storage, climate resiliency, and opportunities for recreation, education, and cultural enrichment.

Applicants submitted five project proposals requesting just over \$13 million for the 2023-25 biennium. The requested grant funds combined with over \$6.7 million in match would be used to acquire about 3,140 acres.

Program Summary

There were changes to the program for this grant cycle. RCO added the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option.¹ The *Forestland Benefit* criterion was updated to request information about new benefits and the *Stewardship and Management* criterion now requires a summary of the financial plan. Also, applicants must secure and confirm landowner acknowledgement of the proposed acquisition and seek local jurisdiction review. Below is the program profile as outlined in [Manual 25](#), *Community Forests Program*:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state • Nonprofit nature conservancies • State agencies working directly with one of the above
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition (fee title only) • Combination acquisition and restoration and/or recreation development
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000,000 • \$30,000 maximum for a community forest management plan. • The budget for restoration and development activities shall not exceed 10 percent of the total project budget.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applicants must contribute at least 15 percent match.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access is required.

¹ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2021-02

Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds are intended to preserve actively managed forests for economic, social, and environmental benefits. • Sponsors must submit a community forest management plan prior to project completion. • Restoration and development work is allowed on acquired property. • The value of conservation easements or other less than fee interests that contribute to the community forest are eligible to satisfy the match requirement.
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Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Between July 28 and August 18, members of the CFP Advisory Committee reviewed applicants' written responses to the evaluation criteria, then scored and ranked projects. Advisory committee members selected and appointed by the RCO director include representatives from state, local, and tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; and the forest industry. These individuals are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of community forests. Members participating this year include the following:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
Jason Callahan, Green Diamond Resource Company	Forestry
Daniel Wear, Northwest Community Forest Coalition	Forestry
Bob Bugert, Chelan County	Local Agency
Loren Hiner, City of Montesano	Local Agency
Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Native American Tribe
Cathy Baker, The Nature Conservancy	Nonprofit Organization
David Patton, Trust for Public Land	Nonprofit Organization
Laurie Benson, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency

The advisory committee used RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the project proposals with criteria adopted by the RCO director. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are shown in *Table 1- Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the CFP Advisory Committee on June 14, where staff provided an overview of the evaluation criteria and training on using the

PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module. Advisors appreciated discussing the evaluation criteria at that meeting.

On September 16, RCO staff invited advisory committee members to participate in a post evaluation meeting. The committees debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the process was organized and efficient. They received the materials needed, felt using the online tools made the job easier, and were satisfied with the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

Letters of support or concern for Community Forests projects are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot as Project Support or Concern documents. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The review process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner by using broad public participation.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board review *Table 1 – Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* via Resolution #2022-17.

Next Steps

Following board review of the project list, staff will forward Table 1 to the Office of Financial Management for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-17, including Table 1 –*Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for the Community Forests Program Projects
- C. Community Forests Program Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Community Forests Program Evaluation Scores 2023-2025
- E. Community Forests Program Project Descriptions 2023-2025

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-17
Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will submit five Community Forests Program projects for funding consideration; and

WHEREAS, all five projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 25, *Community Forests Program*, including criteria regarding public benefits, forestland benefits, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, these projects were evaluated by a team of nonprofit organizations, citizens, and state, local, and tribal representatives using criteria approved by the RCO director; and

WHEREAS, the results of these evaluations are being reviewed in an open public meeting, thereby fulfilling the requirement outlined in the budget proviso that established the program; and

WHEREAS, the projects will acquire land for forestry purposes, thus supporting the legislative goal to help sustain the community, economic and environmental benefits provided by Washington's working forestland, and the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board has hereby reviewed the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby acknowledges that this project list for the Community Forests Program is complete and ready for RCO to submit to the Governor and Legislature for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Herzog

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Date: October 25, 2022

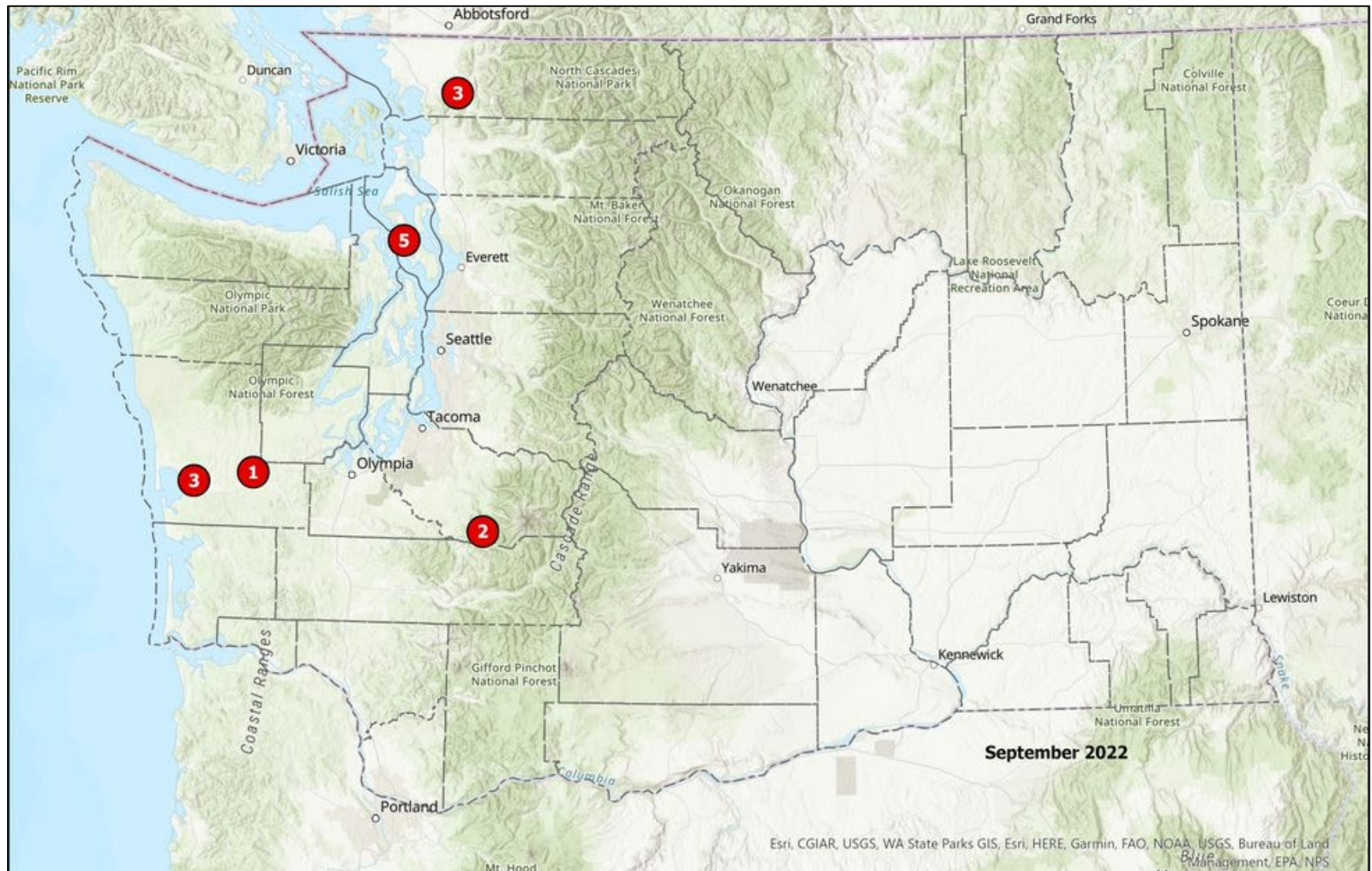
Table 1–Community Forests Program
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25

Resolution 2022-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	50.12	22-1568 A	Forterra	Montesano Community Forest	\$1,612,450	\$284,550	\$1,897,000
2	49.00	22-1535 A	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Community Forest Phase 3	\$2,873,200	\$1,560,000	\$4,433,200
3	47.12	22-1301 A	Whatcom Land Trust	Stewart Mountain Community Forest	\$3,000,000	\$1,470,123	\$4,470,123
3	47.12	22-1565 A	Forterra	Hoquiam Community Forest	\$2,541,075	\$448,425	\$2,989,500
5	43.00	22-1663 A	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Lagoon Point Community Forest	\$3,000,000	\$1,999,193	\$4,999,193
Total					\$13,026,725	\$5,762,291	\$18,789,016

Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Community Forests Program Projects



Community Forests Program Evaluation Criteria Summary

Community Forests Program Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map • Project goals and objective 	Not scored
1. Forestland Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest resources • Property features • Landscape context • Additional benefits and threat 	15
2. Public Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic benefit • Recreational and cultural benefits • Environmental benefits • Income use 	15
3. Stewardship and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finances • Operation and management • Future development and restoration • Organizational experience 	15
4. Development and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and stewardship plan • Restoration needs • Organizational capacity 	12
5. Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or restoration goals • Budget and timeline • Risks 	3
Total Points Possible		60

Community Forests Program Detailed Scoring Criteria

1. Forestland Benefits

What are the specific forestland values this project will protect?

2. Public Benefits

How will the community forest be developed or maintained to provide public recreational, educational, cultural, environmental, and economic opportunities?

3. Stewardship and Management

What are the primary anticipated management objectives for the community forest and how will they likely be funded and achieved

4. Development and Restoration

What are your plans for development and/or restoration activities on the property acquired?

5. Community Engagement and Support

What is the community engagement process used for developing or implementing this project

Community Forests Program Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Forestland Benefits	2. Public Benefits	3. Stewardship and Management	4. Development and Restoration	5. Community Engagement	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-15	0-3	0-15	
1	22-1568A	Montesano Community Forest	12.00	12.38	12.88	0	12.88	50.13
2	22-1535A	Nisqually Community Forest Phase 3	12.12	11.88	12.88	0	12.12	49.00
3	22-1301A	Stewart Mountain Community Forest	11.62	11.38	11.88	0	12.25	47.13
3	22-1565A	Hoquiam Community Forest	11.00	11.75	12.25	0	12.12	47.13
5	22-1663A	Lagoon Point Community Forest	11.38	10.50	10.88	0	10.25	43.00

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-5
Project type: A=acquisition

Community Forests Program Project Summaries (In Rank Order) 2023-25

Forterra Northwest**Grant Requested: \$1,612,450****Expanding Montesano's Community Forest**

Forterra will use this grant to buy 240 acres in Montesano to expand the City's community forest, the Chaplin Collins Memorial Forest. The forest will be managed to sustainably harvest timber to support the quality of life for current and future generations of Montesano residents. Forterra will contribute \$284,550 in donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1568)

Nisqually Indian Tribe**Grant Requested: \$2,873,200****Expanding Nisqually Community Forest**

The Nisqually Indian Tribe will use this grant to buy 1,042 acres to expand the Nisqually Community Forest. The land adjoins the existing community forest along Busy Wild Creek, which is the highest priority for protection in the Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead trout recovery plans. Both species are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and a portion of Busy Wild Creek that will be purchased is federally designated as critical habitat for steelhead. The Nisqually Community Forest Management Plan supports local, family-wage forestry jobs through a program of sustainable forest management that generates steady annual production of commercial timber. The Nisqually Indian Tribe will contribute more than \$1.5 million in donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1535)

Whatcom Land Trust**Grant Requested: \$3,000,000****Expanding Stewart Mountain Community Forest**

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 1,615 acres to expand the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The trust plans to expand the community forest to about 6,000 acres, which will be managed as a working forest that provides a range of community benefits. The forest will support sustainable local forestry jobs, enhance watershed health and resilience, expand recreational access and connectivity, and promote local control of forest resources. The Whatcom Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.4 million in another grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1301)

Forterra Northwest**Grant Requested: \$2,541,075****Expanding Hoquiam Community Forest**

Forterra will use this grant to buy 85.7 acres along the Little Hoquiam River and 320 acres in the Fry Creek watershed to expand the City of Hoquiam's community forest

program. The land will be managed to protect the city's watersheds and sustainably harvest timber to support community services. In addition, the land will add to Hoquiam's trail network along the Little Hoquiam River and provide public access to the riverfront area. Forterra will contribute \$448,425. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1565)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust**Grant Requested: \$3,000,000****Establishing Lagoon Point Community Forest**

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy 253.5 acres of forestland to establish the Lagoon Point Community Forest on Whidbey Island. An influx of residents on the Island has resulted in a large amount of forestland being converted to residential development. Forestland is critical to island resilience and the health of Puget Sound. The Lagoon Point Community Forest will provide public enjoyment and recreation, as well as long-rotation timber harvests benefits such as healthy forest, revenue generation, wildlife habitat, and improved water quality. Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.9 million in a local grant, a private grant, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1663)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Local Parks Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Allison Dellwo, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Fifty-nine project proposals in the Local Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-18

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Local Parks category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides grant funding to create or improve parks. Eligible project types include acquisition and development of new facilities, and renovation of existing facilities. Parks may include active or passive outdoor recreation facilities such as playgrounds, open space, picnic sites, skateparks and bike tracks, athletic fields, hard courts, and outdoor swimming pools; and support amenities such as restrooms, parking areas, and signs.

The Local Parks category receives 30 percent of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. 40 percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs,¹ which may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

There were changes to the Local Parks category for this year, which included the reinstatement of match requirements after the Pandemic Response Match Relief policy of 2020 and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) creation of a carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option.

There were changes to PRISM Online that included security updates, a cultural resources mapping tool, and revised match metrics on the Cost Summary page of the online application. Here is a summary of the Local Parks category:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local agencies² (cities/towns, counties, park, port, and school districts, federally recognized Native American tribes, and special purpose districts)
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition Development or renovation of existing facilities Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500,000 for development or renovation projects \$1 million for acquisition and combination projects (maximum of \$500,000 for development)
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 percent Exception: match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must establish planning eligibility. Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. Administrative offices, storage buildings, shops, and residences are eligible if they are essential to the operation and maintenance of the assisted site.

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050(2)(b) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-52

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010(7) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-52

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fifty-nine Local Parks category projects, requesting \$29.3 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP Local Parks Advisory Committee between August 22 and 25, 2022. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering, and design. The following members participated this year:

Evaluator	Representing
Rebecca Bear, Seattle Parks Foundation, North Bend	Citizen
Glen Kost, Bellevue	Citizen
Chaz Bates, City of Spokane Valley	Local Agency
Doug Coutts, South Whidbey Park and Recreation District	Local Agency
Anne Henning, City of Othello	Local Agency
Bryan Higgins, City of Kent	Local Agency
Jill Meis, City of Lake Stevens*	Local Agency
Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks and Recreation	Local Agency
Sylvana Niehuser, City of Olympia	Local Agency
Heather Saunders, State Parks and Recreation Commission	State Agency

**Participated in the technical review sessions only.*

The ten advisory committee members reviewed the proposals using video conferencing software to conduct the meetings virtually, and RCO's PRISM system for scoring the projects according to criteria adopted by the board. The presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 25 and during the post-evaluation meeting on September 1, 2022, staff met with the WWRP Local Parks Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

The advisory committee felt the process was organized, well-run, and fair. While the advisors spent nine days participating in virtual technical review and evaluation meetings for Local Parks category projects, they still felt the live presentation process was the most efficient way to score and rank projects. The advisors appreciated the convenience of meeting virtually but missed the camaraderie of all working in person. They were satisfied with the materials provided and the responsiveness of many applicants to their suggested improvements following the technical review.

Advisors discussed the challenges associated with scoring some of the criteria. As described last grant cycle, the *Need* criterion has so much packed into one question that it can be overwhelming. During technical review, advisors asked applicants to use bar graphs to help address the factor associated with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The graphs helped advisors understand the demographics of the service area, but applicants struggled to address how the project would help meet the needs of these populations when responding to the *Project Scope* criterion.

They discussed the challenge of scoring *Immediacy of Threat*. They felt the discussion during the pre-evaluation session helped them focus on the intent of the question and how to assess projects where the applicant had purchased the property in advance, using an RCO approved waiver of retroactivity.³

Advisors also discussed how the *Expansion and Renovation* criterion prioritizes improvements at existing parks over acquisition or development of new parks. They discussed the intent and how to score fairly. As in past years, there were challenges with the *Sustainability* criterion. Advisors felt applicants spent too much time on this criterion and in occasionally described elements that are ineligible or disconnected from the economic, social, and environmental factors of the project scope.

Advisors took time to discuss why there are so many parks with elements that are not accessible to people with disabilities; why applicants focused on plantings for pollinators when developing active recreation facilities; the eligibility of charging stations for electric vehicles; and use of outdated letters of support for some projects.

Despite challenges, evaluators were satisfied with the process, use of the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module, and the resulting ranked list.

³ An applicant may get advance approval from RCO to purchase property and preserve eligibility of the acquisition costs incurred before an agreement is issued. There are no guarantees that the applicant will receive a grant.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for Local Parks category projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for funding in the Local Parks category support board priorities in *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-18.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-2025 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-18, including *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Local Parks Category Projects
- C. Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-2025

E. Local Parks Category Project Descriptions 2023-2025

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-18
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 59 Local Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all 59 Local Parks category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Local Parks category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreation, thereby supporting board priorities in the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022 and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Local Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Gardow

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

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1–WWRP–Local Parks Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25

Resolution 2022-18

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	64.44	22-1255 D	Seattle	Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
2	63.78	22-1478 A	Kent	Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park	\$1,000,000	\$5,750,000	\$6,750,000
3	62.89	22-1618 D	Lynnwood	Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail	\$500,000	\$3,867,058	\$4,367,058
4	62.56	22-1445 D	Olympia	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase 1	\$500,000	\$13,000,438	\$13,500,438
5	61.89	22-1563 D	Bridgeport	Berryman Park Renovation Phase 1	\$500,000	\$289,754	\$789,754
6	61.11	22-1259 D	Seattle	Little Brook Park Improvements	\$500,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,800,000
7	60.44	22-1693 D	Spokane Valley	Greenacres Park Phase 2	\$500,000	\$1,561,761	\$2,061,761
8	59.89	22-1496 A	Vancouver	Fenton Community Park	\$1,000,000	\$4,543,442	\$5,543,442
9	59.44	22-1720 D	Lakewood	Wards Lake Park Phase 2	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
10	59.33	22-1303 D	Pierce County	Half Dollar Park Development	\$500,000	\$1,468,000	\$1,968,000
11	59.28	22-1309 D	Pierce County	Orangegate Park Phase 1	\$500,000	\$6,337,000	\$6,837,000
12	58.67	22-1413 D	Westport	Westport Skatepark and Pumptrack	\$500,000	\$243,508	\$743,508
13	58.39	22-1543 C	Olympia	Kaiser Woods Acquisition and Development	\$673,497	\$1,466,413	\$2,139,910
14	58.22	22-1468 D	Camas	Crown Park Improvements Phase 1	\$500,000	\$2,225,600	\$2,725,600
15	58.11	22-1372 D	Kent	Springwood Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
16	58.06	22-1642 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails	\$500,000	\$758,120	\$1,258,120
17	57.56	22-1323 A	Wenatchee	Bighorn Ridge Acquisition	\$750,000	\$755,000	\$1,505,000
18	57.50	22-1315 D	Burlington	Rotary Park Inclusive Playground and Restroom	\$500,000	\$705,000	\$1,205,000
19	57.44	22-1298 D	Lacey	Greg Cuoio Park	\$500,000	\$5,029,819	\$5,529,819
19	57.44	22-1746 D	Lake Stevens	Frontier Heights Multi-Sport Field and Courts	\$500,000	\$1,487,535	\$1,987,535
21	57.33	22-1628 A	Covington	SoCo Park Expansion	\$908,000	\$908,000	\$1,816,000
22	56.83	22-1349 C	Fife	Colburn Park Expansion and Splash Pad	\$918,328	\$918,330	\$1,836,658
23	56.78	22-1540 D	Cathlamet	Cathlamet Skate Park	\$95,404	\$10,601	\$106,005

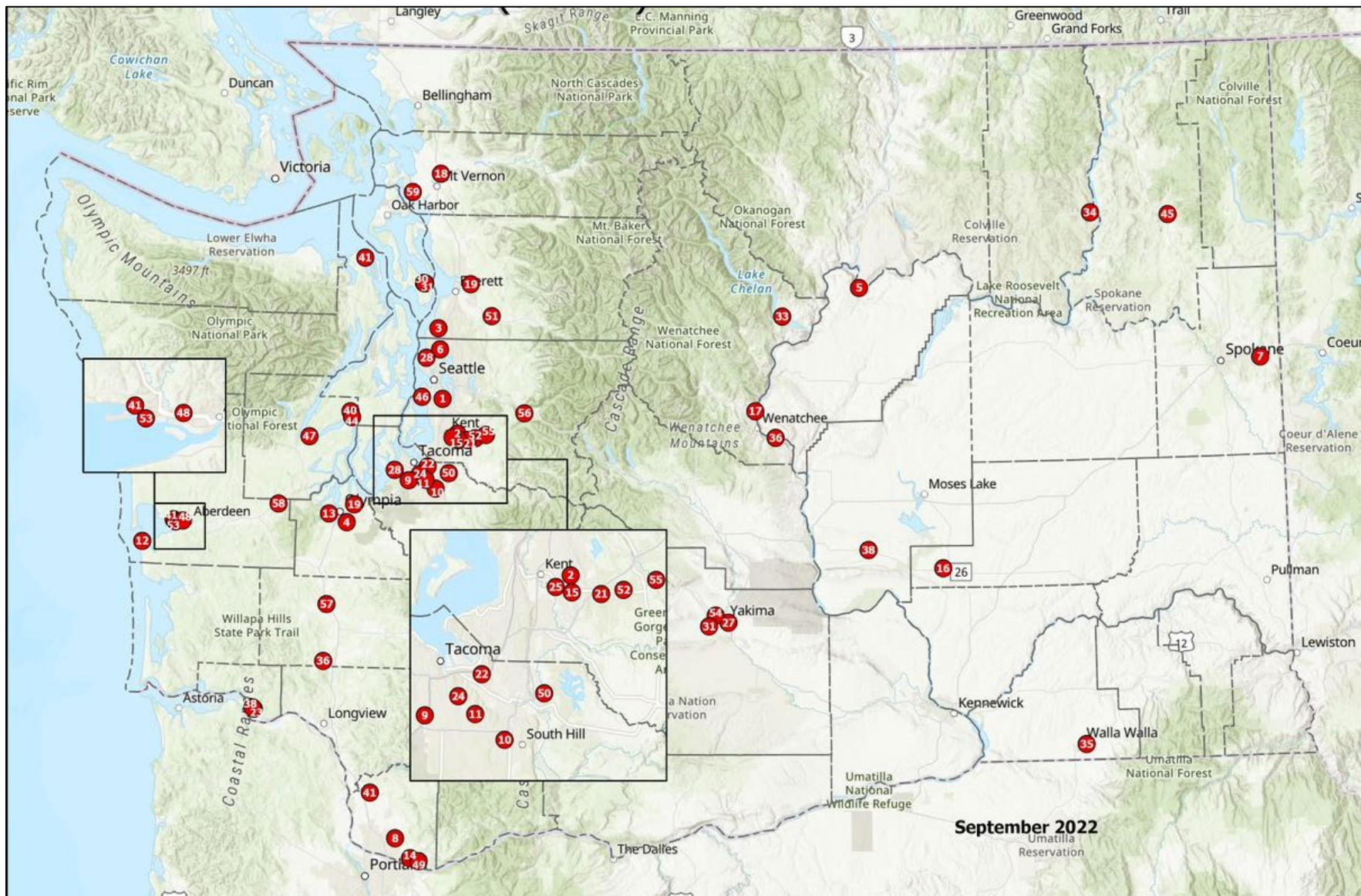
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
24	56.33	22-1433 D	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	First Creek Park and Trail Improvements	\$500,000	\$155,800	\$655,800
25	54.56	22-1362 A	Kent	Upper Mill Creek Mendel Property Acquisition	\$475,000	\$591,200	\$1,066,200
26	54.50	22-1455 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Sports Complex Pickleball Courts	\$250,000	\$252,000	\$502,000
27	54.06	22-1453 D	Yakima	Martin Luther King Jr. Park Community Pool	\$500,000	\$7,500,000	\$8,000,000
28	54.00	22-1260 D	Seattle	Soundview Playfield Renovation	\$500,000	\$3,500,000	\$4,000,000
28	54.00	22-1725 D	University Place	Curran Apple Orchard Park Improvements	\$418,377	\$428,377	\$846,754
30	53.83	22-1447 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Community Park Outdoor Amphitheater	\$215,000	\$281,000	\$496,000
31	53.56	22-1325 A	Chelan County	Malaga Waterfront Park Acquisition	\$917,153	\$611,436	\$1,528,589
32	53.50	22-1277 D	Yakima	West Valley Community Park Pedestrian Bridge	\$302,400	\$129,600	\$432,000
32	53.50	22-1449 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Sports Complex Artificial Turf Field	\$500,000	\$3,087,420	\$3,587,420
34	53.00	22-1650 A	Manson Park and Recreation District	Leffler Field Acquisition	\$574,550	\$757,000	\$1,331,550
35	52.78	22-1625 D	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Inchelium Skate Park	\$360,000	\$40,000	\$400,000
36	52.72	22-1738 D	Walla Walla	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
37	52.56	22-1739 D	Vader	McMurphy Park	\$283,000	\$125,000	\$408,000
38	52.44	22-1276 D	Cathlamet	Cathlamet Waterfront Park	\$500,000	\$183,480	\$683,480
38	52.44	22-1324 D	Royal City	Royal City Park Expansion	\$500,000	\$420,430	\$920,430
40	52.00	22-1410 D	Mason County	Sandhill Park Multipurpose Field	\$500,000	\$4,605,000	\$5,105,000
41	51.72	22-1620 D	Port Townsend	Kah Tai Redevelopment	\$156,366	\$67,014	\$223,380
41	51.72	22-1638 D	Hoquiam	John Gable Park Pickleball Courts and Parking	\$329,000	\$141,000	\$470,000
41	51.72	22-1645 D	La Center	Holley Park Playground	\$383,036	\$383,036	\$766,072

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
44	51.61	22-1682 C	Port of Allyn	Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park	\$650,000	\$1,149,652	\$1,799,652
45	51.33	22-1740 D	Chewelah	Chewelah City Park Improvements	\$500,000	\$295,000	\$795,000
46	51.00	22-1251 D	Seattle	Colman Pool Renovation	\$500,000	\$3,967,360	\$4,467,360
47	50.89	22-1388 D	Mason County	Union Park	\$500,000	\$869,000	\$1,369,000
48	50.28	22-1621 D	Hoquiam	Olympic Stadium Field Lighting	\$500,000	\$125,000	\$625,000
49	49.78	22-1432 D	Washougal	Washougal Civic Recreation Complex	\$500,000	\$3,607,910	\$4,107,910
50	49.17	22-1297 C	Sumner	Robinson Property Acquisition and Development	\$434,085	\$434,085	\$868,170
51	48.78	22-1457 D	Monroe	North Hill Area Park	\$500,000	\$4,513,500	\$5,013,500
52	47.00	22-1627 A	Covington	East Covington Park	\$154,575	\$154,576	\$309,151
53	46.94	22-1670 D	Hoquiam	Old Cannery Park Phase 2	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
54	45.61	22-1736 A	Yakima County Flood Control District	Naches Cowiche Confluence Park	\$218,350	\$218,350	\$436,700
55	45.28	22-1248 D	King County	Rock Creek Horse Park	\$500,000	\$4,768,297	\$5,268,297
56	42.17	22-1635 D	Si View Metropolitan Park District	South Fork Landing Adventure Play Area and Trail	\$500,000	\$1,731,256	\$2,231,256
57	41.72	22-1715 D	Chehalis	Recreation Park Phase 3 Parking Area	\$295,000	\$295,000	\$590,000
58	37.78	22-1701 A	McCleary	Simpson Land Acquisition	\$890,369	\$99,200	\$989,569
59	36.78	22-1727 D	La Conner	Maple Park	\$269,662	\$269,663	\$539,325

Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=Combination

Total \$29,321,152 \$106,982,021 \$136,303,173

State Map for Local Parks Category Projects



Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Local parks provide property or facilities for active (high impact) or passive (low impact) outdoor recreation. They may contain both upland and water-oriented elements.

Local Parks Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Title	Project Type Questions	Maximum Points	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	15	State, Local
Advisory Committee	2	Project Scope	All	15	Local
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	10	Local
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability	Development	5	State
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	6	Site Suitability	Acquisition	10	Technical
			Combination	2.5	
Advisory Committee	7	Expansion or Renovation	All	5	Local
Advisory Committee	8	Project Support	All	10	State, Local
Advisory Committee	9	Cost Efficiencies	All	5	State, Local
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	11	Proximity to People	All	1.5	State
RCO Staff	12	County Population Density	All	1.5	State
Total Points Possible=73					

*Focus–Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State–Those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan [SCORP])
- Local–Those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical–Those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, Local Parks Category

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need.** Considering the availability of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities and how will this project address the priorities for underserved populations and health in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*?
2. **Project Scope.** Does the project scope meet deficient recreational opportunities within the service area as identified in Question 1, Public Need?
3. **Immediacy of Threat.** Is there a threat to the public availability of the resources the site possesses?
4. **Project Design.** Does the project demonstrate good design criteria? Does it make the best use of the site? (*Development/Combination only*)
5. **Sustainability.** Please discuss how your project's location or design supports your organization's sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan.
6. **Site Suitability.** Is the site to be acquired well suited for the intended recreational uses? (*Acquisition/Combination only*)
7. **Expansion or Renovation.** Will the acquisition or development project expand or renovate an existing recreation area or facility?
8. **Project Support.** The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed, and/or support for the project seems apparent.
9. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrates efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

10. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?
11. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?
12. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2021-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
1	22-1255D	Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark	13.00	14.00		14.00	4.11		4.44	9.33	2.56	0.00	1.50	1.50	64.44
2	22-1478A	Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park	13.33	13.33	8.67			9.33	4.22	8.00	3.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	63.78
3	22-1618D	Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail	13.00	13.33		13.33	4.22		4.00	8.89	3.11	0.00	1.50	1.50	62.89
4	22-1445D	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase i	12.67	13.67		13.67	4.22		3.00	8.89	3.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	62.56
5	22-1563D	Berryman Park Renovation Phase 1	14.33	14.33		13.67	4.00		4.44	8.44	2.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.89
6	22-1259D	Little Brook Park Improvements	13.33	12.00		12.33	4.11		4.11	9.33	2.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	61.11
7	22-1693D	Greenacres Park Phase 2	11.67	13.00		12.67	3.56		4.56	8.67	3.33	0.00	1.50	1.50	60.44
8	22-1496A	Fenton Community Park	12.67	12.67	8.67			8.89	2.22	7.78	4.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	59.88
9	22-1720D	Wards Lake Park Phase 2	14.33	11.33		12.67	3.33		4.56	8.00	2.22	0.00	1.50	1.50	59.44

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
10	22-1303D	Half Dollar Park Development	13.67	12.67		13.00	4.00		3.56	7.56	1.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	59.33
11	22-1309D	Oranegate Park Phase 1	12.67	12.00		13.00	4.00		3.89	9.11	3.11	0.00	0.00	1.50	59.28
12	22-1413D	Westport Skatepark and Pumptrack	12.67	13.33		12.33	2.78		4.22	9.11	4.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.67
13	22-1543C	Kaiser Woods Acquisition and Development	12.00	12.33	2.89	6.17	3.44	2.11	4.00	8.67	3.78	0.00	1.50	1.50	58.39
14	22-1468D	Crown Park Improvements Phase 1	11.67	12.33		13.00	3.11		4.67	8.44	2.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	58.22
15	22-1372D	Springwood Park Renovation	12.00	11.67		12.00	3.78		4.56	9.33	1.78	0.00	1.50	1.50	58.11
16	22-1642D	Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails	13.67	13.00		11.67	3.78		4.00	7.56	2.89	0.00	1.50	0.00	58.06
17	22-1323A	Bighorn Ridge Acquisition	10.67	12.67	8.67			9.33	2.44	9.11	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.56
18	22-1315D	Rotary Park Inclusive	12.33	12.33		12.33	3.33		4.44	8.44	3.78	-1.00	1.50	0.00	57.50

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
		Playground and Restroom													
19	22-1298D	Greg Cuoio Park	11.67	12.33		12.67	4.11		3.00	8.22	2.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	57.44
19	22-1746D	Frontier Heights Multi-Sport Field and Courts	11.67	12.33		11.33	3.44		4.22	8.44	3.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	57.44
21	22-1628A	SoCo Park Expansion	10.33	11.33	9.11			9.11	3.67	8.89	1.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	57.33
22	22-1349C	Colburn Park Expansion and Splash Pad	11.67	12.33	2.11	6.33	3.67	1.61	4.56	8.89	2.67	0.00	1.50	1.50	56.83
23	22-1540D	Cathlamet Skate Park	12.33	12.67		11.67	3.33		4.22	8.67	3.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.78
24	22-1433D	First Creek Park and Trail Improvements	12.00	10.67		11.33	3.33		4.33	8.00	3.67	0.00	1.50	1.50	56.33
25	22-1362A	Upper Mill Creek Mendel Property	12.67	12.00	6.89			8.89	3.78	5.78	1.56	0.00	1.50	1.50	54.56
26	22-1455D	South Whidbey Sports Complex Pickleball Courts	10.00	11.33		12.33	3.33		4.00	7.78	4.22	0.00	0.00	1.50	54.50
27	22-1453D	Martin Luther King Jr. Park	10.33	11.33		11.33	3.33		3.89	8.89	3.44	0.00	1.50	0.00	54.06

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
		Community Pool													
28	22-1260D	Soundview Playfield Renovation	11.33	12.33		11.33	3.89		4.22	6.89	1.00	0.00	1.50	1.50	54.00
28	22-1725D	Curran Apple Orchard Park Improvements	10.33	11.00		11.67	3.89		3.89	7.33	2.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	54.00
30	22-1447D	South Whidbey Community Park Outdoor Amphitheater	10.00	12.00		11.67	3.44		3.67	7.33	4.22	0.00	0.00	1.50	53.83
31	22-1277D	West Valley Community Park Pedestrian Bridge	12.00	11.33		11.67	3.67		3.78	7.56	2.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	53.50
31	22-1449D	South Whidbey Sports Complex Artificial Turf Field	11.00	11.33		11.67	3.11		4.44	7.33	3.11	0.00	0.00	1.50	53.50
33	22-1650A	Leffler Field Acquisition	11.67	10.67	8.67			8.89	1.56	8.67	2.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.00
34	22-1625D	Inchelium Skate Park	12.33	11.33		11.67	3.22		1.67	8.89	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.78

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
35	22-1738D	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	11.00	12.00		11.00	3.11		4.11	6.67	3.33	0.00	1.50	0.00	52.72
36	22-1325A	Malaga Waterfront Park Acquisition	12.00	13.00	7.33			8.67	2.33	8.00	2.22	-1.00	0.00	0.00	52.56
36	22-1739D	McMurphy Park	12.00	11.00		11.00	3.22		4.33	8.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.56
38	22-1276D	Cathlamet Waterfront Park	11.33	10.67		11.67	3.33		4.44	8.89	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.44
38	22-1324D	Royal City Park Expansion	12.33	12.00		10.67	2.78		3.78	7.78	3.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.44
40	22-1410D	Sandhill Park Multipurpose Field	11.33	12.00		12.00	3.33		4.11	6.44	2.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.00
41	22-1645D	Holley Park Playground	9.33	11.33		12.00	3.33		4.33	7.11	2.78	0.00	0.00	1.50	51.72
41	22-1638D	John Gable Park Pickleball Courts and Parking	11.00	11.67		10.33	3.22		4.56	6.67	2.78	0.00	1.50	0.00	51.72
41	22-1620D	Kah Tai Redevelopment	11.00	10.67		10.33	3.78		3.44	7.78	3.22	0.00	1.50	0.00	51.72
44	22-1682C	Sweetwater Creek	10.33	11.67	2.56	5.83	3.44	2.00	3.56	8.22	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.61

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
		Waterwheel Park													
45	22-1740D	Chewelah City Park Improvements	12.00	12.33		10.67	3.44		4.00	7.11	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.33
46	22-1251D	Colman Pool Renovation	10.33	11.67		11.67	3.22		4.00	6.00	1.11	0.00	1.50	1.50	51.00
47	22-1388D	Union Park	9.67	11.67		11.67	3.44		4.67	6.89	2.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.89
48	22-1621D	Olympic Stadium Field Lighting	10.00	11.67		11.67	3.44		3.56	6.00	2.44	0.00	1.50	0.00	50.28
49	22-1432D	Washougal Civic Recreation Complex	9.67	11.00		10.00	3.33		1.11	9.11	2.56	0.00	1.50	1.50	49.78
50	22-1297C	Robinson Property Acquisition and Development	10.00	9.67	2.78	5.33	2.89	1.83	3.11	7.11	3.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	49.17
51	22-1457D	North Hill Area Park	9.33	10.00		11.33	3.22		2.89	7.56	1.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	48.78
52	22-1627A	East Covington Park	9.67	10.33	7.56			6.89	0.22	6.89	2.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	47.00
53	22-1670D	Old Cannery Park Phase 2	9.33	10.00		10.67	2.56		3.67	6.22	3.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	46.94

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Site Suitability	7. Expansion/Renovation	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preference	11. Proximity to people	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1	0-1	
54	22-1736A	Naches Cowiche Confluence Park	10.00	10.00	6.00			8.00	2.11	6.89	1.11	0.00	1.50	0.00	45.61
55	22-1248D	Rock Creek Horse Park	8.00	10.33		10.67	3.22		3.33	5.78	3.44	-1.00	0.00	1.50	45.28
56	22-1635D	South Fork Landing Adventure Play Area and Trail	8.67	10.33		9.67	2.56		3.44	4.89	1.11	0.00	0.00	1.50	42.17
57	22-1715D	Recreation Park Phase 3 Parking Area	9.67	8.00		10.33	2.33		2.67	6.22	2.00	-1.00	1.50	0.00	41.72
58	22-1701A	Simpson Land Acquisition	8.67	9.00	6.22			7.11	0.89	5.56	1.33	-1.00	0.00	0.00	37.78
59	22-1727D	Maple Park	6.67	7.67		8.67	3.11		2.56	6.67	2.44	-1.00	0.00	0.00	36.78

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-9; RCO staff score Questions 10-12
Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=Combination

Local Parks Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Seattle Parks & Recreation Department

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building a Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a skateboard facility in Rainier Beach Playfield in southeast Seattle. Rainier Beach is one of the most demographically diverse communities in Seattle and among the most underserved in park resources. The grant will help pay for demolition, erosion control, grading, and installation of stormwater infrastructure, a skateboard facility, picnic shelters, a circular pathway, seating, tables, and landscaping. There are two adjacent public schools to the playfield. The project is community driven with residents bringing project ideas to the department, proactively securing funding for the planning and design stages using Seattle Neighborhood Matching Funds, and participating in outreach including large public meetings, classroom visits, and events at the site. Seattle will contribute \$2 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1255)

Kent

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Buying the Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park

The City of Kent will use this grant to buy the remaining 17 acres of private land at Clark Lake Park, completing city ownership of 150 acres for the park. Located on the East Hill of Kent, Clark Lake Park is surrounded by dense residential development. The addition of the 17 acres will allow for completion of a loop trail with views of Clark Lake and opportunities for a more formal use area in the park. The park is used primarily for walking, hiking, birdwatching, and other passive-use recreation. Kent will contribute more than \$5.7 million in a federal grant, another grant, cash, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1478)

Lynnwood

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building a Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail

The City of Lynnwood Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department will use this grant to build an accessible boardwalk and two wildlife viewpoints on the shoreline of Scriber Lake in Scriber Lake Park. The City will build about a quarter-mile of elevated boardwalk and lake viewpoints, improve connections to a floating dock, update two parking stalls and the route from the parking lot to the boardwalk to be accessible to people with

disabilities, and restore the lake's natural hydrology and habitat. With 24 acres of wetlands, a lake, streams, trails, forest, and hillsides, Scriber Lake Park provides a haven for wildlife and a respite from the city for people. The city's only public lake supports a variety of waterfowl, osprey, largemouth bass, perch, river otter, and beaver. The goal of the project is to provide year-round access to the natural environment for residents of the city's lowest income neighborhood. Lynnwood will contribute more than \$3.8 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a private grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1618)

Olympia **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Beginning Development of the Yelm Highway Community Park

The City of Olympia will use this grant to begin development of the 60-acre Yelm Highway Community Park. In this first phase of development, the City will build a rectangular field with synthetic turf and lights, a playground, two basketball courts, six pickleball courts, 1.25 miles of walking paths, a restroom, a picnic shelter, and a 176-stall parking lot. This first phase will coincide with the Olympia School District's construction of a lit, synthetic turf, rectangular field and track on abutting land. Combined, the two fields will lay the groundwork for the future addition of two more fields on the park property to fully build out a soccer complex. These will be Olympia's first dedicated rectangular fields in its park system. Soccer players have long requested dedicated, quality fields in Olympia. Additionally, players of other rectangular field sports are on the rise, such as lacrosse, rugby, football, and ultimate Frisbee, and need field space. These fields will serve a variety of park users year-round. Olympia will contribute more than \$13 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1445)

Bridgeport **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Beginning Renovation of Berryman Park

The City of Bridgeport will use this grant to complete the first phase of the renovation of Berryman Park by replacing outdated playground equipment, restrooms, a picnic shelter, and a sports court. The City also will build connecting pathways, add lighting, and improve parking. The existing amenities, particularly the restroom, picnic shelter, and play equipment, have exceeded their lifespan and need to be replaced for safety and functionality. The City will install a resilient ground surface at the playground; resurface and stripe the sports court for multiple sports including basketball, pickle ball, and tennis; and renovate or replace the fence. The new pathways will be accessible to people with disabilities and will connect each of the amenities and a new accessible

parking space. Finally, the City will install a new entry sign and an interpretative sign describing the history of the park and the military hardware that is a prominent feature of the park. Bridgeport will contribute \$289,754. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1563)

Seattle

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Improving Little Brook Park

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the 1-acre Little Brook Park to include a community garden, seating walls, a central lawn, picnic tables and grills, and a looped walking path—all interwoven under large trees with views of a stream. This community led project would improve this northeast Seattle park that is the only public green space in a high-density, diverse, low-income neighborhood. Separate projects will provide interpretive signs about stream water quality and complete the street frontage as a park extension. Seattle will contribute \$1.3 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1259)

Spokane Valley

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Continuing Development of Greenacres Community Park

The City of Spokane Valley will use this grant to continue development of Greenacres Community Park by adding a tennis court, six pickleball courts, two basketball courts, a backstop, a community garden, shade structures, and trees. The City also will expand the playground and splash pad, add 17 parking spaces, pave an existing perimeter path, and renovate the disc golf course to create a 3-hole introductory course with practice green. Spokane Valley will contribute more than \$1.5 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, cash, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1693)

Vancouver

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Buying Land for a Fenton Community Park

The Vancouver Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department will use this grant to buy 44 acres for a community park in east Vancouver, the most underserved community in the city. The site includes expansive open fields, a high-quality wooded wetland, meadows, Oregon white oaks (protected species), a fish-bearing stream, and abundant wildlife. The future development of the land might include wetland- and woodland-themed play structures, sports fields, picnic areas, abundant walking trails, environmental interpretive signs, and boardwalks and viewpoints into the wetlands. The creek, a tributary of Fifth Plain Creek, offers a potential destination for the regional trail

system. The land is adjacent to elementary and middle schools, which offers opportunities for expanded pedestrian paths, environmental education, and shared parking. Vancouver will contribute more than \$4.5 million in another grant, cash, and a donation of land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [Vancouver Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department](#) of this project. (22-1496)

Lakewood

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Continuing Development of Wards Lake Park

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to continue development of the 27-acre Wards Lake Park, which is a natural area park in a very diverse, low-income, and underserved area of the city. The City will build two, nature-based adventure playgrounds; a restroom; and trails and pathways to connect and expand access throughout the park. In addition, the City will separate a soon-to-be-built BMX bike track from walking trails and sensitive areas with fencing and other natural materials. The City also will open heavily vegetated areas to create safe lines of sight while preserving and enhancing important natural areas such as wetland buffers, old-growth forest, and oak prairie areas. Finally, the City will expand parking at the main entrance, extend sidewalks, and add a parking area and trailhead in the southern part of the park. The City will furnish the park with picnic shelters, tables, benches, bike racks, lights, and garbage cans, and wayfinding and interpretive signs. The work is intended to enhance underused and difficult to manage areas, remove and replace aging infrastructure, and add elements to make the park more inviting and accessible to all. Lakewood will contribute \$2 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, another grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1720)

Pierce County

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Developing Half Dollar Park

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to develop the 3.5-acre Half Dollar Park, which is partially forested and partially an open grass field in the South Hill community. The park is split by the Pipeline Trail corridor, which is a regional, paved, non-motorized commuter trail connecting Tacoma to South Hill. The County will build a parking area, a restroom, and a plaza on the south side of the Pipeline Trail and install benches and bicycle racks. On the north side of the Pipeline Trail, the County will build a nature play area, picnic and viewing area of Mount Rainier, a soft-surface bike skills course, and an interpretive loop trail. Pierce County will contribute more than \$1.4 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1303)

**Pierce County
Beginning Development of Orangegate Park****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to begin development of the 150-acre Orangegate Park, which now is a forest with informal trails in the Summit-Waller community at the intersection of 84th Street East and 46th Avenue East. A half-mile of the Pipeline Trail, which is a regional, paved, non-motorized commuter trail connecting Tacoma to South Hill, will cross through the park. The County will build a 97-space parking lot, a universally inclusive nature play area, picnic shelters, a restroom, a 5-acre enclosed dog park, trails, and signs. The County also will add a safe road crossing at 84th Street East with a trail connection south to the Pipeline Trail. The park will serve a variety of users, including pedestrians, dog walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Pierce County will contribute more than \$6.3 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, cash, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1309)

**Westport
Building a Skatepark and Pump Track****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The City of Westport will use this grant to develop a skatepark and pump track in the heart of town at Druzianich Park. This facility will be the first of its kind in the rural coastal community of Westport, filling a need for an outdoor space where people can enjoy activities such as skateboarding, rollerblading, biking, and scooters. The facility will be constructed of concrete for durability and low maintenance. Druzianich Park was selected as the location because it is on the Grays Harbor Transit line and near the local grocery store, library, Little League field. Westport will contribute \$243,508 in cash and donations of services and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1413)

**Olympia
Developing Kaiser Woods Park****Grant Requested: \$673,497**

The City of Olympia will use this grant to develop the 70-acre Kaiser Woods Park into a forested hiking and mountain biking park in southwest Olympia, west of Ken Lake. The City will build dedicated mountain bike trails, walking trails, a paved parking lot trailhead, and a paved access road. Olympia does not have any dedicated mountain bike trails in its park system. In addition, the City will buy 2.5 acres for a parking area and a primary access off a major street, Black Lake Boulevard. Currently the only access to the park is off Park Drive, a residential street. Olympia will contribute more than \$1.4 million in cash and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1543)

**Camas
Rejuvenating Crown Park****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The City of Camas will use this grant to begin renovating Crown Park, a 7.3-acre park in a residential neighborhood on the north side of downtown Camas. The City will build an interactive water play feature, inclusive play areas, a restroom, and pathways and install some furnishings. Donated to the city in 1934, Crown Park is an aging, developed park with mature fir trees, a picnic shelter, two play areas, a basketball half-court, two tennis courts, and Scout Hall. It is also the community's gathering space, especially for summer events such as concerts and movies. As a legacy park for the Camas community, the park is ready for rejuvenation. Camas will contribute more than \$2.2 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1468)

**Kent
Renovating Springwood Park****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The City of Kent will use this grant to redevelop the 10-acre Springwood Park on the southeast hill of Kent. This park was developed initially in 1992 by King County and transferred to Kent in 1996. The City will expand the children's play area and add walking paths, a community gathering space, a shelter, picnic tables, open lawns, barbecue grills, stormwater infrastructure, a sports court, and benches. Kent will contribute \$2.5 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1372)

**Othello
Adding a Spray Park and Renovating Trails in Kiwanis Park****Grant Requested: \$500,000**

Othello will use this grant to build a spray park, renovate walking trails, and add lighting in Kiwanis Park, one of only two active parks in the community of nearly 9,000 residents. The project's goal is to make this park, known for its family-oriented, informal recreation, an appealing, safe, accessible park that will be more useable now and into the future for all ages of users. This project also will meet the residents' desire for free, safe, healthy, youth-centric activities in a community, where kids are 39 percent of the population, the poverty rate is 27 percent, and 88 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. The spray park, which will be designed primarily for children 12 and younger, will be a welcome cooling center during Othello's hot summers. Installing park-wide lighting will improve security and address a significant graffiti problem in a park that has many trees and dark areas. Lighting also will extend the useable hours for park activities and facilities. The walking trails have deteriorated since they were built in the 1970s and are no longer accessible for anyone using a wheelchair, pushing a stroller, or riding a bike. The City will resurface the trails to restore connections that tie together

all park areas. Othello will contribute \$758,120 in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1642)

Wenatchee
Conserving Bighorn Ridge

Grant Requested: \$750,000

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy more than 134 acres, called Bighorn Ridge, to expand outdoor recreation access, preserve threatened habitats, and provide critical trail linkages to a growing and underserved part of the Wenatchee valley. With existing trails, natural attributes, and connection to other public properties, the site is prime for recreation and habitat purposes. Visitors of all ages can observe the unique flora and fauna on the existing, easy to traverse trails. The site will serve as a regional, year-round recreation destination for a variety of outdoor recreation and educational purposes ranging from snowshoeing, horseback riding, and hiking, to nature viewing and educational programs. Wenatchee will contribute \$755,000 in staff labor and donations of land or property interest, services, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1323)

Burlington
Continuing Development of Rotary Park's Inclusive Playground

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Burlington will use this grant to continue development of Rotary Park as the city's and Skagit County's first inclusive playground for people with disabilities. The City will build a restroom, innovative playground equipment, flooring that doesn't limit mobility devices, and thoughtful sensory integration. With an above average rate of disability, Burlington and the county have an extensive need for engaging people with disabilities. Primary recreational opportunities will be playground facilities designed for any child or adult to connect with themselves, their peers, nature, and others. Rotary Park is centrally located for many residents and walking distance from often used Skagit River Park. The inclusive playground will feature the current best practices for inclusive playground design and universal accessibility for all abilities and ages. Burlington will contribute \$705,000 in cash and donations of labor and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1315)

Lacey
Beginning Development of Greg Cuoio Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Lacey will use this grant to plan and begin development of 139 acres in Greg Cuoio Park, which is partially in the city and partially in Thurston County, between the intersections of Draham and Carpenter Roads to the south and Hawks Prairie and Carpenter Roads to the north. The City will develop safe entry off a busy county road, 50

parking stalls, about 2 miles of trails, 18 holes of disc golf, a park shelter, sitting and open play areas, and the first phase of a large all-access playground. The City also will add signs, a portable restroom enclosure, and maintenance and emergency access. The project's goal is to provide public access to outdoor recreation space with a focus on passive use and protecting the wetlands, sensitive habitat areas, and streams. Lacey will contribute more than \$5 million in a federal appropriation and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1298)

Lake Stevens **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Developing a Sports Field and Pickleball Courts in Frontier Heights Park

The City of Lake Stevens will use this grant to develop a multiuse, synthetic turf, athletic field; four pickleball courts; and parking in Frontier Heights Park. The park is in an underserved area next to an urban growth center. This project will provide a year-round field for various sports. Lake Stevens will contribute more than \$1.4 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, cash, and a donation of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1746)

Covington **Grant Requested: \$908,000**
Expanding SoCo Park

The City of Covington will use this grant to buy 1.7 acres to expand SoCo Park. The land is next to the park and in a high-demand area for commercially developable land. The City plans to use the land for open lawns, trails, pickleball courts, play spaces, park shelters, restrooms, and parking. The land also provides protection of environmentally sensitive areas associated with Jenkins Creek and will provide for a vital segment of the future Jenkins Creek trail that will run through the city connecting neighborhoods and commercial centers. Covington will contribute \$908,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1628)

Fife **Grant Requested: \$918,328**
Building a Splash Pad and Expanding Colburn Park

The City of Fife will use this grant to build a splash pad with 15-18 spray features and two restrooms for changing clothes in Colburn Park, which is outside of the Fife Aquatic Center. In addition, the City will buy land next to the park being sold by the Fife School District. The City will use the land for a play structure, picnic shelters, and parking in the future. Overall, the City wants to enhance this area to provide an even safer and more secure outdoor facility offering free and inclusive recreational opportunities for residents of Fife and the neighboring areas. Fife will contribute \$918,330 in another grant, cash,

and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1349)

Cathlamet
Renovating Cathlamet Skate Park

Grant Requested: \$95,404

The Town of Cathlamet will use this grant to renovate an 8,000-square-foot, above-ground skate park in Erickson Park. The Town will add skateboarding equipment, including half and quarter pipes, bank ramps, grind rails, and ledges. In 2004 and 2006, volunteers raised nearly \$31,500 to build the concrete slab and skating equipment next to Wahkiakum County High School and athletic fields, an area with limited outdoor recreational opportunities. This project will provide the community's youth and recreational users of all skill levels with a safe and user-friendly space for outdoor skateboarding and biking. Cathlamet will contribute \$10,601 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [more information and photographs](#) for of this project. (22-1540)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Improving First Creek Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Metro Parks Tacoma will use this grant to develop a fitness and gathering space at First Creek Community Park in Tacoma's Eastside neighborhood in Pierce County. The space will provide trailheads to the adjacent Pipeline Trail, which is a regional 5.5-mile multimodal trail to downtown Tacoma that will extend to Puyallup, and to the adjacent Swan Creek Park's hiking and mountain biking trails. Metro Parks Tacoma will continue partnering with Trust for Public Land to install fitness equipment for all ages and abilities, nature play elements for children, and seating and picnic tables for community gatherings. Metro Parks Tacoma also will remove invasive weeds that encroach the Pipeline Trail, install wayfinding signs and cycling support amenities, and add a pedestrian entry to Swan Creek Park. The community rarely uses these public spaces due to safety concerns. The project's goal is to create an open, inviting, multi-generational community space that expands access to existing public spaces and promotes greater physical activity. Tacoma Metropolitan Park District will contribute \$155,800 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1433)

Kent
Buying Land for a Trailhead at Mill Creek Canyon Park

Grant Requested: \$475,000

The City of Kent will use this grant to buy 2.25 acres for a trailhead park at the south end of Mill Creek Canyon Park. Buying the land fulfills a long-term goal of creating a pedestrian connection from downtown to the East Hill of Kent. Additionally, this location

provides an important anchor for the Mill Creek Canyon trail system. The City will buy the land, demolition a home and septic system, and grade the site for use as a public open space park. Kent will contribute \$591,200 in a Conservation Futures⁴ grant and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1362)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District **Grant Requested: \$250,000**
Building Pickleball Courts at the Sports Complex

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to design and build six pickleball courts with a paved walkway and storage building for court maintenance equipment at the Sports Complex. Two years ago, district staff were approached by a small group requesting to paint two pickleball courts in the Sports Complex parking lot. Since then, the district has been approached twice more to add more courts in the parking lot. The four courts painted there now have displaced needed parking. This project will provide a permanent place for pickleball participants and free up parking. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute \$252,000 in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1455)

Yakima **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Building a Pool in Martin Luther King Jr. Park

The Yakima Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a swimming pool, a zero-depth entry wading area, possible water slides, restrooms, showers, changing areas, and concessions in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, in east Yakima. The park once contained a pool but it was removed because of aging infrastructure. Yakima will contribute \$7.50 million in a state appropriation, cash, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1453)

Seattle **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Renovating Soundview Playfield

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate a grass playfield in the 10-acre Soundview Park in northwest Seattle. The City will install about 114,000 square feet of multi-purpose, all weather synthetic turf and field amenities including a lighting system, a looped walking path, bleachers, and seat walls. The City also will improve the stormwater, electrical, and irrigation systems. The project's goal is to upgrade a well-loved park's field that frequently is unplayable because of wet and

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.

muddy conditions. This project will enhance playability, improve safety, and create an accessible facility. This project is important to the community because youth participation in active sports is growing, while land for new sports facilities is limited. Game-quality fields and accessible facilities are particularly lacking in this area of Seattle, where the demand is high and most nearby playfields are grass. This project will support Little Leagues, youth baseball and softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and ultimate Frisbee. Seattle will contribute \$3.5 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1260)

University Place

Grant Requested: \$418,377

Improving Curran Apple Orchard Park

The City of University Place will use this grant to renovate Curran Apple Orchard, which is a unique park on a 70-year-old historic apple orchard with more than 200 apple trees. The City will build an apple-themed playground with a long seating wall for parents to watch their children play, a restroom, five parking spaces, an entry sign, and a concrete path that will wind through the trees and connect the parking areas to the playground, restroom, and stage area. This path will be imprinted with orchard-themed images, creating a scavenger hunt for kids travelling the path. The City will enhance a wetland by removing invasive species and replanting the area with native wetland plants. Interpretive signs will be placed along the walkway. The park hosts many events including a popular summer concert series but has no permanent restroom, a meager play area consisting of a small gravel area with two artificial rocks, and no walkways assessable to people with disabilities. The project will create opportunities for play and exercise and allow this park to be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. University Place will contribute \$428,377 in cash and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1725)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District

Grant Requested: \$215,000

Building an Outdoor Amphitheater in South Whidbey's Community Park

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to build an outdoor amphitheater to host a range of recreation activities and events in South Whidbey's Community Park. Theatrical and musical performances, poetry readings, and educational presentations are important recreational components of life on South Whidbey, and the Community Park does not have a facility well-suited to host these activities. The amphitheater will be built in an area of the park partially cleared of significant trees and with sloping terrain to accommodate a seating area. At the base of the slope, a partially sheltered stage will be built and electrical service will be routed to the stage to support

lighting and power for microphones, speakers, and other equipment for performances. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute \$281,000 in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, equipment, staff labor, and donations of services and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1447)

Yakima **Grant Requested: \$302,400**
Replacing a West Valley Community Park Pedestrian Bridge

The Yakima Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to replace an old wooded foot bridge with a steel pedestrian-only bridge across Wide Hollow Creek in West Valley Community Park. Yakima will contribute \$129,600. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1277)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District **Grant Requested: \$500,000**
Creating an Artificial Turf Field in the South Whidbey Sports Complex

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to design and build an artificial turf field, replacing a grass multi-sport field, in the South Whidbey Sports Complex on Whidbey Island. The district also will add field lighting, fencing, access for people with disabilities, storage, and other amenities needed to operate and maintain the field. This field would be the only artificial turf field on the south end of Whidbey Island and would extend the playable seasons to all year for soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and baseball. Additionally, lines for lacrosse and football also would be included on the field to allow for these sports. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute more than \$3 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, a private grant, a state appropriation, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1449)

Manson Parks and Recreation District **Grant Requested: \$574,550**
Buying Leffler Field

The Manson Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to buy the nearly 5-acre Leffler Field, private land that has served as a community space for more than 20 years. The purchase of the land preserves a beloved, much-used property, and ensures the expansion of public recreation in an underserved community. Undeveloped property of this size, within walking distance of downtown Manson, is scarce. Due to the resulting urgency, the Manson School District purchased the land to help preserve this critical piece of land until the District could get a grant. Manson's Chamber of Commerce actively fundraised alongside community members to support the acquisition. If not for the swift action of the school district, this property would now house commercial

buildings. Future improvements may include trails, a natural play area, a restroom, and an amphitheater. The Manson Park and Recreation District will contribute \$757,000 in a state appropriation and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1650)

**Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Building a Skate Park in Inchelium**

Grant Requested: \$360,000

The Colville Tribes will use this grant to build a 5,000-square-foot, concrete skate park for the community of Inchelium in Ferry County. This will be the first skate park on the Colville Reservation. The nearest skate park is more than 50 miles away, a journey that requires traveling over the highest pass in Washington State. Due to low income, lack of public transportation, and the rural setting makes traveling that distance not practical. The park will accommodate beginner, intermediate, and advanced skill levels of skate boarders, inline skaters, and riders of BMX bicycle and scooters. The park will be next to the site of the future Inchelium Wellness Center, and near the walking path and neighborhood close to the Inchelium School and current Community Center. This concrete skate park will enhance recreation opportunities in a small town with few other youth-focused outdoor recreation options. Colville Tribes will contribute \$40,000 in a tribal appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1625)

**Walla Walla
Building Inclusive Playground in Pioneer Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to build an all-inclusive playground at Pioneer Park for people with disabilities. The playground will feature many natural features along with elements that represent the community. The current playground is outdated and not accessible for people with disabilities. Pioneer Park is the crown jewel of Walla Walla's park system and is used heavily by the community. Walla Walla will contribute \$2 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, private donations, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1738)

**Chelan County
Buying Land for a Malaga Waterfront Park**

Grant Requested: \$917,153

The Chelan County Natural Resource Department will use this grant to help buy 30 acres of waterfront in Malaga for a future park. The future park will provide access to the Columbia River for both motorized and non-motorized boaters, field sports, wildlife viewing, trails, scenic vistas with benches, and family amenities such as picnic shelters and playgrounds. Despite being on the Columbia River, Malaga has no shoreline parks,

trails, or boating facilities and is the highest need community in Chelan County for shoreline access. Chelan County will contribute \$611,436 in a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1325)

Vader
Beginning Development of McMurphy Park

Grant Requested: \$283,000

The City of Vader will use this grant to begin developing McMurphy Park by installing a portable vault restroom, building a large pavilion to provide a covered area for events, adding gravel parking areas, updating signs, and installing a small playground swing set near picnic areas. This is the first phase of three phases. Currently, the 13-acre park is mostly undeveloped fields with a gravel road providing access to Olequa Creek. In the summer, the park sees high use as the creek and shaded areas give an escape from the heat. Future phases will add a bathroom, showers, an area for recreational vehicles with a playground, an amphitheater, and paved parking. Vader will contribute \$125,000 in cash and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1739)

Cathlamet
Developing Cathlamet Waterfront Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Town of Cathlamet will use this grant to restore and develop the last piece of town-owned waterfront on the Columbia River. The Town will expand an existing park on 2nd Street into a 7-acre park. The Town will renovate existing circular paths, enhance the natural wetlands by removing invasive species and replanting native shrubs, build a restroom and amphitheater, develop community flex space, and improve connections from the park to adjacent amenities that will encourage tourism and economic growth. Located in an area with limited outdoor recreational space, the park was designed to minimize negative impacts on the landscape and community, emphasize the natural features of the site, reduce ongoing maintenance, and maintain a realistic budget. Cathlamet will contribute \$183,480 in a local appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1276)

Royal City
Expanding Royal City Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Royal City will use this grant to expand the only public park in the city. The City will expand the current 1.8-acre park by developing 3.5 acres east of the existing park. The City will build up to eight soccer fields and provide green space, pathways, site furnishings, and other recreational opportunities for the community. The overall goal is to expand both active and passive recreation opportunities for the public while

beautifying the area with park space. Royal City will contribute \$420,430 in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1324)

Mason County

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building a Multi-Purpose Field in Sandhill Park

Mason County will use this grant to design and build a multi-purpose field, the first and only rectangular field in the county's inventory. Located in Sandhill Park, outside Belfair, the field will support youth soccer, football, and lacrosse. The illuminated, synthetic turf field will be built to the north of the existing ball fields. The County also will install fencing, netting to contain balls, a 63-stall paved parking lot, a vault toilet, a level spectator area, and landscaping with native shrubs and wildflowers to support native wildlife and pollinators. Mason County will contribute more than \$4.6 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1410)

Port Townsend

Grant Requested: \$156,366

Redeveloping Kah Tai Lagoon Park

The City of Port Townsend will use this grant to redevelop Kah Tai Lagoon Park, a much-loved nature park in the heart of the city. The City will renovate the restrooms and a picnic shelter, fill potholes in the trails and the parking lot, and add infrastructure for a park host program to add presence in the park. Kah Tai Lagoon is a nature park on the Olympic Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail and is popular with birders who also form a dedicated volunteer group. Kah Tai's southern uplands have walking and bicycle trails that are heavily used as the park provides access between east and west Port Townsend. The addition of the park host will address vandalism and provide a human presence in the park. Filling pothole will enhance accessibility for visitor using wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers. Port Townsend will contribute \$67,014 in cash and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1620)

Hoquiam

Grant Requested: \$329,000

Adding Pickleball Courts and Parking in John Gable Park

The City of Hoquiam will use this grant to build a pickle ball court and pave a parking lot in John Gable Park. In addition, the City will replace the fast-pitch bleachers and add benches and picnic areas. This will complement previous updates to the park, which included adding a skate park and restrooms. The park is used for fast-pitch games by Hoquiam High School and the Hoquiam Fastpitch Youth Association, and by visitors traveling to and from the beaches throughout the spring and summer. Paving the

parking lot will eliminate maintenance of the current dirt and gravel lot and reduce dust pollution. Hoquiam will contribute \$141,000 in another grant, equipment, and staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1638)

La Center
Updating and Expanding the Holley Park Playground

Grant Requested: \$383,036

The City of La Center will use this grant to replace an aging, unsafe, and outdated playground in Holley Park. The City will replace the play structure for ages 2-5 and expand the playground by adding a play structure for ages 5-12. In addition, the City will install benches for parents watching their kids, resurface the playground with recycled materials, renovate restrooms, add sidewalks and pathways, add shade by planting native trees, reconfigure landscape irrigation, and add recycling stations, picnic tables, and lighting. La Center will contribute \$383,036 in a federal grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [more information and photographs](#) for of this project. (22-1645)

Port of Allyn
Developing Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park

Grant Requested: \$650,000

The Port of Allyn, in partnership with the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, will use this grant to buy nearly an 1 acre and develop the 5-acre Sweetwater Creek Waterwheel Park. The Port will build a viewing platform, a pier, loop trails with lights, a picnic shelter, a nature-themed playground, restrooms powered by solar panels, and 13 parking stalls. The Port also will expand a pond to accommodate water activities and fishing, improve landscaping and habitat, and erect botanical markers, signs, and interpretive displays. Volunteers will restore the historic waterwheel that is a feature of the park. The Port used a previous grant to buy 5 acres in north Mason County, near Belfair, for the park. The trail will connect to Hood Canal trail systems including the adjacent Theler Trail. The Port of Allyn will contribute more than \$1.1 million in a local grant, another grant, and donations of labor, land or property interest, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1682)

Chewelah
Improving Chewelah City Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Chewelah will use this grant to improve the city park by completing Zone A of the Chewelah Waking Trail and installing a splash pad in the southeast corner of the park off Lincoln Avenue. Chewelah will contribute \$295,000 in a federal appropriation

and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1740)

Seattle
Renovating the Colman Pool Bathhouse

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to upgrade the bathhouse and facilities at Colman Pool in Lincoln Park. Originally built in 1941, Colman Pool is one of only two public outdoor pools in Seattle and the only public saltwater pool in King County. The pool is regularly used for practice by swim teams and recreational lap swimmers. The locker rooms remain largely unchanged since they were installed and prevent a barrier to people with disabilities. Many of the cast-iron pipes and components of the sand filter system that draws water from Puget Sound for swimming also are original. The City will renovate the locker rooms to increase access for people of all abilities, provide restrooms and changing areas (none currently exist), improve the caretaker residence, and provide several other improvements throughout the bathhouse and on the pool deck to increase access to all users. The City also will update the filter equipment and reinforce the bathhouse walls to withstand an earthquake. Seattle will contribute more than \$3.9 million in a grant from the state Youth Athletic Facilities program, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1251)

Mason County
Improving Union Park

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Mason County will use this grant to build a new shelter, pickleball and half basketball courts, off-leash dog park, and pathways in Union Park. The nearly 2-acre park is set in a hillside area serving the Union community and is the only public neighborhood park in the area. Most of the features were installed 25 years ago and many are outdated, worn, and underused. The existing T-ball field, which is not used, will be removed to make way for a sport court, dog park, and large, multiuse shelter over a pickleball court. The County also will pave the parking lot, add a restroom, and make the walkways accessible to people with disabilities. Accessible facilities are important to this community where the number of people with disabilities exceeds the state average. The existing playground and small picnic shelter will remain. Mason County will contribute \$869,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1388)

Hoquiam
Replacing Lights at the Historic Olympic Stadium Field

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Hoquiam will use this grant to replace the Olympic Stadium field lighting, which is about 40 years old, failing, and inefficient. On the National Register of Historic Places, Olympic Stadium was opened in 1938. This 9,000-seat, all wood stadium is the last remaining in the United States. The current lights cost about \$100 an hour to use. The new LED (light-emitting diodes) lights will reduce the costs to use the lights for night games, practices, or other recreational events, and will increase dramatically recreational use. Olympic Stadium hosts Hoquiam High School football, baseball, soccer, and Grays Harbor College baseball games, along with community events such as the annual Loggers Play Day and other festivals. Hoquiam will contribute \$125,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1621)

Washougal
Building the Washougal Civic Recreation Complex

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The City of Washougal, in partnership with the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, will use this grant to build an outdoor seating area, off-leash dog park, pocket park, and splash pad in the heart of the city's revitalizing downtown. The new recreation complex will be built next to the Washougal Community Center and the site for the planned Washougal Branch of the library along Durgan Street and D Street. By developing these sites, the City will provide much-needed green space and recreational opportunities to an underserved community. Washougal will contribute more than \$3.6 million in cash, staff labor, and donated services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1432)

Sumner
Beginning Development of a New Park

Grant Requested: \$434,085

The City of Sumner will use this grant to buy a quarter-acre to add to planned city park and begin construction of the park. The City will create an entrance and parking, install a portable restroom, and build 0.3-mile, soft surface trail with exercise equipment. Eventually, the 4.2-acre park will include gathering spaces, a playground, restrooms, a multipurpose court, open lawn, public art, and wetland enhancements. The park is in a rapidly developing corner of Sumner that includes low-income, multifamily residential units. Sumner will contribute \$434,085 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1297)

Monroe
Beginning Development of North Hill Area Park**Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The City of Monroe will use this grant to finalize the design and develop 3 acres of the 5-acre North Hill Area Park, which is at 134th Street Southeast and 191st Avenue Southeast. The City will create 1 acre of open space play areas, install utilities, create hard-surface trails, create a 10-stall parking lot, and build a viewing plaza and picnic shelter. There are limited recreation sites in the North Hill area of the city, requiring most residents to drive to reach such opportunities. The City will keep all mature trees at the park and install a raingarden with native vegetation to handle stormwater from the parking lot. The new park will capitalize on views of the Olympic Mountains, Mount Rainier, and Skykomish Pass and include interpretive signs identifying them. Monroe will contribute more than \$4.5 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1457)

Covington
Buying Land for an East Covington Park**Grant Requested: \$154,575**

The City of Covington will use this grant to buy 5.28 acres for a neighborhood park in an unserved area of the city. ECo Park (short for East Covington Park) eventually will include open lawns, trails, play spaces, park shelters, restrooms, and parking. The park also will protect environmentally sensitive areas, which includes wetlands and large trees, and provide a vital segment of the future Pipe Lake Trail that will connect neighborhoods, commercial areas, and the regional trail system. Covington will contribute \$154,576. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1627)

Hoquiam
Continuing Development of Old Cannery Park**Grant Requested: \$400,000**

The City of Hoquiam will use this grant to continue improvements to Waterfront Park by stabilizing and preserving the shoreline, installing a restroom, and building walkways connecting the shelter and restrooms to the parking lot. In the previous phase, the City did utility work and paving, created a parking lot, and installed seating and a picnic shelter donated and built by the Lions Club. Hoquiam will contribute \$100,000 in another grant, equipment, and staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1670)

**Yakima County Flood Control Zone District
Buying Land for Naches Cowiche Confluence Park**

Grant Requested: \$218,350

The Yakima County Flood Control Zone District will use this grant to buy nearly 48 acres for Naches Cowiche Confluence Park. The new park will provide open space, shoreline access, and boat access to a larger 23-mile river system. The land is next to 72 acres owned by the district and 50 acres owned by the City of Yakima, which were bought for floodplain restoration, habitat enhancement, and utilities, creating a 163-acre park in the underserved, lower income areas of north and east Yakima. Two separate projects are restoring floodplain and Naches River habitats and the lower Cowiche Creek on the property. Yakima County will contribute \$218,350 in donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1736)

**King County
Building the Rock Creek Horse Park**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The King County Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to develop a new horse park in the Danville-Georgetown Open Space near Maple Valley. The horse park will include a large arena; a small, covered arena; horse trailer parking; conditioning and cart track; restroom; a show and event administration building; and a storage building. King County will contribute more than \$4.7 million in a grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a local grant, and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1248)

**Si View Metro Park District
Building the South Fork Landing Adventure Play Area and Trail**

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Si View Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to design and develop a new community park at South Fork Landing, a public open space near the Interstate 90 Exit 32, jointly owned by the district and the City of North Bend. The district will build an adventure play area; up to 4 miles of gravel, multiuse loop trails meandering through the park; and a 30-stall parking lot. The district also will remove storage structures to realign the park entrance to the parking lot. The park is in an area identified as a park desert that is experiencing rapid growth, with nearly 500 residential housing units being built within 1 mile. The Si View Metro Park District will contribute more than \$1.7 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1635)

**Chehalis
Creating Parking for Recreation Park****Grant Requested: \$295,000**

The City of Chehalis will use this grant to build a 56-stall parking lot at Recreation Park. Parking deficiencies are a major safety concern. Park users are parking in unsafe locations and unapproved business parking lots and children run between parked cars when crossing a busy roadway parallel to the park. The City would build the parking lot with sidewalks, strip the roadway crosswalk, and add lighting and landscaping. This is the third phase of a renovation project that is creating state-of-the-art facilities that include an outdoor aquatics center, a 4-field softball and baseball complex, and a large inclusive playground—the success of which requires additional parking. Chehalis will contribute \$295,000 in a federal appropriation and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1715)

**McCleary
Buying Simpson Land for a Park****Grant Requested: \$890,369**

The City of McCleary will use this grant to buy 135 acres for a park. The land will provide space for a wide variety of future walking trails, educational trails, workout trails, bicycle trails, additional park space, and athletic fields. McCleary will contribute \$99,200 in cash and staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1701)

**La Conner
Building Maple Park****Grant Requested: \$269,662**

The Town of La Conner will use this grant to develop Maple Park, which is on Maple Avenue, as a park catering to the needs of families with young children. The Town will build play structures, a tricycle track, seating areas and picnic tables, and a parking lot. The park will not only have an active play area, but open space with views of neighboring farm fields. La Conner will contribute \$269,663 in cash and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1727)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation
Account: State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Dan Haws, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Ten project proposals in the State Lands Development and Renovation category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, the technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-19

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Lands Development and Renovation category provides funds for projects that involve development and renovation of public access facilities on existing state recreation lands. Typical facilities include campsites, fishing piers, interpretive trails, boating access, picnic sites, and wildlife viewing blinds.

The State Lands Development and Renovation category receives ten percent or \$3 million (whichever is less) of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Program Summary

There were no changes to the State Lands Development and Renovation Category this year. A summary of the State lands Development category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Natural Resources • Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Type	Development and renovation
Funding Limits	Minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$325,000 per project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility • Multi-site projects allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elements must be the same at each site (fishing docks, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk) ○ Sites limited to no more than two adjacent counties ○ Elements must meet capital project criteria ○ No more than \$100,000 per site ○ No more than five sites per project • Trail related projects must meet the criteria for the WWRP Trails category

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Ten State Lands Development and Renovation category projects, requesting approximately \$3 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP State Lands Development Advisory Committee between July 28 and August 24, 2022, through a written evaluation process. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to outdoor recreation. The following members participated this year:

Advisory Committee Members	Representing
Kurt Danison, Okanogan	Citizen
Bill Grimes, Spokane	Citizen
Erin Komo, Mill Creek	Citizen
Amanda Tainio, Spokane Valley	Citizen
Mary Kay Voytilla, Seattle	Citizen
Michael Aronowitz, Seattle City Light	Local Agency
Dave Erickson, City of Wenatchee	Local Agency
Angie Feser, City of Edmonds	Local Agency
Shane Belson, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Stephanie Margheim, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Laura Moxham, State Parks and Recreation Commission	State Agency

Using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), the team of ten evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the WWRP State Lands Development Advisory Committee on July 28, at which an overview of the evaluation criteria and training on using the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module was provided.

Advisory committee members participated in a post evaluation meeting on August 31, 2022. The committee debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the process was organized and efficient. They received the materials needed, felt using the online tools made the job easier, and were satisfied with the resulting ranked list.

Advisors discussed the differences between projects in western Washington and eastern Washington, given that western Washington projects scored higher. Committee members believe the key factors are higher scores on the *Public Benefit and Project Support* criterion and whether the project is located near an urban area, which makes it easier to score higher on the *Public Need* criterion. While this appears to be

disadvantageous to east side projects, the advisors did not recommend changes to the evaluation criteria.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for State Lands Development and Renovation projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents, attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, and its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* via Resolution #2022-19.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-19, including *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects
- C. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

- D. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. State Lands Development and Renovation Project Descriptions, 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-19
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, ten State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all ten State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Outdoor Recreation Account*, and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and local and state agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: WWRP–State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution 2022-19

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	
1	53.45	22-1559 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	North Bend Community Connection	\$325,000	\$874,999	\$1,199,999	
2	52.36	22-1348 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	West Fork Teanaway Trailhead	\$305,138	\$81,500	\$386,638	
3	51.36	22-1708 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Green Lake Access Area Campground Improvements	\$325,000		\$325,000	
4	50.00	22-1549 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Reiter Foothills Trailhead Development	\$325,000	\$1,488,000	\$1,813,000	
5	49.45	22-1474 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Mattoon Lake Access Area Redevelopment	\$325,000		\$325,000	
6	49.36	22-1286 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	North Fork Nooksack River Access	\$312,000	\$110,000	\$422,000	
7	47.09	22-1436 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Nemah Tidelands Entrance Development	\$325,000		\$325,000	
8	46.09	22-1691 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Roses Lake Access Area Redevelopment Phase 3	\$325,000		\$325,000	
9	39.00	22-1784 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Access Points	\$153,067		\$153,067	
10	34.45	22-1440 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Campgrounds	\$292,950		\$292,950	
Project type: D=development					Total	\$3,013,155	\$2,554,499	\$5,567,654

State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects



State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands.¹

State Lands Development and Renovation Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	Development and Renovation	20	State
Advisory Committee	2	Site Suitability and Design	Development and Renovation	15	Technical
Advisory Committee	3	Sustainability	Development and Renovation	5	State
Advisory Committee	4	Diversity and Compatibility	Development and Renovation	10	State
Advisory Committee	5	Performance Measure	Development and Renovation	5	State
Advisory Committee	6	Public Benefit	Development and Renovation	5	State
RCO Staff	7	Population Proximity	Development and Renovation	1	State
Total Points Possible: 61					

* Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

Scoring Criteria, State Lands Development and Renovation Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need**

Considering the availability and use of existing facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?

2. **Site Suitability and Design**

Does the project demonstrate good design criteria? Does it make the best use of the site?

3. **Sustainability**

Resolution 2020-06

Please discuss how your project's location or design supports your organization's sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan.

4. **Diversity of and Compatibility of Recreational Uses**

To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible recreational uses?

5. **Outcome-Focused Performance Measures**

To what extent does the project result in measurable progress toward goals and objectives for the recreation or access area?

6. **Public Benefit and Project Support**

To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the community impacted as a result of this development or renovation?

Scored by RCO Staff

7. **Proximity to Human Populations**

RCW 79A.25.250

Is the project in a populated area?

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need 0-20	2. Site Suitability and Design 0-15	3. Sustainability 0-5	4. Diversity and Compatibility 0-10	5. Outcome-Focused Performance Measure 0-5	6. Public Benefit and Project Support 0-5	7. Population Proximity 0-1	Total
1	22-1559D	North Bend Community Connection	18.18	13.09	4.09	8.18	4.09	4.82	1.00	53.45
2	22-1348D	West Fork Teanaway Trailhead	18.18	12.82	3.82	9.09	3.73	4.73	0.00	52.36
3	22-1708D	Green Lake Access Area Campground Improvements	17.45	13.64	3.91	8.36	3.91	4.09	0.00	51.36
4	22-1549D	Reiter Foothills Trailhead Development	17.45	11.73	3.91	7.82	3.45	4.64	1.00	50.00
5	22-1474D	Mattoon Lake Access Area Redevelopment	17.82	13.09	4.09	6.73	3.73	4.00	0.00	49.45
6	22-1286D	North Fork Nooksack River Access	17.82	12.82	3.64	6.73	3.64	4.73	0.00	49.36
7	22-1436D	Nemah Tidelands Entrance Development	17.09	12.82	3.91	6.00	3.09	4.18	0.00	47.09

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Site Suitability and Design	3. Sustainability	4. Diversity and Compatibility	5. Outcome-Focused Performance Measure	6. Public Benefit and Project Support	7. Population Proximity	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-5	0-1	
8	22-1691D	Roses Lake Access Area Redevelopment Phase 3	14.91	13.64	3.73	6.36	3.55	3.91	0.00	46.09
9	22-1784D	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Access Points	14.18	9.27	3.18	7.09	2.73	2.55	0.00	39.00
10	22-1440D	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area Campgrounds	10.91	8.73	3.00	6.91	2.55	2.36	0.00	34.45

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-6; RCO staff score Question 7.

Project type: D=development

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Washington Department of Natural Resources Building Trails Connecting to North Bend

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to design and build 4 miles of trail and 14 small trail bridges that will connect North Bend to the Raging State Forest Trail system in King County. The new trail will link Tennant Trailhead Park to Snoqualmie Point Park and the Raging River State Forest Trail system. The new trail also will connect North Bend to eight trail systems with more than 140 combined trail miles. Additionally, the new trail is the highest priority of five missing links in the Evergreenway Route, a regionally significant trail that will eventually connect to the 3,700-mile Great American Rail Trail. This North Bend connection also eventually will link to Issaquah and Preston. The trails are used for mountain biking, gravel biking, trail running, and walking. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$874,999 in a local grant, a state appropriation, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1559)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Building a West Fork Teanaway Trailhead

Grant Requested: \$305,138

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to build a trailhead in the Teanaway Community Forest, on the north side of the West Fork Teanaway Road, next to the West Fork trail system. The department will build a 65-stall parking lot, a restroom, and two informational kiosks. This new trailhead will serve non-motorized users for both summer and winter recreation providing access to more than 60 miles of trail. The trails are used by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$81,500 in a state appropriation, staff labor, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1348)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Expanding Camping Sites in the Green Lake Access Area Campground

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to expand the number of camping sites from 4 up to 12 in the Green Lake campground and water access area in Okanogan County. The department will add steel fire rings and curbed and graveled surfaces making identifying campsites easy for users. In addition, the department will improve parking and access to the lake. The department will make walking from the campground to the shore less steep, address erosion, and install a vault toilet and

information kiosk. Located less than 15 minutes from Omak and Okanogan, the campground is a popular destination for fishing, swimming, and general water access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1708)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Building a Trailhead in Reiter Foothills State Forest

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to build a trailhead in Reiter Foothills State Forest, between the Gold Bar and Index. The trailhead will provide access to more than 33 miles of off-road vehicle, hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking trails. The trailhead will include 70 parking stalls, 2 informational kiosks, restrooms, and secured stormwater detention ponds. Reiter Foothills Forest was closed in 2009 due to overuse that resulted in environmental damage and public safety issues. Since then, the department has built a safe and sustainable trail system and has reopened the forest. The parking areas built to accommodate visitors during trail construction often are overcrowded and are not adequate for the large off-road vehicle events. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute more than \$1.4 million in a federal grant, a grant from the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities program, and a state appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1549)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Redeveloping the Mattoon Lake Access Area

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to redevelop the Mattoon Lake Water Access Site in Ellensburg. Located next to Interstate 90 in Kittitas County, the site is easy to get to and very popular to the local community. The site has a parking lot, two vault toilets, a failing fishing dock, and a boat launch. The department will install a larger fishing float, replace one of the toilets and add access for people with disabilities, replace the entrance sign, and upgrade the parking area and line it with rocks to reduce damage to adjacent habitat. In a future, second phase of work, the department will extend the fishing dock, add fishing platforms around the lake, replace the other toilet, and improve the user-developed path around the lake. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1474)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Building Access to the North Fork Nooksack River

Grant Requested: \$312,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to develop a day-use area to provide access to the North Fork Nooksack River in Whatcom County. The department will build a parking lot, restroom, interpretative trails, and trails to the river for hand-

launching boats, and install picnic tables and a kiosk. Additionally, the department will remove invasive plants along the river to restore the channel migration area and replant with native plants. This site is a key put-in and take-out location for a popular, half-day, kayaking and rafting run. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$110,000 in a state appropriation, staff labor, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1286)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Developing Access to the Nemah Tidelands**

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build an access area to the Nemah tidelands, which are about 20 miles south of Raymond on the eastern shore of Willapa Bay, for the public to harvest clams and oysters. The department will pave a 16-stall parking area, install a vault toilet, pave a trail from the cliff to the beach, and build a platform from which people with disabilities can harvest of shellfish. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1436)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Continuing Redevelopment of the Roses Lake Access Area**

Grant Requested: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to install a fishing float and gangway at Roses Lake, near Manson in Chelan County. The float will expand the limited shoreline access for anglers, wildlife watchers, people with disabilities, the elderly, and users without access to boats. The department will eliminate unsafe, makeshift trails that are hazardous for travel and native shore grasses, willow, and cattail. Mallards and other waterfowl use cattail stands yearly for raising their young. This is the final critical piece remaining in the redevelopment of this public access site. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1691)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Installing Bathrooms in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area**

Grant Requested: \$153,067

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to install vault toilets at three access points in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area in Asotin County. The department will install toilets and a kiosk at the North Fork Asotin Creek Trailhead and vault toilets at the North/South Fork Asotin Creek Junction and the Smoothing Iron parking area. Asotin Creek and its tributaries are important for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon species and bull trout, and the surrounding wildlife area is home to elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1784)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Building Campsites in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area**

Grant Requested: \$292,950

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build two primitive camping areas and install vault toilets in the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area in Asotin County. The department will build parking pads and install fire rings, vault toilets, and kiosks in the Foredyce and Cabin Gulch campgrounds. The work will create designated places to camp and provide restrooms to consolidate the human impacts and reduce the amount of trash and human waste left on the land. Asotin Creek and its tributaries are important for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon species and bull trout, and the surrounding wildlife area is home to elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1440)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: State Parks Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Fourteen project proposals in the State Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-20

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Parks category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for acquiring and developing active and passive outdoor recreation areas. Facilities may include campgrounds, fishing sites, picnic areas, swim beaches, trails, and support amenities including administrative and maintenance structures.

The State Parks category receives 30 percent of the funds in the WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used

for acquisition.¹ Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

There were changes to the State Parks category, which included minor modifications or clarifications to the evaluation criteria to reflect current State Parks’ planning documents and priorities.

A summary of this WWRP category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicant	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development • Combination projects (acquisition and development) • Renovation is not eligible
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limits
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None required
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Administrative offices, storage buildings, shops, and residences are eligible if they are essential to the operation and maintenance of the assisted site.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fourteen State Parks category projects, requesting over \$20.1 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP State Parks Advisory Committee at an online meeting on August 11, 2022. As shown in the following table, the advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, included six State Parks staff, three individuals representing local government, and three citizen volunteers. The members have expertise and experience in planning, land use issues, parks and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
Thomas Bradley, Spokane	Citizen
Jayme Jonas, Sammamish	Citizen

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050(2)(a) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-52

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
Thomas Bradley, Spokane	Citizen
Janice Sears, Seattle	Citizen
Kevin Goodrich, City of Westport	Local Agency
Carolyn Hope, City of Burien	Local Agency
Ken Wilkinson, City of Yakima	Local Agency
Ken Graham, Olympia	State Parks
Sahn Ho, Olympia	State Parks
Ryan Karlson, Olympia	State Parks
Janet Shonk, Olympia	State Parks
Todd Tatum, Olympia	State Parks
Sam Wotipka, Olympia	State Parks

Advisory committee members reviewed the proposals and scored the projects using board-adopted evaluation criteria. At the July 2022 State Parks Commission meeting, the Commission scored the board-adopted evaluation criterion that addresses how well a project implements the Commission’s priorities. The Commission’s score was combined with the advisory committee’s scores to create a ranked list for board consideration. The results are shown in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of the Evaluation Process and Criteria

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 11 and during the post evaluation meeting on August 19, State Parks Advisory Committee members provided feedback on the review and evaluation process. Committee members spoke about the value of technical review and expressed appreciation to State Parks staff for using the feedback to improve their project proposals.

While the evaluation criteria work well and the revisions made this year helped, some thought that the *Partnerships or Match* criterion overlaps too much with *Project Support*. It would help if the criteria were more distinct.

Overall, the advisory committee was satisfied with the process and results.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for State Parks category projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-20.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-20, including Table 1 – *WWRP State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for State Parks Category Projects
- C. State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. State Parks Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-20
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 14 State Parks category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all 14 projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these projects were evaluated by a team comprised of State Parks staff, local agency representatives, and citizen volunteers using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition and development of properties for public outdoor recreation, thereby supporting priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor this ranked list of State Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Herzog

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: WWRP – State Parks Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution 2022-20

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	70.68	22-1480 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Palouse to Cascades Trail Malden to Kenova	\$2,018,261	\$1,020,063	\$3,038,324
2	70.01	22-1530 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Nisqually State Park Mashel River Overlook and Trail	\$2,999,000		\$2,999,000
3	69.42	22-1569 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge Phase 2	\$1,687,770		\$1,687,770
4	68.94	22-1438 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
5	67.15	22-1597 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Swale Creek Klickitat Trail	\$1,323,060		\$1,323,060
6	66.67	22-1606 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Willapa Hills Trail Pacific County Surfacing	\$2,663,767		\$2,663,767
7	65.58	22-1607 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Cape Disappointment Three Waters Trail	\$387,474	\$27,000	\$414,474
8	64.40	22-1529 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Saint Edward State Park Arrowhead Property	\$1,669,100	\$250,000	\$1,919,100
9	62.92	22-1677 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside State Park Little Spokane River Robinson Property	\$1,464,100		\$1,464,100
10	60.80	22-1564 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Fort Casey Admiralty Head Lighthouse Americans with Disabilities Act and Interpretation	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
11	59.32	22-1679 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside Bowl and Pitcher Cabins Phase 2	\$648,000		\$648,000
12	59.10	22-1605 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Willapa Hills State Park Trail South Bend Trailhead	\$633,960		\$633,960

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
13	58.11	22-1723 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Hoko River State Park Schultz Property	\$1,036,711		\$1,036,711
14	50.27	22-1619 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Alta Lake Acquisition and Trail	\$637,350		\$637,350
Total					\$20,168,553	\$1,297,063	\$21,465,616

Project type: A=acquisition, D=development

State Map for State Parks Category Projects



State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for acquisition and/or development of state parks.²

State Parks Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	2	Project Significance	All	15	Agency
Advisory Committee	3	Acquisition Priority	Acquisition	10	State
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	10	Technical
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Resource Stewardship	All	10	State
Advisory Committee	6	Expansion/ Phased Project	All	15	State
Advisory Committee	7	Project Support	All	10	Agency
Advisory Committee	8	Partnership or Match	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	9	Readiness to Proceed	All	10	Agency
State Parks Commission	10	Commission Priorities	All	6	Agency
RCO Staff	11	Proximity to People	All	1.5	State
RCO Staff	12	County Population Density	All	1.5	State
Total Points Possible=89					

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

*Focus–Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State–those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Agency–those that meet agency needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in the State Parks and Recreation Commission’s plans)
- Technical–those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, State Parks Category

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Public Need.** What is the need for the proposed project? Consider whether the project is cited in an agency, regional, or local plan.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

2. **Project Significance.** Describe how this project supports one or more of the following goals of State Parks' Statewide Acquisition and Development Strategy

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

3. **Acquisition Priority.** Describe why it is important to acquire the property now. (Acquisition/Combination only)

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

4. **Project Design.** Is the project well designed? Describe your project in detail. (Development/Combination only)

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

5. **Resource Stewardship.** What techniques or resources are proposed to ensure the project will result in a quality, sustainable, recreational, heritage preservation, or educational opportunity, while protecting the integrity of the ecological resources? Describe how the project will protect and/or enhance natural and cultural resources.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

6. **Expansion/Phased Project.** Does this project implement an important phase of a previous project, represent an important first phase, or expand or improve an existing site?

Revised April 2016, Resolution 2016-20

7. **Project Support.** What statewide community and user groups were consulted and what support has been demonstrated for this project? How has your organization informed and engaged people about the project including those whose interests have been historically marginalized or excluded?

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

8. **Partnerships or Match.** Describe how this project supports strategic partnerships or leverages secured matching funds.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

9. **Readiness to Proceed.** Describe the project's timeline. Is the project ready to proceed?

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

Scored by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

10. **Commission's Priority.** How well does this project implement the commission's priorities?

Revised April 2016, Resolution 2016-20

Scored by RCO Staff

11. **Proximity to People.** Is this project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?

RCW 79A.25.250. Revised November 2007, Resolution 2007-26.

12. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

RCW 79A.25.250. . Revised November 2007, Resolution 2007-26.

State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Significance	3. Acquisition Priority	4. Project Design	5. Resource Stewardship	6. Expansion / Phased	7. Project Support	8. Partnership or Match	9. Readiness to Proceed	10. Commission Priorities	11. Population Proximity	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-5	0-15	0-10	0-10	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-6	0-1	0-1	
1	22-1480D	Palouse to Cascades Trail Malden to Kenova	4.56	13.33		8.22	6.44	12.33	8.89	4.89	6.44	5.57	0.00	0.00	70.68
2	22-1530D	Nisqually State Park Mashel River Overlook and Trail	4.00	12.67		8.00	7.11	12.67	8.44	3.56	7.78	4.29	0.00	1.50	70.01
3	22-1569A	Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge Phase 2	4.00	12.00	8.89		8.00	12.67	7.56	3.00	6.67	5.14	0.00	1.50	69.42
4	22-1438A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	4.22	12.33	8.89		7.11	12.67	6.89	2.67	6.67	6.00	0.00	1.50	68.94
5	22-1597A	Swale Creek Klickitat Trail	3.78	13.00	7.56		9.11	11.00	8.44	3.78	5.78	4.71	0.00	0.00	67.15
6	22-1606	Willapa Hills Trail Pacific County Surfacing	3.78	13.00		9.11	6.67	12.67	8.00	2.67	7.78	3.00	0.00	0.00	66.67
7	22-1607D	Cape Disappointment	4.11	13.67		8.00	7.11	12.67	7.33	3.22	7.33	2.14	0.00	0.00	65.58

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Significance	3. Acquisition Priority	4. Project Design	5. Resource Stewardship	6. Expansion / Phased	7. Project Support	8. Partnership or Match	9. Readiness to Proceed	10. Commission Priorities	11. Population Proximity	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-5	0-15	0-10	0-10	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-6	0-1	0-1	
		Three Waters Trail													
8	22-1529A	Saint Edward State Park Arrowhead Property	3.67	11.33	7.56		8.00	10.67	8.67	4.00	6.22	1.29	1.50	1.50	64.40
9	22-1677A	Riverside State Park Little Spokane River Robinson Property	3.89	12.00	7.78		7.33	10.67	6.44	3.22	6.22	3.86	0.00	1.50	62.92
10	22-1564D	Fort Casey Admiralty Head Lighthouse Americans with Disabilities Act and Interpretation	3.89	12.67		8.44	6.89	11.00	7.11	2.67	5.78	0.86	0.00	1.50	60.80
11	22-1679D	Riverside Bowl and Pitcher Cabins Phase 2	3.44	10.33		8.44	5.56	11.00	6.00	2.00	9.11	0.43	1.50	1.50	59.32
12	22-1605A	Willapa Hills State Park Trail South Bend Trailhead	3.89	13.00	7.11		5.78	10.67	6.89	3.00	5.33	3.43	0.00	0.00	59.10

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Significance	3. Acquisition Priority	4. Project Design	5. Resource Stewardship	6. Expansion / Phased	7. Project Support	8. Partnership or Match	9. Readiness to Proceed	10. Commission Priorities	11. Population Proximity	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-5	0-15	0-10	0-10	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-6	0-1	0-1	
13	22-1723A	Hoko River State Park Schultz Property	3.44	10.33	8.22		8.44	10.33	5.78	3.00	5.56	3.00	0.00	0.00	58.11
14	22-1619A	Alta Lake Acquisition and Trail	3.33	9.67	7.56		6.89	8.00	6.44	1.56	5.11	1.71	0.00	0.00	50.27

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-9; RCO staff score Questions 10-12
 Project type: A=acquisition, D=development

State Parks Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$2,018,261 **Improving the Palouse to Cascades Trail**

State Parks will use this grant to improve the Palouse to Cascades Trail between Malden and the historic site known as Kenova. This 5-mile section of trail includes three trestles that burned in the Babb Road Fire in 2020. State Parks will restore and fireproof the bridge trestles, upgrade the trail surface, reinstate drainage, and develop a trailhead and access point at Kenova. This segment of trail will connect to a trailhead being built in Malden, and when combined, will provide about 14 miles of contiguous trail through this dramatic eastern Washington landscape. Part of the Great American Rail Trail that stretches across the United States, the Palouse to Cascades Trail runs more than 285 miles across Washington. It is used for non-motorized activities such as bicycling, walking, bird watching, and horseback riding. State Parks will contribute more than \$1 million in a federal appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1480)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$2,999,000 **Building Trails and an Overlook in Nisqually State Park**

State Parks will use this grant to build trails and an overlook at Nisqually State Park in Eatonville. State Parks will pave a 1.7-mile trail and lay rock for an adjacent equestrian trail that lead to a cantilevered platform with a grated floor. The platform will give visitors the feel of walking over the edge of the slope and floating in air. From there, visitors will be able to see the Mashel River Valley and Mount Rainier. State Parks also will add benches and interpretive signs. This is the third phase of the development for this 1,200-acre park at the confluence of the Nisqually River, Mashel River, and Ohop Creek. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1530)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,687,770 **Conserving the Green River Gorge**

State Parks will use this grant to buy about 52 acres of the Icy Creek Ridge in the Green River Gorge Conservation Area, near Black Diamond in King County. State Parks plans to use the land for a trail along the south rim of the gorge, from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park to Flaming Geyser State Park. This land is some of the last needed before trail development will be possible. The landowner has platted the area into 14 building sites for houses and developed roads. Purchase of the land will prevent this development and the road will provide good access for a future trailhead for the South Rim Trail. The landowner is a willing seller. The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 and directed State Parks to begin buying land

along the river. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1569)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,500,000
Buying Land in or Next to State Parks

State Parks will use this grant to buy high-priority land in or next to state parks. This funding allows State Parks to purchase smaller, lower-cost land when opportunities arise. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1438)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,323,060
Buying Land for the Klickitat State Park Trail

State Parks will use this grant to buy high-priority land in or next to the Klickitat State Park Trail, which runs 31 miles from Lyle to Warwick. This funding allows State Parks to buy smaller, lower-cost land when opportunities arise. In the past, these small properties next to the trail were offered to State Parks but the agency was unable to buy them due to the timing of the grant schedule. Combining the purchases will help the agency buy smaller properties that might not score well as individual, competitive grants but that are essential for preserving the trail corridor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1597)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$2,663,767
Laying Gravel on the Willapa Hills Trail

State Parks will use this grant to lay gravel on the Willapa Hills Trail, which stretches 56.5 miles from Chehalis to South Bend. State Parks will lay 17 miles of compacted gravel in two sections of trail—an 11-mile section from Pluvius to Half Moon Creek Road and a 6-mile section from the Willapa River Bridge to the Bullard Road in Menlo. State Parks also will add wayfinding, orientation, and interpretative signs. The trail traverses over century-old trestle bridges and through river valleys, thick forests, and rich farmland. The trail is used by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1606)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$387,474
Linking Three Waters Trail in Cape Disappointment State Park

State Parks will use this grant to build a short segment of trail to link two separate ends of the Three Waters Trail in Cape Disappointment State Park, in Ilwaco. The trail link, east of Robert Gray Drive, will create a half-mile of continuous trail and separate people from vehicles, making it safer. Designed by American designer and sculptor Maya Lin, the Three Waters Trail links the park's three waters—the Columbia River at one end, wetlands and lake, and the Pacific Ocean at the other end—together at their confluence. State Parks also will add interpretation that weaves the history of Native American

presence with Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. State Parks will contribute \$27,000 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1607)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,669,100 Expanding Saint Edward State Park

State Parks, with support from Forterra, will use this grant to buy a 6.46-acre forest in Kenmore for inclusion in Saint Edward State Park. These two organizations will work cooperatively to conserve one of the last undeveloped and unprotected parcels of Lake Washington's shoreline. State Parks will buy the land and Forterra will acquire a conservation easement.³ The land is next to the park's northwest boundary and in the park's long-term boundary. Known as the Arrowhead property, the land includes 250 feet of undeveloped shoreline and 870 feet along two unnamed streams and their confluence. The project will conserve forever a forest of Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, and madrone trees. The land functions as a wildlife corridor for a range of species, including coyote, bobcat, long-tailed weasel, river otter, mountain beaver, and pileated woodpeckers, along with other smaller mammals, amphibians, and birds. State Parks will contribute \$250,000 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1529)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,464,100 Buying Private Land in Riverside State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy 8.6 acres in Riverside State Park in Spokane. The land is one of the last few remaining privately owned areas in the park. State Parks will convert the existing house to a ranger residence, allowing 24-hour oversight of a midway point between a popular put-in location near Saint Georges School and a take-out location at a Painted Rocks trailhead. State Parks also will be able to provide a boat-in access point and restrooms for visitors to aid in protection of the entire Little Spokane River Natural Area and to conserve additional uplands and wetlands, adding to the quality and size of the natural area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1677)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,500,000 Improving Accessibility at Admiralty Head Lighthouse

State Parks will use this grant to improve accessibility for people with disabilities at Admiralty Head Lighthouse in Fort Casey State Park, in Coupeville. The lighthouse, one of the most popular attractions in the state park system, lacks accessible visitor amenities. State Parks will complete the design and build parking, restrooms, and a

³This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

route-of-travel to and from the lighthouse and the viewing area for people with disabilities. State Parks also will develop in-depth, outdoor interpretation of the lighthouse and Admiralty Head for visitors who cannot get inside the lighthouse. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1564)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$648,000
Building Cabins in Riverside State Park's Bowl and Pitcher

State Parks will use this grant to build two cabins in the popular bowl and pitcher in Riverside State Park, in Spokane. The cabins have restrooms, bunks, dining areas, and a meal-prep area with a sink. Bowl and pitcher is an area of the park with basalt formations, a picnic area, and a campground. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1679)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$633,960
Buying Land for a Trailhead in Willapa Hills State Park Trail

State Parks will use this grant to buy 2.6 acres in South Bend for a trailhead for Willapa Hills State Park Trail. The land is on Robert Bush Drive East, which is known as State Route 101. The trailhead will be designed to accommodate single vehicles for visitors coming to recreate on this multi-use trail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1605)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$1,036,711
Expanding Hoko River State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy about 17 acres in the long-term boundary of Hoko River State Park. The land is critical for the protection and restoration of the Hoko River and its floodplain. State Parks is working with partners to improve salmon and other wildlife habitat along the Hoko River, and this purchase will help facilitate restoration and provide opportunities for low-impact recreational use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1723)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$637,350
Expanding Alta Lake State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy 50 acres on the west side of Alta Lake in Pateros for a campground and trail and to protect wildlife habitat and views. The land includes a wetland, which only partially is in state parks' ownership. The project will include an agreement for a trail easement on the east side of Alta Lake to allow State Parks to expand a trail potentially around the entire lake. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1619)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Trails Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Jesse Sims, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Sixteen project proposals in the Trails category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and the ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list that becomes the basis for grant funding after legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

This item is a: Request for Decision
 Request for Direction
 Briefing

Resolution: 2022-21

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Trails category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for community and regional pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian or cross-country ski trails. The intent of this funding source is to construct, renovate, and secure right-of-way for statewide, regional, and community-oriented recreational trails that provide linkages between communities or other trails.

Trails must be for non-motorized use and cannot be part of a city, street, or county road (“roadway”) such as a sidewalk, unprotected road shoulder, or any other area on the roadway, such as a designated bike or combination bike and pedestrian lane. Trails adjacent to a roadway must be separated by space and potentially physical barriers to ensure a quality recreational experience¹.

The Trails category receives 20 percent of the funds from the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Program Summary

A summary of current Trails category policies is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ² agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, park districts, and special purpose districts.
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	<p>50 percent match required with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. • There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Trails may have hard or natural surfacing. • Grant may be used to construct necessary support infrastructure such as trailheads, restrooms, picnic areas, or viewing areas that are directly related to an existing or proposed public trail.

¹When the space is less than 10’, there must be a physical barrier.

²State agencies eligible are Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington State Departments of Enterprise Services, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Sixteen Trails category projects, requesting \$20 million in grant funding, were evaluated by the WWRP Trails Advisory Committee on August 22 and 23, 2022. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise, experience, and technical knowledge related to public recreational trails. The team included the following:

Evaluator	Representing
Alma Williams, Olympia	Citizen
Andy Stevenson, Port Angeles	Citizen
Mike Town, Duvall	Citizen
Betsy Anderson, Seattle	Citizen
Brian Meyer, City of Woodinville	Local agency
Jill Marshall, City of Colville	Local agency
Cortney Higgins, Washington Department of Natural Resources	State agency
Lisa Anderson, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	State agency
Lauri Vigue, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	State agency

The nine advisory committee members reviewed trail proposals using video conferencing software to conduct the meetings virtually. They used RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module to score the projects with board-approved criteria. The project presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

Immediately following the evaluation meeting on August 23 and during the post evaluation meeting on September 1, staff met with the Trails Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

Virtual Tools

The committee felt the evaluation process worked well and was organized. The PRISM Review and Evaluation Module received excellent feedback for its functionality and usability. Advisors appreciated the layout, access to important project information, and the ease of scoring and comparing criteria rankings. To improve user experience while in the module, committee members would like it to show the multiplier while scoring projects.

Scoring Range

The committee discussed the idea of expanding the range that evaluators are given for scoring “core” evaluation criteria (*Need*, *Immediacy of Threat*, and *Project Design*). Currently, evaluators score projects zero to five and multipliers are used to weight the criterion. This includes a multiplier of three for *Need*, four for *Immediacy of Threat*, and a three for *Project Design*. Evaluators noted that the scoring range of zero to five leaves little distinction for higher weighted criteria and, they believe a broader range of points would be helpful. This could mean eliminating the multiplier and scoring zero to 15, for example, or allowing half points and still using a multiplier.

Project Support

Several committee members commented on the challenge associated with scoring project support. The challenge stems from evaluating the type of project support the applicant provides. It is common to receive letters of support but providing varying levels of community engagement is often lacking. Committee members emphasized that the applicants should show project support in more detail so they can better understand the true levels of support from the community.

Scoring Immediacy of Threat

The committee also discussed challenges in evaluating the *Immediacy of Threat* criterion. There were three projects that included acquisition components and some of the properties were acquired with an approved waiver of retroactivity. Most evaluators find it challenging to assess threat when the property is already acquired and protected.

In summary, the advisory committee felt the process was well-organized, enjoyable, and fair. They were confident in the resulting ranked list and felt that the use of such a diverse team of evaluators compensates for any individual biases for or against specific project proposals.

Match Reduction

Two projects were eligible for match reduction per the board’s adopted policy. Notably, the fourth ranked project, which came from a “County in Need”, qualified for a 20 percent match versus the standard 50 percent.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for Trails category projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the Trails category directly support board adopted priorities in *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-21.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-21, including Table 1 – *WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Trails Category Projects
- C. Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. Trails Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-21
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-2025 biennium, 16 Trails category project proposals are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all 16 Trails category project proposals meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Trails category project proposals were evaluated by an independent team of evaluators representing state and local agency agencies and citizens-at-large using evaluation criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-020, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects acquire, construct, or renovate non-motorized recreational trails, thereby supporting priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*, and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for recreation opportunities statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Trails category projects for funding consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Date: October 25, 2022

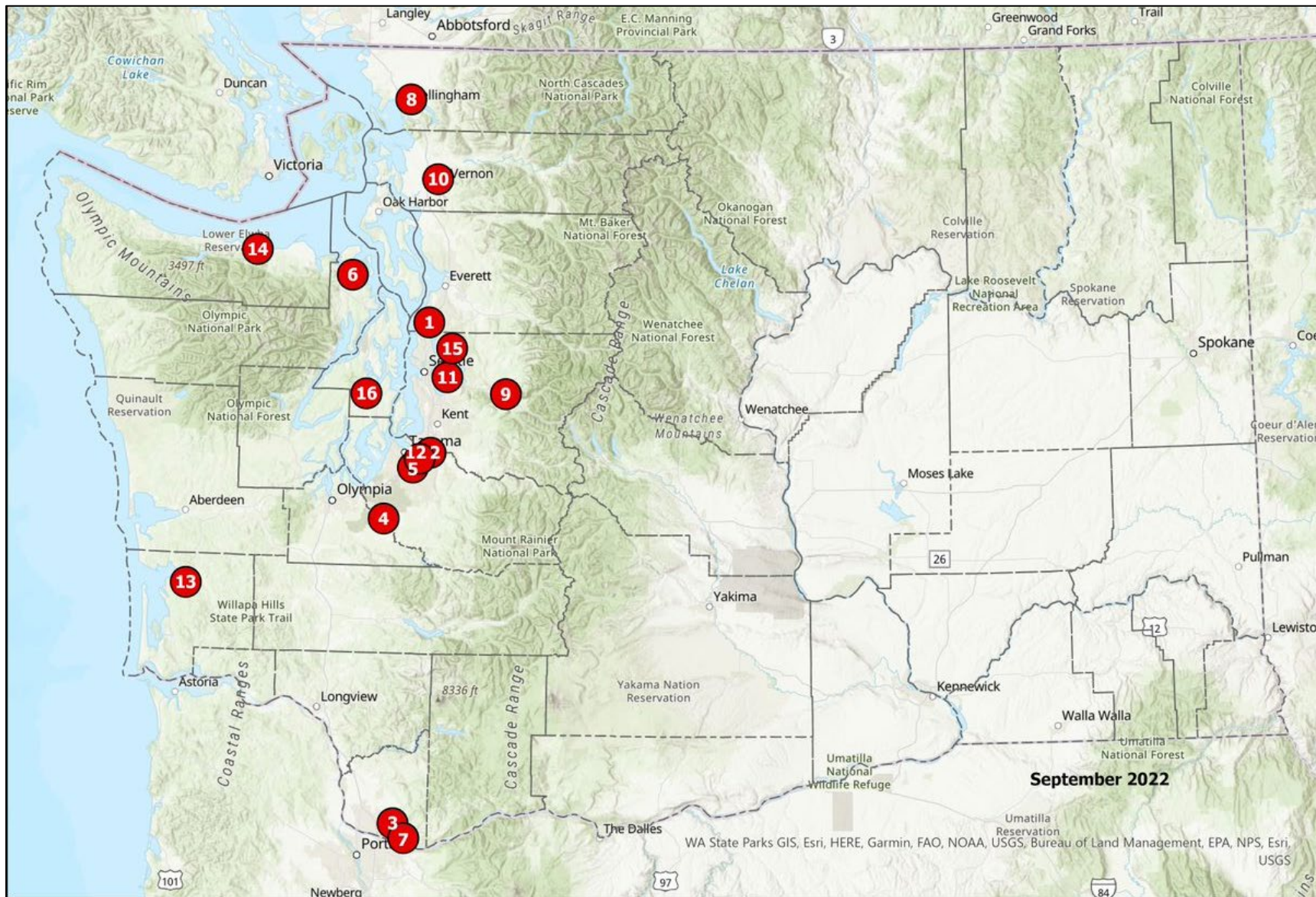
Table 1: WWRP Trails Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution #2022-21

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	66.89	22-1265 D	Lynnwood	Scriber Creek Trail Phase 3	\$2,000,000	\$7,137,296	\$9,137,296
2	65.78	22-1674 D	Edgewood	Interurban Trail Phase 3 Jovita Canyon	\$3,000,000	\$4,204,850	\$7,204,850
3	65.72	22-1604 A	Camas	Green Mountain	\$1,250,000	\$2,607,246	\$3,857,246
4	65.44	22-1562 D	Yelm	Yelm Prairie Line Trail Phase 2b	\$1,292,000	\$323,000	\$1,615,000
5	65.22	22-1311 D	Pierce County	Pipeline Trail Phase 1 Development	\$1,500,000	\$3,611,957	\$5,111,957
6	63.94	22-1483 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Olympic Discovery Trail Anderson Lake Extension	\$1,397,000	\$10,000	\$1,407,000
7	62.89	22-1469 D	Camas	South Lacamas Creek 3rd Avenue Trailhead Improvements	\$500,000	\$654,837	\$1,154,837
8	62.17	22-1417 D	Bellingham	Sunset Pond Trail	\$1,000,000	\$1,128,720	\$2,128,720
9	59.89	22-1470 D	North Bend	Meadowbrook Farm Baqwab Prairie Loop Trail	\$615,000	\$824,000	\$1,439,000
10	59.06	22-1730 D	Skagit County	Centennial Trail Phase1 Barney Lake to Clear Lake	\$1,033,500	\$1,033,500	\$2,067,000
11	58.17	22-1742 D	Bellevue	Mercer Slough Nature Park Trail Connector	\$997,400	\$1,009,900	\$2,007,300
12	56.78	22-1377 C	Fife	Sheffield Trail Restoration and Americans with Disabilities Act Upgrades	\$1,000,000	\$1,873,000	\$2,873,000
13	56.22	22-1242 A	South Bend	Triplett Field	\$1,140,750	\$126,750	\$1,267,500
14	55.83	22-1716 D	Port Angeles	Race Street to Olympia National Park Shared Use Trail Phase 2	\$1,500,000	\$2,379,888	\$3,879,888
15	55.78	22-1531 D	Redmond	Redmond Central Connector 3	\$1,000,000	\$6,599,928	\$7,599,928
16	40.28	22-1414 D	Port Orchard	Old Clifton Trail to McCormick Woods Park	\$800,500	\$800,500	\$1,601,000
Total					\$20,026,150	\$34,325,372	\$54,351,522

Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=Combination

State Map for Trails Category Projects



Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Trails means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians”.³

Trails Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15	State, Local
Advisory Committee	2	Linkages Between Trails	All	7.5	State, Local
Advisory Committee	3	Linkages Between Communities	All	7.5	State, Local
Advisory Committee	4	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	20	Local
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	5	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	6	Sustainability	Development	5	State
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	7	Water Access or Views	All	3	State
Advisory Committee	8	Scenic Values	All	7	State
Advisory Committee	9	Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	10	Project Support	All	10	State, Local
Advisory Committee	11	Cost Efficiencies	All	5	State, Local

³ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Trails Criteria Summary					
RCO Staff	12	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	13	Population Proximity	All	1.5	State
RCO Staff	14	County Population Density	All	1.5	State
Total Points Possible: 83					

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy)

Scoring Criteria, Trails Category

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need.** Is the project needed?

RCW⁴ 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v-vi)

2. **Linkage Between Trails.** Does the project connect existing trails?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iv)

3. **Linkage Between Communities.** Does the trail project connect communities?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iii)

4. **Immediacy of Threat.** Does a threat to the public availability of a part of the trail exist?
(Acquisition/Combination projects only)

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ii)

5. **Project Design.** Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use(s)?
(Development/Combination projects only)

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v)

6. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship.** Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?

Resolution 2016-08

7. **Water Access or Views.** Does the project provide direct access to water (physical access by person or boat) or views?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(vii)

8. **Scenic Values.** Does the project provide scenic values?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ix)

9. **Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat.** How will this proposal enhance wildlife habitat beyond what may be required by a development or land use authority such as statute, ordinance, permit, rule and regulation, mitigation requirement, etc.?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(viii)

⁴RCW=Revised Code of Washington

10. **Project Support.** The extent that the public (statewide, community, or user groups) has been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed, and/or support for the project seems apparent.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)

11. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Resolution 2016-08

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

12. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?

RCW 43.17.250

13. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?

RCW 79A.25.250

14. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

RCW 79A.25.250

Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need	2. Linkages Between Trails	3. Linkages Between Communities	4. Immediacy of Threat	5. Project Design	6. Sustainability	7. Water Access or Views	8. Scenic Values	9. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	10. Project Support	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Growth Management Act Preferences	13. Proximity to People	14. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-7.5	0-7.5	0-20	0-15	0-5	0-3	0-7	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1.5	0-1.5	
1	22-1265 D	Scriber Creek Trail Phase 3	12.67	5.00	6.00		13.00	4.00	3.00	4.56	3.56	8.44	3.67	0.00	1.50	1.50	66.89
2	22-1674 D	Interurban Trail Phase 3 Jovita Canyon	13.33	7.00	6.67		11.33	3.00	1.78	3.56	3.56	8.89	3.67	0.00	1.50	1.50	65.78
3	22-1604 A	Green Mountain	11.67	5.17	5.33	16.89			1.78	5.22	4.33	8.22	4.11	0.00	1.50	1.50	65.72
4	22-1562 D	Yelm Prairie Line Trail Phase 2b	13.67	5.50	5.67		12.67	3.89	3.00	4.78	2.89	8.22	3.67	0.00	0.00	1.50	65.44
5	22-1311 D	Pipeline Trail Phase 1 Development	13.33	5.67	5.83		12.67	4.00	2.11	4.67	3.11	8.44	3.89	0.00	0.00	1.50	65.22
6	22-1483 D	Olympic Discovery Trail Anderson Lake Extension	12.33	6.50	5.33		12.00	4.00	2.89	5.22	3.67	8.44	3.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.94
7	22-1469 D	South Lacamas Creek 3rd Avenue Trailhead Improvements	11.00	6.17	5.50		13.00	3.33	2.56	4.56	2.22	7.78	3.78	0.00	1.50	1.50	62.89
8	22-1417 D	Sunset Pond Trail	12.33	5.67	5.33		10.67	4.56	2.89	4.33	4.00	7.78	3.11	0.00	1.50	0.00	62.17
9	22-1470 D	Meadowbrook Farm Baqwab Prairie Loop Trail	9.00	4.67	4.67		11.33	3.67	2.00	5.67	4.00	8.22	3.67	0.00	1.50	1.50	59.89

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Need	2. Linkages Between Trails	3. Linkages Between Communities	4. Immediacy of Threat	5. Project Design	6. Sustainability	7. Water Access or Views	8. Scenic Values	9. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	10. Project Support	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Growth Management Act Preferences	13. Proximity to People	14. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-7.5	0-7.5	0-20	0-15	0-5	0-3	0-7	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1.5	0-1.5	
10	22-1730 D	Centennial Trail Phase 1 Barney Lake to Clear Lake	12.00	5.00	4.83		10.33	3.67	3.00	5.00	3.44	7.56	4.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.06
11	22-1742 D	Mercer Slough Nature Park Trail Connector	10.00	6.50	4.67		11.67	3.44	2.33	3.33	3.00	7.33	2.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	58.17
12	22-1377 C	Sheffield Trail Restoration and Americans with Disabilities Act Upgrades	12.00	4.67	5.67	4.50	5.50	3.56	0.78	2.78	2.67	8.44	3.22	0.00	1.50	1.50	56.78
13	22-1242 A	Triplett Field	12.00	5.33	4.67	15.11			3.00	4.78	2.33	6.22	2.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.22
14	22-1716 D	Race Street to Olympia National Park Shared Use Trail Phase 2	10.33	5.67	5.00		11.33	3.89	1.89	3.00	1.89	8.44	2.89	0.00	1.50	0.00	55.83
15	22-1531 D	Redmond Central Connector 3	9.00	6.50	5.17		10.33	3.44	1.22	3.44	2.56	7.33	3.78	0.00	1.50	1.50	55.78
16	22-1414 D	Old Clifton Trail to McCormick Woods Park	5.67	3.67	3.83		8.00	3.00	1.22	2.44	1.89	5.11	2.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	40.28

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-11; RCO staff score Questions 12-14
Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=Combination

Trails Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Lynnwood

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

Rehabilitating Scriber Creek Trail

The Lynnwood Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department will use this grant to renovate 0.3 mile of the Scriber Creek Trail that connects the City Center Neighborhood, the future City Center Light Rail Station, and south Lynnwood. The existing trail is narrow and prone to flooding, making it unsuitable for biking and year-round use. The City will widen the trail to 12-16 feet wide and connect it to four parks along Scriber Creek. The trail is used for walking, cycling, and nature viewing. Lynnwood will contribute more than \$7.1 million in private, local, and federal grants and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project (22-1265)

Edgewood

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

Developing the Edgewood Missing Link of the Interurban Trail

The City of Edgewood will use this grant to design and develop 1 mile of the Interurban Trail in Edgewood. This missing east-west segment will link to the 24-mile northern section of the Interurban Trail that connects the cities of Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds, and Lynnwood and to the 19-mile southern section of the Interurban Trail that connects the cities of Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, Algona, and Pacific. The trail provides non-motorized commuter options and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Edgewood will contribute more than \$4.2 million in a federal grant, another grant, cash, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1674)

Camas

Grant Requested: \$1,250,000

Completing the Missing Link in the Green Mountain Greenbelt

The City of Camas will use this grant to buy 55 acres of forest, the final missing link needed to create a continuous, protected greenbelt when combined with the Green Mountain area and partner-owned lands to the east and west. The land will support a variety of passive recreational activities including hiking, jogging, biking, and nature watching, as well as opportunities for scenic viewpoints. Additionally, this land connects to the Lacamas Lake trail system and has the potential to connect regionally to Camp Bonneville and to the Lake-to-Lake future trail systems. Camas will contribute more than

\$2.6 million in a Conservation Futures grant⁵ and council bonds. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1604)

Yelm

Grant Requested: \$1,292,000

Extending the Yelm Prairie Line Trail

The City of Yelm will use this grant to extend the Yelm Prairie Line Trail across the Nisqually River bridge and into Pierce County. This trail will be part of the historic Prairie Line Railroad corridor and will connect the communities of Yelm, Rainier, and Tenino, supplying recreational and transportation options to residents and visitors of Thurston County. Additionally, it will provide potential opportunities for public water access and environmental education by linking to Nisqually Land Trust properties. Yelm will contribute \$323,000 in cash and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1562)

Pierce County

Grant Requested: \$1,500,000

Extending the Pipeline Trail

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to build 1.6 miles of paved Pipeline Trail, extending it into the county, and a trailhead at Orangegate Park. The 160-acre park offers access to trails, a dog park, and other recreational amenities. The Pipeline Trail will deliver more than 15 miles of recreational and commuter trail connecting communities, both rural and urban, to employment centers, transit networks, parks, and public lands. The completed trail will link downtown Tacoma to Puyallup's South Hill. Pierce County will contribute more than \$3.6 million in another grant, cash, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1311)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Grant Requested: \$1,397,000**

Extending the Olympic Discovery Trail

State Parks will use this grant to build a trail link in Anderson Lake State Park to the Olympic Discovery Trail and enhance the trailhead to create a new access point in the park. The trail is used for walking, running, bicycling, horseback riding, wildlife watching. State Parks will contribute \$10,000 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1483)

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.

Camas
Improving Lacamas Creek Trailhead**Grant Requested: \$500,000**

The City of Camas will use this grant to improve the Lacamas Creek trailhead on the south end of Lacamas Lake Regional Park. The City will add paved parking, a restroom, pathways accessible to people with disabilities, picnic areas, signs, landscaping, and improved stormwater systems. Camas will contribute \$654,837. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1469)

Bellingham
Building Sunset Pond Trail**Grant Requested: \$1,000,000**

The City of Bellingham will use this grant to build the Sunset Pond Trail, which will connect three different neighborhoods to the Squalicum Creek Trail and Sunset Pond Park. The project is in an area that lacks access to trails. Bellingham will contribute more than \$1.1 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of this project. (22-1417)

North Bend
Developing the Baqwab Prairie Loop Trail at Meadowbrook Farm**Grant Requested: \$615,000**

The City of North Bend will use this grant to complete paved and gravel trails through undeveloped areas of Meadowbrook Farm, a public open space area. In addition, the City will replace two boardwalks and add two new ones, pave 0.7 mile of an existing gravel trail, and restore 3.5 acres of wet prairie habitat. The new trails will connect with existing trails to form a 2.6-mile loop around Meadowbrook Farm and connect to the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center, Centennial Fields Park, and Snoqualmie Middle School. North Bend will contribute \$824,000 in another grant, cash, and donated services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1470)

Skagit County
Developing Centennial Trail Connections**Grant Requested: \$1,033,500**

The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a 2.4-mile, paved, multiuse trail between Mount Vernon and Clear Lake. This trail will provide an important north-south, non-motorized transportation route for commuting between Mount Vernon and the communities of Clear Lake and Sedro-Woolley to the north. Skagit County will contribute more than \$1 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1730)

Bellevue
Developing Mercer Slough Nature Park Trail Connections

Grant Requested: \$997,400

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to build 665 feet of multiuse trail to fill a critical gap in the regional and citywide trails network. The new trail will connect the Mountains to Sound Trail to Eastrail Trail, where King County will build an access point. Additionally, the new trail will fill a gap in the Mercer Slough Nature Park internal trail system and provide safe access to the park's 8.9 miles of trails. The new trail also will serve as part of the city's Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish Trail system and provide access to key destinations in the Bellevue bicycle network. Bellevue will contribute more than \$1 million. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1742)

Fife
Widening and Restoring Sheffield Trail

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The City of Fife will use this grant to restore and widen Sheffield Trail. The City will add a root barrier along the pathway, double the width of the trail, install lighting, improve accessibility for people with disabilities, and install amenities such as benches and trash cans. This trail is a primary connector between Valley Avenue, which includes FedEx Trail, Brookville Gardens Park, Wedge Park, and a series of homes and apartment complexes, to multiple apartment complexes 20th Street East. This trail further connects residents and users to a Pierce County Regional Library branch, the only grocery store in the city limits, Fife High School, and Fife Elementary school. Of Fife's 10,999 residents, 57 percent rent and nearly 1 in 5 commute by something other than a car, making this trail connection even more critical. Currently, the trail surface is in disrepair due to extensive damage caused by tree roots lifting the asphalt. The trail is also very narrow in some sections and does not have lighting for evening use. Fife will contribute more than \$1.8 million in a federal appropriation, a state appropriation, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1377)

South Bend
Establishing Triplett Field Park

Grant Requested: \$1,140,750

The City of South Bend will use this grant to buy 4.5 acres along the Willapa River that will be combined with land purchased by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to form Triplett Field Park in Willapa Hills Trail State Park. The park will include the Willapa Hills Trail extension, camping areas, a picnic area, a restroom with showers, and a parking lot. An existing dock can be used for personal watercraft launching, fishing, and other water activities. South Bend will contribute \$126,750. Visit

RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1242)

Port Angeles**Grant Requested: \$1,500,000****Continuing to Build the Race Street Trail**

The City of Port Angeles will use this grant to build the second phase of the Race Street Trail, a multiuse trail that connects Olympic Discovery Trail to the Olympic National Park Visitor and Backcountry Information Center. The 1.7-mile trail will bisect Port Angeles in a north-south direction and will connect two major parks-Civic Field and Erickson Park. The trail is used for walking, jogging, and bicycling. Port Angeles will contribute more than \$2.3 million in two federal grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1716)

Redmond**Grant Requested: \$1,000,000****Expanding the Redmond Central Connector Trail**

The City of Redmond will use this grant to extend the Redmond Central Connector Trail 1.6 miles further along the Eastrail Trail, on Willows Road to Northeast 124th Street. The new extension will include intersection ramps and road and driveway crossings and will connect to the Sammamish River Trail, Cross Kirkland Corridor, and Eastrail Trail. Redmond will contribute more than \$6.5 million in a state appropriation, another grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1531)

Port Orchard**Grant Requested: \$800,500****Building a Trail Along Old Clifton Road**

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to develop a half-mile, multiuse trail along Old Clifton Road from McCormick Woods Drive to McCormick Village Park. The new trail will provide a nonmotorized link to the extensive trail systems in nearby master planned residential developments and to McCormick Village Park, McCormick Village, and to a planned elementary school. Port Orchard will contribute \$800,500. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1414)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Water Access Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Henry Smith, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary:

Four project proposals in the Water Access category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-22

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Water Access category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for projects that provide physical access to shorelines for non-motorized, water-related recreation activities. These include boating, fishing, swimming, and beachcombing.

Grants may be used to acquire land or develop facilities that support, water-dependent recreation such as fishing piers and platforms, boat access facilities, beaches, and water trails for canoes and kayaks.

The Water Access category receives ten percent of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Seventy-five percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

There were several changes to the Water Access category that went into effect this year. The most significant changes involved reinstating the required sponsor match for local agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, and special purpose districts; conducting live virtual review and evaluations; introducing a Cultural Resources Mapping Tool in PRISM; and revising the match metrics on the Cost Summary page of the Application Wizard.

A summary of this WWRP category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	Local agencies (cities/towns, counties, federally recognized Native American tribes, and park, port, school, and special purpose districts) and state ¹ agencies
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of water access sites • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent match required with the following exceptions: Exception: Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. • There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Multi-site water access trails are eligible.

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Evaluation Summary

Four Water Access category projects requesting nearly \$5 million were evaluated by members of the WWRP Water Access Advisory Committee on August 30, 2022. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge in local land use issues and water related recreation. The following members participated this year:

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
Laura Foster, Port Angeles	Citizen
Eleanor Mattice, Colville	Citizen
Kristi Evans, Metro Parks Tacoma	Local Agency
Garrett Farrell, King County	Local Agency
Sarah Olson, Lynwood Parks and Recreation Department	Local Agency
Shane Belson, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Lowell Dickson, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
David Pater, Department of Ecology	State Agency
Jamie Van de Vanter, State Parks and Recreation Commission	State Agency

The nine advisory committee members reviewed the project proposals using video conferencing software to conduct the meetings virtually, and RCO's PRISM system for scoring the projects according to criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board). The presentations were streamed live to YouTube to support public transparency. The meetings were also recorded and posted to the RCO website. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 30 and during the post-evaluation meeting on September 7, staff met with the WWRP Water Access Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results. Overall, advisory committee members were comfortable with the process, satisfied with the materials provided, and pleased with the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for Water Access category projects, included as Project Support or Concern documents, which are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers

on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of the ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the Water Access category also support board priorities in *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-22.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-22, including Table 1 – *WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Water Access Category Projects
- C. Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. Water Access Category Project Descriptions, 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-22
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-2025 biennium, four Water Access category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all four Water Access category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Water Access category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreational access to water, thereby supporting priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022* and the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Water Access category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: WWRP–Water Access Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Resolution 2022-22

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	60.78	22-1266 A	Lynnwood	Sprague's Pond Park Addition	\$659,729	\$659,730	\$1,319,459
2	59.89	22-1611 D	Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Renovation and Upgrade	\$1,500,000	\$1,679,745	\$3,179,745
3	54.89	22-1256 D	Seattle	Carkeek Park Rail Overpass	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$3,600,000
4	46.89	22-1734 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sol Duc River Access	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Total					\$4,959,729	\$4,139,475	\$9,099,204

¹A=acquisition, D=Development

State Map for Water Access Category Projects



Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Water access means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, river, or streams".²

Water Access Criteria Summary					
Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	All	15	State, Local
Advisory Committee	2	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	15	Local
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	3	Project Design	Development	10	Technical
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Sustainability	Development or Combination	5	State
Advisory Committee	5	Site Suitability	Acquisition	15	Technical
			Development	10	
			Combination	10	
Advisory Committee	6	Expansion	All	5	State
Advisory Committee	7	Diversity of Recreational Uses	Development	5	State
			Combination	2.5	
Advisory Committee	8	Project Support	All	10	State, Local
Advisory Committee	9	Cost Efficiencies	All	5	State, Local
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0	State
RCO Staff	11	Proximity to People	All	1.5	State
RCO Staff	12	County Population Density	All	1.5	State
Total Points Possible=68					

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, Water Access Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need.** Considering the availability of existing public water access sites within at least 15 miles of the project site, what is the need for additional such sites?
RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(ii,v-vi)
2. **Immediacy of Threat.** To what extent will this project reduce a threat to the public availability of water access? Acquisition/Combination only
RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)
3. **Project Design.** Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site? Development/Combination only
4. **Sustainability.** Please discuss how your project’s location or design supports your organization’s sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan.
Board Resolution 2020-06
5. **Site Suitability.** Is the site well suited for the intended recreational uses?
RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v)
6. **Expansion.** Will the project expand an existing recreation area or facility?
7. **Diversity of Recreational Uses.** To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible water based recreational activities? Development/Combination only
RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iv)
8. **Project Support.** The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate *opportunity to become informed*, and/or *support* for the project seems apparent.
RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(i)

9. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Board Resolution 2016-05

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?

RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

11. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?

RCW 79A.25.250

12. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

RCW 79A.25.250

Water Access Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Immediacy of Threat	3. Project Design	4. Sustainability	5. Site Suitability	6. Expansion	7. Diversity of Recreational Uses	8. Project Support	9. Cost Efficiencies	10. Growth Management Act Preferences	11. Proximity to People	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-5	0-10	0-5	-1-0	0-1.5	0-1.5	
1	22-1266A	Sprague's Pond Park Addition	13.33	14.00			14.00	4.56		8.00	3.89	0.00	1.50	1.50	60.78
2	22-1611D	Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Renovation and Upgrade	13.00		8.89	4.22	9.33	4.56	4.67	9.56	3.67	-1.00	1.50	1.50	59.89
3	22-1256D	Carkeek Park Rail Overpass	12.67		8.67	3.67	8.67	3.78	4.11	6.89	3.44	0.00	1.50	1.50	54.89
4	22-1734A	Sol Duc River Access	12.00	10.33			12.67	2.67		6.67	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.89

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-9
Project types: A=acquisition, D=development

Water Access Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Lynnwood **Expanding Sprague's Pond Park**

Grant Requested: \$659,729

The Lynnwood Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department will use this grant to buy 1.7 acres on the eastern shore of Sprague's Pond for fishing and wildlife viewing. The land is on one of only two water bodies in the city limits and contains 461 feet of shoreline, which is rare in this urban area. Just under half of the site is open water. The goal is to transform the adjacent Sprague's Pond Mini-Park into a regional destination for trout and largemouth bass fishing. Lynnwood will contribute \$659,730 in a local grant and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project, (22-1266)

Mercer Island **Renovating Luther Burbank Park Waterfront**

Grant Requested: \$1,500,000

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to install a floating dock for non-motorized small craft, overwater stairs, a viewing deck and outdoor classroom, and restrooms in Luther Burbank Park. The City also will expand the cobble beach with a route accessible to people with disabilities, pave the plaza, and add furnishings, landscaping, signs, and art. This project is the cornerstone of a comprehensive waterfront improvement initiative by the City to renovate a 50-year-old boating facility and expand its offerings. Mercer Island will contribute more than \$1.6 million in a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, a local grant, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1611)

Seattle **Building a Rail Overpass at Carkeek Park**

Grant Requested: \$1,800,000

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to replace the railroad crossing pedestrian bridge that provides the only safe access in Carkeek Park to the beach. A recent study noted that the remaining life of the bridge is limited because of corroded steel and cracked concrete. The 220-acre Carkeek Park is one of three Environmental Learning Centers in the Seattle Park system, providing year-round environmental education, stewardship, and conservation programming to a large number of park users and school groups. Because active train tracks act as a barrier, a bridge provides a vital connection to the shoreline, beach, and a salmon-spawning creek. The department will install a cable-stayed style bridge with a gentle ramp leading to a viewing platform overlooking the trains below and Puget Sound. The bridge will be fully accessible to people with disabilities. The current design also provides stairs to the beach. Seattle will contribute \$1.8 million in a grant from the state Aquatic Lands

Enhancement Account and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1256)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Buying Land Along the Sol Duc River**

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 38 acres just north of Forks to provide access to the world renowned Sol Duc River for boating and fishing. The land is in a large turn of the river, at the 18.7-mile mark of the river, and contains old-growth trees, more than a half-mile of waterfront, an opening on the south end with a natural boat launch area, and a partially cleared area to accommodate tent and trailer camping. It is downriver of the Sol Duc Hatchery boat launch and Maxfield Road Access site and would provide the only public access below these two launches for more than 16 miles. It also would provide an extremely important area for taking out boats before the river becomes more technical and unnavigable for many boaters. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1734)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest
Account: Farmland Preservation Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Kim Sellers, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Eighteen project proposals in the Farmland Preservation category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution #: 2022-23

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

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

The Farmland Preservation category receives 90 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Farm and Forest Account. The remaining ten percent is set aside for the Forestland Preservation category.

Program Summary

The board approved key policy changes¹ for the Farm and Forest Account. These policies apply to forestland projects submitted this year:

- Creation of a carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option.²
- Changed the review and evaluation processes to be written only.
- Eliminated the ten percent non-state, non-federal match requirement.
- Added a cost-increase policy for funded projects.

PRISM Online was updated to increase security and capture additional information about match. A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

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

¹ Resolution #2022-05

² Resolution #2021-02

Evaluation Summary

Between August 19 and September 15, the WWRP Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee evaluated 18 project proposals requesting about \$19.4 million, using a written evaluation process.

Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to agricultural production, agri-business, real estate, land management, and community interests related to farming. The members who conducted the evaluations included:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
Tom Kammerzell, Colfax	Farmer/Community
Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust, Bellingham	Farmer/Community
Jesika Harper, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Spokane	Farmer/Community
Kate Miller, Okanogan Land Trust, Okanogan	Nonprofit Conservancy
Jeanne White, Methow Conservancy, Winthrop	Nonprofit Conservancy
Perry Beale, Washington Department of Agriculture	State Agency
Allisa Carlson, Conservation Commission, Ellensburg	State Agency
Angie Reseland, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia	State Agency

The advisory committee reviewed the applicant's written responses to the evaluation criteria using RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module. The scoring is based on criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board). The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At its April 26 meeting, the board approved changes to the Farm and Forest Account, including moving from an in-person to a written evaluation process for the 2022 and 2024 grant rounds. RCO staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for both the Farmland and Forestland Preservation Advisory Committees on June 14, where staff provided an overview of the evaluation criteria and training on using the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module. The advisory committees appreciated discussion of the evaluation criteria for both programs and the tips for using the online tools.

On September 16, staff invited farmland and forestland advisory committee members to participate in a joint, post evaluation meeting. The committees debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the

process was organized and efficient. They received the materials needed and felt using the online tools made the review easier.

RCO staff asked both advisory committees to provide feedback regarding the change to a written evaluation process. Most members felt that the written process was less conducive to a discussion of the merits or detriments of the projects. Some members thought that the in-person process was more efficient and easier. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee was quite vocal in expressing their thoughts about this change, most likely because they evaluated more applications and they were using a written process for the first time. Overall, the advisory committees felt they had the information they needed to evaluate the grant proposals and were satisfied with the ranked lists of projects.

Public Comment

Letters of support or concern for Farmland Preservation projects are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot as Project Support or Concern documents. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-23.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 Biennium. The Governor will then submit the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-23, including Table 1 – *WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Farmland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Farmland Preservation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores, 2023-25
- E. Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-23
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 18 Farmland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding from the Farm and Forest Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all 18 Farmland Preservation category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation*, including criteria regarding viability for continued agricultural production and community benefits; and

WHEREAS, these Farmland Preservation category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens, farmers, and local and state agency representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Farmland Preservation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

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

Date: October 25, 2022

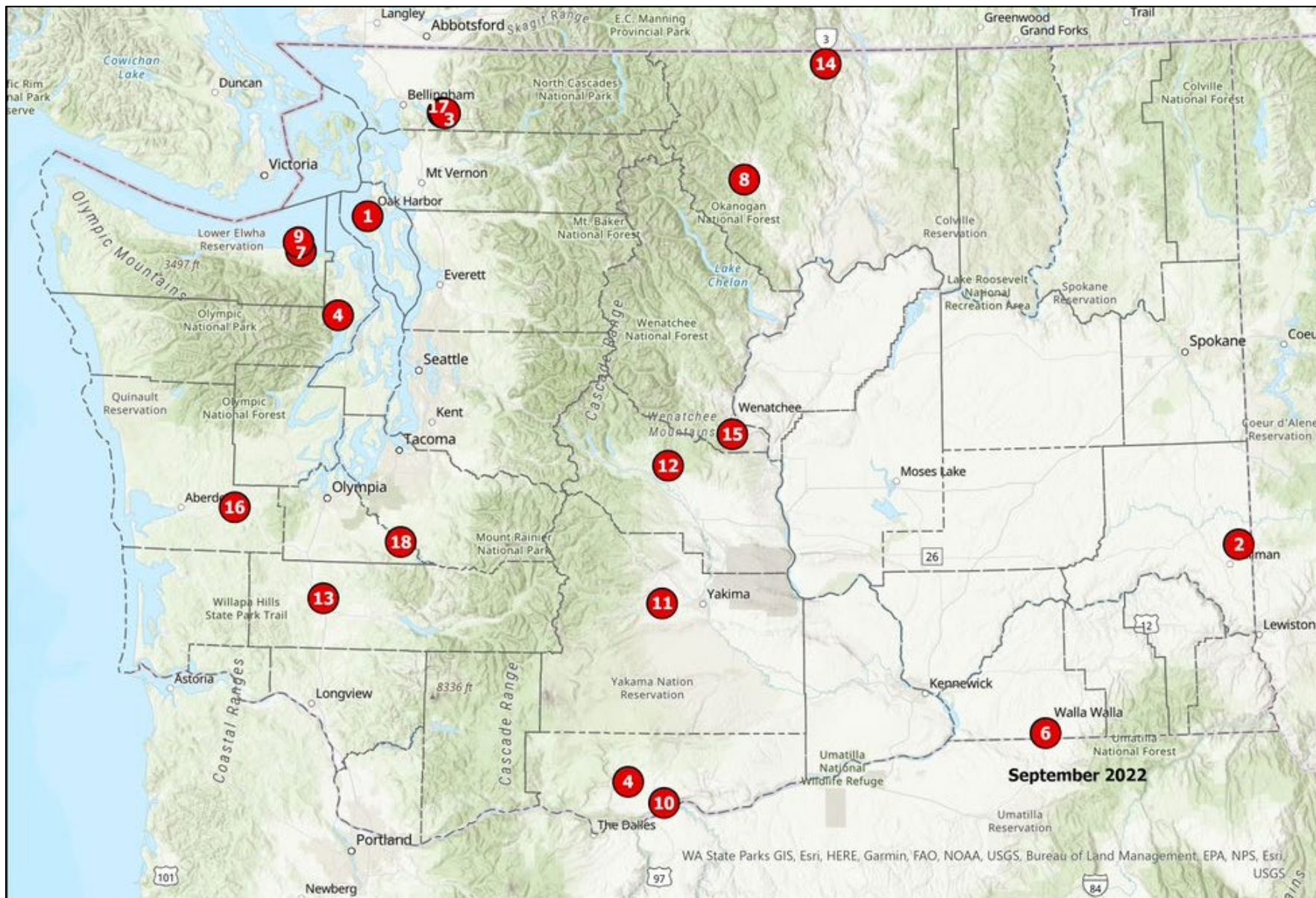
Table 1: WWRP – Farmland Preservation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution: 2020-24

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	52.38	22-1662 A	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Bell's Farm Expansion	\$1,069,250	\$1,332,200	\$2,401,450
2	51.00	22-1435 A	Palouse Land Trust	Zakarison Farmland Protection	\$249,278	\$331,903	\$581,181
3	50.62	22-1322 A	Whatcom County	Jacoby Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$169,650	\$207,350	\$377,000
4	50.38	22-1408 A	Jefferson Land Trust	Quilcene Farmland Preservation	\$750,000	\$979,200	\$1,729,200
4	50.38	22-1681 A	Columbia Land Trust	Little Klickitat River Century Farm	\$1,605,000	\$1,605,000	\$3,210,000
6	49.12	22-1643 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Welcome Table Farm Conservation Easement	\$345,500	\$357,500	\$703,000
7	48.50	22-1524 A	North Olympic Land Trust	Mid Valley Farm	\$421,180	\$514,779	\$935,959
8	47.88	22-1230 A	Methow Conservancy	Wolf Creek Agricultural Conservation Easement Phase 2	\$1,279,250	\$1,279,250	\$2,558,500
9	47.75	22-1533 A	North Olympic Land Trust	The Dungeness Hub Nash's Organic Produce	\$137,631	\$168,218	\$305,849
10	47.38	22-1541 A	Conservation Commission	Davenport Cattle Agricultural Easement	\$3,492,195		\$3,492,195
11	46.62	22-1545 A	State Conservation Commission	Emerick Rangeland Preservation	\$1,460,550		\$1,460,550
12	46.50	22-1544 A	State Conservation Commission	Swauk Prairie Farms	\$6,373,917		\$6,373,917
13	45.50	22-1649 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Spencer Farm	\$271,750	\$271,750	\$543,500
14	44.25	22-1617 A	Okanogan Land Trust	Similkameen-Wahl Ranch	\$648,375	\$648,375	\$1,296,750
15	42.88	22-1722 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Parlette Orchard	\$528,175	\$528,175	\$1,056,350
16	42.25	22-1711 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Torres Dairy	\$401,562	\$401,563	\$803,125
17	36.38	22-1668 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Coyote Bank Farm Conservation Easement	\$146,750	\$146,750	\$293,500
18	22.75	22-1688 A	Forterra	Kreger Lake Pavlov Parcel	\$79,250	\$79,250	\$158,500
Total					\$19,429,263	\$8,851,263	\$28,280,526

Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Farmland Preservation Category Projects



Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Farmland preservation means protection of any land defined as farm and agricultural land in RCW 84.34.020(2) and farm and agricultural conservation land in 84.34.020 (8).³

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	16
Advisory Committee	2	Threat to the Land	10
Advisory Committee	3	Access to Markets	4
Advisory Committee	4	On-site Infrastructure	4
Advisory Committee	5	Building Envelope	4
Advisory Committee	6	Farmland Stewardship	6
Advisory Committee	7	Stewardship Practices	2
Advisory Committee	8	Benefits to the Community	6
Advisory Committee	9	Community Support	2
RCO Staff	10	Match	2
RCO Staff	11	Easement Duration	0
Total Points			56

Farmland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. Viability of the Site

What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))

2. Threat to the Land

What is the likelihood the land will not stay in agricultural use if it is not protected?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(c))

³ Chapter 79A.15.010 (5)

3. **Access to Markets**

How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))

4. **On-site Infrastructure**

How well is the land's agricultural productivity supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, houses, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))

5. **Building Envelope**

How much of the property is included in the building envelope?

6. **Farmland Stewardship**

What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?

7. **Stewardship Practices**

What stewardship practices (described in Question 6) will be included in the terms of the conservation easement as required stewardship practices for the duration of the easement?

8. **Benefits to the Community**

How will protecting the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community and area Native American tribes support the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(a))

9. **Community Support**

Are there one or more letters in the application that demonstrate community support for the project?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

10. **Match**

Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

11. **Easement Duration**

What is the duration of the conservation easement?

Farmland Preservation Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
		Point Range	0-16	0-10	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-2	-10-0	
1	22-1662A	Bell's Farm Expansion	15.50	9.62	3.88	4.00	3.50	5.38	2.00	4.88	1.62	2.00	0.00	52.38
2	22-1435A	Zakarison Farmland Protection	15.38	7.75	3.50	3.88	3.88	5.50	1.50	5.62	2.00	2.00	0.00	51.00
3	22-1322A	Jacoby Agricultural Conservation Easement	15.12	8.38	4.00	3.88	3.75	5.38	1.25	5.00	1.88	2.00	0.00	50.63
4	22-1408A	Quilcene Farmland Preservation	14.88	9.25	3.62	3.38	2.75	5.50	2.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	50.38
4	22-1681A	Little Klickitat River Century Farm	15.38	9.38	3.88	3.75	4.00	5.88	1.75	5.62	0.75	0.00	0.00	50.38
6	22-1643A	Welcome Table Farm Conservation Easement	14.12	8.75	3.75	3.88	3.75	5.50	1.75	5.62	2.00	0.00	0.00	49.13
7	22-1524A	Mid Valley Farm	15.12	9.00	3.50	3.38	3.75	3.62	1.12	5.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	48.50

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
		Point Range	0-16	0-10	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-2	-10-0	
8	22-1230A	Wolf Creek Agricultural Conservation Easement Phase 2	15.00	9.50	3.38	3.50	3.12	4.88	1.88	4.75	1.88	0.00	0.00	47.88
9	22-1533A	The Dungeness Hub Nash's Organic Produce	15.25	7.50	3.75	3.88	1.88	4.75	1.62	5.12	2.00	2.00	0.00	47.75
10	22-1541A	Davenport Cattle Agricultural Easement	15.00	7.75	3.50	3.88	3.50	5.50	1.25	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	47.38
11	22-1545A	Emerick Rangeland Preservation	14.25	8.50	3.75	3.62	2.75	4.88	1.62	5.25	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.63
12	22-1544A	Swauk Prairie Farms	14.00	9.50	3.62	3.88	3.50	4.00	1.62	4.38	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.50
13	22-1649A	Spencer Farm	14.38	9.25	3.62	3.88	3.75	5.12	1.75	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.50
14	22-1617A	Similkameen-Wahl Ranch	14.75	7.12	3.00	3.88	4.00	4.25	1.38	4.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	44.25

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
		Point Range	0-16	0-10	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-2	-10-0	
15	22-1722A	Parlette Orchard	14.38	7.75	3.88	3.62	3.12	3.00	1.62	4.12	1.38	0.00	0.00	42.88
16	22-1711A	Torres Dairy	13.62	7.75	3.62	4.00	3.38	3.88	1.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.25
17	22-1668A	Coyote Bank Farm Conservation Easement	11.00	7.00	3.50	3.25	2.12	3.50	0.50	3.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	36.38
18	22-1688A	Kreger Lake Pavlov Parcel	9.00	5.62	1.88	2.88	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.75

Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2325

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Expanding Bell's Farm

Grant Requested: \$1,069,250

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy conservation easements⁴ on 214 acres of historic, working farmland near Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. The purchase would expand the historic Bell's Farm, which was purchased by the Mueller family in 1946. The farm raises about 35 head of ancient white park cattle, 125 sheep, 60 hogs, 6 acres of strawberries, and 2 acres of market garden as well as producing hay for the animals. The farm employs 11 full-time workers and more than 40 seasonal workers. Its sweet, June strawberries are a renowned Whidbey Island tradition. Since, the farm owners have reinvigorated Bell's with a focus on organic, regenerative practices, turning around a struggling operation into a thriving hub of local food production and education. Using the animals in a rotational grazing system combined with regular soil testing, Bell's uses no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. Conservation of the additional land will allow Bell's to expand and provide more public access and an incubator site for beginning farmers. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.3 million in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1662)

Palouse Land Trust Conserving Zakarison Farmland

Grant Requested: \$249,278

The Palouse Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁵ on about 607 acres of the Zakarison family farm on State Route 27, about 5 miles north of Pullman. With close proximity to Pullman and sweeping views of Kamiak Butte and Moscow Mountain, the land will become increasingly desirable for future home sites if not conserved. The farm produces wheat, hay, oats, poultry, and lamb and hosts a feed grain business the serves dozens of families. The Zakarison family experiments with growing a rotation of specialty grains, oil seed crops, and cover crops to increase the fertility of soil, and integrates livestock as part of the regenerative strategy. The land trust intends to buy all but one development right and eliminate future division of this agricultural land. The Palouse Land Trust will contribute \$331,903 in a federal appropriation, a state grant, and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1435)

⁴This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

⁵This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

Whatcom County
Conserving a Dairy Farm

Grant Requested: \$169,650

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁶ on 100 acres of prime agricultural soils and forestland on the Jacoby property, 13 miles east of Bellingham. The land supports Coldstream Farm, a dairy that is a leader in environmental sustainability. The purchase will remove two development rights and protect working lands in an area of increasing development pressure. The land is next to land owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and Whatcom County South Fork Park. Conservation of the land will move Whatcom County closer to its goal of protecting 100,000 acres of land for agriculture. Whatcom County will contribute \$207,350 in Conservation Futures.⁷ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1322)

Jefferson Land Trust
Preserving Quilcene Farmland

Grant Requested: \$750,000

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy conservation easements⁸ on Humbleberry and Schmidt Farms, located next to each other about 1 mile northeast of Quilcene at the head of Quilcene Bay. The farms have 115 acres of working farmland, prime agricultural soils, parts of salmon-spawning Jakeway and Donovan Creeks, and wetlands. The farms are next to other permanently protected fish habitat, farmland, and working forestland properties. Conserving the land will prevent subdivision and eliminate the estimated four remaining development rights. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$979,200 in Conservation Futures⁹ and a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1408)

Columbia Land Trust
Preserving Centennial Farm

Grant Requested: \$1,605,000

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 1,983 acres of one of the oldest farm ownerships in Washington State—Centennial Farm, called such because it has been managed continuously by the same family for more than 100 years. The farm is 5 miles west of Goldendale and contains irrigated pasture for hay, cattle, and chickens. More than 80 percent of the farm's soils are classified as prime or Washington Farmland of Statewide Importance. In addition to its agricultural values, the easement will help protect irrigation practices that provide much-needed late season water in the Little

⁶This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

⁷Conservation 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.

⁸This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

⁹Conservation 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.

Klickitat River for mid-Columbia River summer steelhead trout, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The conservation easement will remove up to 99 potential development rights in a rapidly developing corner of the state to ensure that the property remains viable for farming forever. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.6 million in a federal grant and donated of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1681)

**Blue Mountain Land Trust
Conserving Welcome Table Farm**

Grant Requested: \$345,500

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy an agricultural conservation easement¹⁰ on the 25-acre Welcome Table Farm, on Old Milton Highway in Walla Walla. Welcome Table Farm has been growing a variety of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for 10 years. The farm also hosts college interns, annual kids summer camps, and educational events for the community, highlighting the importance of locally produced food. In addition, the farm includes about a half-mile of Yellow Hawk Creek, which is an important tributary for steelhead and bull trout, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, trying to reach Mill Creek. While the area has historically been farmland, increasing development and conversion to non-farm uses has occurred nearby in recent years. An agricultural easement on this property will ensure that the productive farmland remains in agricultural use. The Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$357,500 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1643)

**North Olympic Land Trust
Preserving Mid Valley Farm**

Grant Requested: \$421,180

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹¹ for the 54-acre Mid Valley Farm. The farm is on the edge of the rapidly expanding Sequim, and is integral to Maple View Farm, one of the last two dairies in Clallam County. The county had more than 480 family dairies before the 1950s. Preservation of Mid Valley Farm will protect this critically important link to the agricultural history of western Washington, preserve prime agricultural soils, and extinguish at least nine development rights on lands best suited for agriculture. The conservation of Mid Valley Farm also will meet recreation goals by preserving bucolic scenic vistas for bicyclists and drivers along this busy scenic route, and for birders who enjoy the state-protected trumpeter and tundra swans that use open fields in the winter. The North Olympic Land Trust will

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contribute \$514,779 in Conservation Futures¹² and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1524)

Methow Conservancy
Continuing to Conserve Wolf Creek Farmland

Grant Requested: \$1,279,250

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹³ and permanently protect 101 acres of Wolf Creek farmland in the Methow Valley. The farm contains high-quality soils, wetlands, scenic views along public trails and roads, and senior, adjudicated water rights, which will be tied to the land forever as part of the easement. This is the second phase of a project to conserve Wolf Creek farmland. The Methow Conservancy will contribute more than \$1.2 million in donations of labor, land or property interest, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1230)

North Olympic Land Trust
Conserving a Dungeness Hub Farm

Grant Requested: \$137,631

The North Olympic Land Trust will use grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁴ to conserve the 9.79-acre Dungeness Hub, owned by Nash's Organic Produce, one of the first organic farms in western Washington. The Dungeness area of Sequim is renowned as the agricultural heart of Clallam County, which is at great risk of development. The farm contains prime agricultural soil and serves as a hub by supporting several surrounding farms with infrastructure, including a packing shed, large walk-in cooler, office space, greenhouses, and ready access to water in an area that receives less than 20 inches of rain annually. The farm is in the middle of 600 acres of already conserved land for farming, waterfowl, and river restoration. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$168,218 in Conservation Futures¹⁵ and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1533)

Washington State Conservation Commission
Conserving Davenport Cattle

Grant Requested: \$3,492,195

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁶ to permanently protect 5,867 acres of Davenport Cattle, a multi-generational, family-

¹²Conservation 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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¹⁴This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

¹⁵Conservation 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.

¹⁶This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

owned farm and ranch established in 1876 in Klickitat County. The farm produces cattle, hay, and grain. The easement will extinguish 958 development rights. The farm is one of the largest and oldest farms in Klickitat County and likely in Washington State. The proposed project consists of 27 separate parcels under two different family ownerships that support different aspects of the overall operation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1541)

**Washington State Conservation Commission
Preserving Emerick Rangeland**

Grant Requested: \$1,460,550

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁷ on 2,576 acres of rangeland in Yakima County. The land supports 150 cows. The easement will protect the early spring and summer pasture permanently, which is a critical piece of the overall farm business. In addition, the land provides critical habitat to many animals and plant communities, several of which are unique to this landscape and listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The landowners already have the fourth and fifth generations lined up to continue the operation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1545)

**Washington State Conservation Commission
Conserving Swauk Prairie Farms**

Grant Requested: \$6,373,917

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁸ on 601 acres to preserve Swauk Prairie Farms and allow farming to continue into the future. Designated a State Centennial Farm, the farm produces hay and is used for livestock grazing. Conserving the farm will protect three "habitats of greatest conservation need" including Columbia Basin foothill riparian woodland and shrubland, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe, and northern Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine woodland. The farm also is 1.5 miles from the Teanaway Community Forest, a 50,241-acre landscape that lies at the headwaters of the Yakima River Basin watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1544)

**Washington Farmland Trust
Conserving Spencer Farm Near Chehalis**

Grant Requested: \$271,750

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Washington Farmland Trust will use grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁹ on about 130 acres of prime farmland near Chehalis. The Spencer Farm is surrounded on three sides by the Newaukum River, and its closeness to Napavine makes it attractive for rural development. The easement will extinguish 12 development rights, permit the current landowner to continue farming his family's farm, and conserve agricultural land along the river. The Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$271,750 in a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1649)

Okanogan Land Trust
Conserving the Similkameen-Wahl Ranch

Grant Requested: \$648,375

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²⁰ to protect 464 acres of agricultural land along the Similkameen River, about 13 miles north of Loomis in Okanogan County. The Similkameen-Wahl Ranch includes significant acreage of both Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Farmed for more than 100 years, the land is owned by a multi-generation ranching family. The easement would enable the owners to solidify their ranching operation and pass it to the next generation, free from subdivision and development pressures. The land is next to the Similkameen-Chopaka Wildlife Unit, which is owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and near other lands protected by government, tribe, and nonprofit. It provides a substantial corridor of protection along the Similkameen River. In addition, the seasonal grazing pastures and irrigated meadows provide habitat for elk, moose, bear, deer, and a wide variety of bird species. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$648,375 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1617)

Washington Farmland Trust
Conserving the Parlette Cherry Orchard

Grant Requested: \$528,175

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²¹ on Parlette Orchard in the Wenatchee Heights area, southeast of Wenatchee. The easement will extinguish 11 development rights and permanently protect the 67-acre farm with an established cherry orchard for agricultural production forever. Chelan County's nationally valuable irrigated orchard lands are under enormous development pressure. Located on soils of statewide significance for orchard production, with senior water rights, and ideal elevation, the Parlette Orchard is in a location uniquely resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$528,175 in

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donations of land or property interest and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1722)

**Washington Farmland Trust
Conserving the Torres Dairy**

Grant Requested: \$401,562

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²² to preserve more than 350 acres of prime farmland and critical habitat in the Chehalis River basin and help ensure a dairy remains. Jose Torres started on the farm as a milker when the Goeres family owned and operated the entire operation. During the past decade, the Torres family has taken on more of the operation, and purchased the business when William Goeres died. An easement on the entirety of the land that supports the dairy will facilitate the sale of the remainder of the land and buildings to Torres family by making it more affordable. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$401,563 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1711)

**Washington Farmland Trust
Preserving Coyote Bank Farm**

Grant Requested: \$146,750

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²³ on Coyote Bank Farm, conserving about 11 acres and extinguishing the farm's remaining development right. This project is a high priority because it preserves a smaller farm, which will be more affordable to future generations of farmers. Located outside of Acme, Coyote Bank Farm is next to Jones Creek and surrounded by several hundred acres of agricultural land and open space that is being conserved as part of a larger initiative of Whatcom County. The easement will protect the farm and allow for compatible wildlife habitat restoration. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$146,750 in a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1668)

**Forterra Northwest
Conserving Kreger Lake Farmland**

Grant Requested: \$79,250

Forterra Northwest will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²⁴ on 20 acres, known as the Pavlov parcel, on Kreger Lake, an hour south of Tacoma. The land is farmed and grazed for family use and sale of the surplus. Conservation of the land will protect 20 acres of soils of statewide importance. Forterra will contribute \$79,250 in a state appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1688)

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Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest
Account: Forestland Preservation Category
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Kim Sellers, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo describes the Forestland Preservation category, the review process, and the projects submitted for funding consideration. Staff will present additional information about the two projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2022-24

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The primary focus of the Forestland Preservation category is to acquire development rights on working forestland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for timber production. A secondary goal is to support other benefits of preserving forestland such as jobs, recreation, protection of water and soil resources, carbon sequestration, habitat for wildlife, and scenic beauty.

The Forestland Preservation category receives ten percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Farm and Forest Account.¹ The remaining ninety percent will be used for the Farmland Preservation category.

Program Summary

The board approved key policy changes² for the Farm and Forest Account. These policies apply to forestland projects submitted this year:

- Creation of a carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option.³
- Changed the review and evaluation processes to be written only.
- Eliminated the ten percent non-state, non-federal match requirement.
- Added a cost-increase policy for funded projects.

PRISM Online was updated to increase security and capture additional information about match. A summary of policies for this category is shown in the table below:

Forestland Preservation Category	
Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, qualified nonprofit nature conservancies, and the Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of property rights through a conservation easement. • Combination projects involving both acquisition and restoration or habitat enhancement.
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maximum grant limit is \$500,000. • The maximum cost for a forest management plan is \$10,000. • The restoration or enhancement total shall not exceed more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, counties, and nonprofit nature conservancies must provide a minimum 1:1 matching share. • No match required for the Washington State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although public access is not required, it is allowed if explicitly provided for in the conservation easement.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each parcel proposed for protection must be classified as either timberland or forestland under county property tax definitions (Revised Codes of Washington 84.34.020(3)) and 84.33.035(5). • Applicants must submit a county approved timber management plan if required by the county's tax program. • Projects, on property owned by a private, small forest landowner, must include correcting all fish passage barriers.

¹Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(b) RCW

² Resolution #2022-05

³ Resolution #2021-02

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Between August 19 and September 15, the WWRP Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed two project proposals using a written evaluation process. They accessed RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module to score projects using board-adopted criteria.

Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of forestland preservation and management in Washington. The advisory committee members participating in this grant cycle are:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Sue Wright, Vancouver	Citizen
Barb Aberle, Olympia	Citizen
Lindsey Web, Manulife Investment Management	Private Organization
Mary McDonald, Department of Natural Resources	State Government
Mike Kuttle Jr., Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Government

The five advisory committee members, using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), reviewed the final project proposals. Members were asked to comment on any fatal flaws with the applications and help ensure that all are worthy of funding consideration. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Table 1 – *WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

Board policies, evaluation processes, and evaluation criteria for farms and forests have a lot of similarities. To streamline our process and facilitate a more robust training, RCO hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for both the Farmland and Forestland Advisory Committees on June 14 and a post evaluation meeting on September 16. Key topics of discussion for the committees included use of a written evaluation process, revised board policies, the number of applications submitted this year, the likelihood of funding for the projects evaluated, and in general, the challenges applicants faced in the recent past. A summary of using a virtual "in-person" process or a written process is included in Item 12A.

The Forestland Advisory Committee has used the virtual "in-person" process and a written process in the past. The committee typically reviews two to four projects each grant cycle and while they miss meeting up with each other and having an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, the written process seems to work. The committee said the

process and communication was fine, but more importantly they were satisfied with the ranked list.

Public Comment

Letters of support or concern for Forestland Preservation projects are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot as Project Support or Concern documents. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Project List, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-24.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor will then submit the Forestland Preservation project list to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove the project from the list but cannot add to the approved list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the project list in the capital budget. The board will approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-24, including Table 1 – *WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for the Forestland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores, 2023-2025
- E. Forestland Preservation Category Project Descriptions, 2023-2025
- F. Forestland Preservation Category Letters of Project Support or Concern

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-24
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Forestland Preservation Category, Project List, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, two Forestland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding from the Farm and Forest Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, the two applications were submitted in the Forestland Preservation category and meet the program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10c, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation*, including criteria regarding county tax designation as either forestland or timberland; and

WHEREAS, these Forestland Preservation category projects were reviewed by a team of citizens and government representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the project list for the Forestland Preservation category for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Resolution seconded by: Member Burgess

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

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: WWRP – Forestland Preservation Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2022-23

Resolution 2022-24

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	35.6	22-1765 A	Forterra	Whistling Pines Family Forest	\$500,000	\$2,462,490	\$2,962,490
2	31.4	22-1622 A	Forterra	Polson Heritage Forest	\$500,000	\$561,000	\$1,061,000
Total					\$1,000,000	\$3,023,490	\$4,023,490

Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for the Forestland Preservation Category Projects



Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Forestland preservation means protection of any land designated as either timberland in RCW 84.34.020(3) or forestland in 84.33.035(5).⁴

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	15
Advisory Committee	2	Forestland Stewardship	8
Advisory Committee	3	Stewardship Practices	2
Advisory Committee	4	Threat to the Land	8
Advisory Committee	5	Community Values	4
Advisory Committee	6	Community Support	2
Advisory Committee	7	Multiple Benefits	2
RCO Staff	8	Match	2
Total Points			43

Forestland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. Viability of the Site

What is the viability of the site for commercial timber production?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(h))

2. Forest Stewardship

What stewardship practices beyond the Forest Practices Act are in place that support timber production or provide ecologic benefits?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(e-g))

3. Stewardship Practices

What voluntary stewardship practices (described in Question 2) will be included in the terms of the conservation easement or lease as required stewardship practices?

⁴ Chapter 79A.15.010 (6)

4. Threat to the Land

What is the likelihood the land will be converted to some other use than forestland if it's not protected?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(c))

5. Community Values

How will protecting the land for timber production provide benefits to the community? Do the community and area Native American tribes support the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (12)(a), (b), and (d)

6. Community Support

Are there one or more letters in the application that demonstrate community support for the project?

7. Multiple Benefits

Does the project include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

Does the project include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with conservation and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (i)d

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

8. Match

Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores 2022-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type1	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Forestland Stewardship	3. Stewardship Practices	4. Threat to the Land	5. Community Values	6. Community Support	7. Multiple Benefits	8. Match	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-8	0-2	0-8	0-4	0-2	0-2	0-2	
1	22-1765 A	Whistling Pines Family Forest	14.20	7.20	1.80	5.80	2.60	0.60	1.40	2.00	35.60
2	22-1622 A	Polson Heritage Forest	10.80	5.20	1.80	6.20	3.40	2.00	2.00	0.00	31.40

Forestland Preservation Category Project Description 2023-2025

Forterra Northwest Conserving the Whistling Pines Family Forest

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Forterra will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁵ on 960 acres of working timberland known as the Whistling Pines Family Forest, east of Cle Elum. The land is next to the Teanaway Community Forest, a state-owned, 50,272-acre forest and recreation area. The east Cle Elum Ridge area provides critical habitat and travel corridors for wildlife including mule deer, black bear, elk, gray wolf, spotted owl, and cougar. The Hermanson Family Timber and Land LLC will continue to log the land but the easement will extinguish 48 development rights, ensuring a forested buffer between the Teanaway Community Forest and development. While there will be limited public access, community benefit will be achieved through fire-resistant forest management, habitat and wildlife conservation, and jobs from continued logging. Forterra will contribute more than \$2.4 million in a federal grant, a state appropriation, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#). (22-1765)

Forterra Northwest Polson Heritage Forest

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Forterra will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁶ on 80.2 acres of forestland known as the Polson Heritage Forest, in Grays Harbor County. The land has second-growth trees, a wetland, a small pond, and streams. If not protected, the land faces increasing threats of rural residential development. Forterra is partnering with the Polson Museum and Girl Scouts of Western Washington to showcase the local, cultural, and historical resources of the region and site. The Polson Museum is a respected local nonprofit leader in historical and educational programming, including a mobile sawmill. These kinds of tourism and educational opportunities will support community programming and generate long-term revenue to complement and enhance forest management. The Girl Scout camp infrastructure, including a lodge, A-frame cabins, and open-air sleeping bunks, will be used recreationally. Conservation of the forest will preserve the forest legacy that characterizes the region. Forterra will contribute \$561,000 in donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#). (22-1622)

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Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Critical Habitat Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Brian Carpenter, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Seven projects in the Critical Habitat category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-25

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Critical Habitat category projects provide habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species. These habitats include freshwater, salt-water, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, winter range, etc. Acquisitions often provide protection of habitat for both federal and state endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

The Critical Habitat category receives 35 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(a) RCW

Program Summary

The most significant change to the Critical Habitat category, first available for the 2022-23 grant round, is the availability of ² enrollment in carbon credit and ecosystem service credit programs on land acquired or encumbered with a Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) grant. These programs issue credits or direct payments to landowners for activities such as protecting land, planting trees, or improving management practices that reduce, sequester, or prevent future carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. More information is in Manual 3: *Acquisition Projects*.

A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local and state³ agencies• Native American tribes• Nonprofit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition• Development• Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No match required for state agencies.• Local agencies, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations, and Native American tribes must provide a 50 percent matching share.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities is allowed.• Must be accessible for public recreation and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprehensive habitat conservation plan is required.• Livestock grazing is allowed.• Projects involving renovation of an existing facility or habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration are ineligible.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Seven Critical Habitat category projects requesting \$15.9 million were evaluated by members of the WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee on August 17, 2022, in

² Resolution #2021-02.

³ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

an open public virtual meeting. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat enhancement and conservation. Members who evaluated projects this cycle include the following:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
John Gamon, Sumner	Citizen
Dave Hays, Olympia	Citizen
Pene Speaks, Olympia	Citizen
Matt Tweedy, Yakima	Citizen
Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank	Local Agency
Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County	Local Agency
Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Lydia Mendoza, Columbia Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Government
Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources	State Government

The ten advisory committee members virtually reviewed the proposals using video conferencing software to conduct the meetings, and RCO’s PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects according to criteria adopted by the board. The presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025*.

Review of Process

Following the evaluations, staff held a post-evaluation meeting on August 31 with the WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee. This committee evaluates the Critical Habitat, Natural Areas, and Urban Wildlife Habitat categories. The purpose of this meeting was to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical review and evaluation meetings, and scoring results. All members of the committee participated in the meeting and agreed that the application process was well organized and the electronic scoring module in PRISM Online was user friendly. Like the last grant cycle, the committee would like to see the scoring tool enhanced to see all their scores in one table before submitting them to RCO.

Advisory Committee members expressed a weakness with the way applicants addressed the *Species and Communities with Special Status* criterion, indicating that applicants spend too much time talking about species that are not on the site. Although the acquisition site may have the potential to support a species, committee members

believe applicants should focus their responses and describe what species are on the property proposed for protection. Additionally, the applicants should explain how and why the acquisition property is critical to the survival of the species.

Most applicants do a good job of collecting species data, but do not always understand how to interpret the data and relate it to their project proposals. The advisory committee thinks RCO should facilitate a session for applicants where they invite specialists from the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources to help applicants understand the “data” they have access to and how to use it. Also, applicants need to know more about the specific “threats” to the wildlife or habitat species and explain how this project will reduce or alleviate those threats.

The advisory committee wrapped up the meeting by stating their appreciation for Tessa Cencula, Volunteer Grants and Process Coordinator, and other RCO staff who worked to make this process seamless. They were pleased with the quality of the projects brought forward for evaluation and the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for Critical Habitat category projects included as Project Support or Concern documents attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* via Resolution #2022-25.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may

remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-25, including Table 1 – *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects
- C. Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-25
- E. Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-25
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, seven Critical Habitat category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all seven Critical Habitat category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and community support, and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Critical Habitat category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens, nonprofit organizations, and state and local agency representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Critical Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Burgess

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Date: October 25, 2022

Table 1: WWRP Critical Habitat Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution: 2022-25

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	
1	45.40	22-1630 A	Columbia Land Trust	Klickitat Oaks Phase 1	\$4,328,900	\$4,328,900	\$8,657,800	
2	44.00	22-1274 A	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Castle Rock Ridge Acquisition	\$660,000	\$674,000	\$1,334,000	
3	43.60	22-1234 C	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	South Sound Prairies	\$3,345,000		\$3,345,000	
4	41.80	22-1275 A	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Kane Ranch Conservation Easement	\$298,500	\$1,100,000	\$1,398,500	
5	41.40	22-1235 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hunter Mountain North	\$4,500,000		\$4,500,000	
6	41.20	22-1233 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	McLoughlin Falls West	\$2,220,000		\$2,220,000	
7	37.00	22-1232 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Maloney Mountain	\$550,000		\$550,000	
					Total	\$15,902,400	\$6,102,900	\$22,005,300

Project type: A=Acquisition, C = Combination

State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects



Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Critical Habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat and habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.”⁴

Critical Habitat Criteria Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goals and objectives • Location maps 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Statewide significance • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat 	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity • Pollinator habitat 	10
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to the habitat • Consideration of a conservation easement • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship • Livestock grazing uses 	15
4. Public Benefit and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
5. Multiple Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation uses • Resource uses and management practices 	3
	Total Points Possible	53

⁴ RCW 79A.15.010

Critical Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scores

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a) (iii, v-vii, ix, xi, xiii, xiv, xvi)

2. Species or Communities with Special Status

What is the significance of each species or community listed on your Species and Communities with Special Status table?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iv, vii, ix, xi, xiii, xv, xvii)

3. Manageability and Viability

What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (ii, iv, vi, x)

4. Public Benefit and Community Support

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iii, xii, xiv)

5. Multiple Benefits

Does the project area include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

Resource Uses and Management Practices: Does the project area include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (i)

Critical Habitat Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	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	0-53
1	22-1630 A	Klickitat Oaks Phase 1	18.10	8.80	12.60	3.80	2.10	45.40
2	22-1274 A	Castle Rock Ridge Acquisition	16.40	7.30	13.00	4.80	2.50	44.00
3	22-1234 C	South Sound Prairies	16.70	8.60	12.00	3.90	2.40	43.60
4	22-1275 A	Kane Ranch Conservation Easement	16.20	8.20	12.50	3.10	1.80	41.80
5	22-1235 A	Hunter Mountain North	16.00	7.30	12.90	2.90	2.30	41.40
6	22-1233 A	McLoughlin Falls West	15.90	7.50	12.30	3.60	1.90	41.20
7	22-1232 A	Maloney Mountain	13.40	6.60	11.80	2.90	2.30	37.00

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-5
Project type: A= Acquisition, C = Combination

Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-25

Columbia Land Trust Conserving Klickitat Oaks

Grant Requested: \$4,328,900

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 2,666 acres above the Klickitat River near Klickitat. This unique landscape includes priority oak woodland, savanna, and mixed oak and conifer forest. The conservation of this land will help protect priority plant communities associated with Oregon white oak and the birds and other wildlife they support. Priority species supported include Lewis's woodpecker, western gray squirrel, acorn woodpecker, and fisher. It also is a critical link in the Pacific Flyway and source of food for neotropical migratory birds in decline. Additionally, the project site will be available to members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation for traditional uses. This is the first phase of a multiphase project to conserve 8,000 acres. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$4.3 million in federal and private grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1630)

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Conserving Castle Rock Ridge

Grant Requested: \$660,000

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy 398 acres of high-value shrub-steppe habitat in the Cascade Mountain foothills of Wenatchee. This land includes habitat for a diverse array of plants as well as species of state and federal concern, including mule deer and golden eagles. Additionally, this land provides hiking access between the Wenatchee's Lower Castle Rock Natural Area and U.S. Forest Service lands. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$674,000 in staff labor and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1274)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving South Sound Prairies

Grant Requested: \$3,345,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 217.6 acres in the historic violet and rock prairie region of south Thurston County. The land includes four ecological systems of concern—Willamette Valley upland prairie, Willamette Valley wet prairie, north Pacific oak woodland, and temperate Pacific freshwater marsh—as well as critical habitat for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and Mazama pocket gopher. Additionally, this land will provide access to quality recreation activities including hiking,

hunting, and horseback riding. This is the final phase of a multiphase project. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1234)

**Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Conserving Kane Ranch**

Grant Requested: \$298,500

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on the 3,040-acre Kane Ranch in the Badger Mountain area in East Wenatchee. The land includes critical habitat for sage-grouse and is an integral piece of the habitat protections and investments already in place on adjacent land. The 2020 Pearl Hill fire burned more than 50 percent of all known sage-grouse leks in Douglas County and more than 40 percent of all existing habitat. The Badger Mountain area now contains the state's largest known active lek. Sage-grouse rely on large intact landscapes of shrub-steppe habitat, largely tied to private lands and rural agriculture. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.1 million in federal and private grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1275)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Hunter Mountain North**

Grant Requested: \$4,500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 520 acres in Okanogan County to protect critical, high-quality, shrub-steppe habitat in the lower Methow Valley. Protecting the land will conserve sagebrush-steppe habitat for mule deer and other species, including the endangered gray wolf. It also improves the east-west wildlife corridor connecting state and federal lands for wildlife travel and makes the land easier to manage. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1235)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving McLoughlin Falls West**

Grant Requested: \$2,220,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 730 acres in north-central Okanogan County. Protecting this unique land will benefit several important sagebrush-steppe species such as mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, and various migratory bird species. It also helps protect threatened summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout populations. Additionally, the land contains a number of cultural resources, unique low-elevation ponderosa pine stands, and expansive talus and cliff habitat used by golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and other species. There also will be access to recreational activities such as upland bird hunting, hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching and the potential for several two-track roads for trail access by non-motorized users. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1233)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Maloney Mountain****Grant Requested: \$550,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 145.8 acres of critical habitat in Columbia County. The land has a very high potential for future development due to its location and views, which would increase human disturbance in the area and fragment the important elk winter range. The land is prime Blue Mountain elk winter range and has been identified as a critical linkage parcel. It also is used by golden eagles, American badgers, gray wolves, pileated woodpeckers, black-backed woodpeckers, and bald eagles. Additionally, the land will provide hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1232)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Natural Areas Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Nine project proposals in the Natural Areas category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2022-26

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Projects in the Natural Areas category protect high quality, representative native ecosystems, or unique plant or animal communities. Species protected in these habitats are often classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive at the federal or state level. Rare geological features or features of scientific or educational value are also considered.

The Natural Areas category receives 25 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹

Program Summary

The one significant change to the Natural Areas category effective this year resulted from board Resolution 2021-02, which allowed for land acquired or encumbered with grant funds to be enrolled in carbon credit and other payments for ecosystem service programs. These programs issue credits or direct payments to landowners for activities such as protecting land, planting trees, or improving management practices that reduce, sequester, or prevent future carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions.

A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies² • Qualified nonprofit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development • Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies: no match required • Nonprofit nature conservancies: 50% match required
Public Access	Must be accessible for public recreation and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for habitat conservation purposes in perpetuity. • Areas must be managed primarily for resource preservation, protection, and study. • Projects involving renovation of an existing facility or habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration are ineligible. • Development is limited to public use facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, parking, and restrooms, where appropriate.

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(b) RCW

² State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Evaluation Summary

Nine Natural Areas category projects requesting just over \$11.7 million were evaluated July 25 - August 18, 2022. WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee members are selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director. These individuals are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat preservation and conservation. Members who evaluated projects this cycle include the following:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
John Gamon, Sumner	Citizen
Dave Hays, Olympia	Citizen
Pene Speaks, Olympia	Citizen
Matt Tweedy, Yakima	Citizen
Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank	Local Agency
Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County	Local Agency
Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Lydia Mendoza, Columbia Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Government
Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources	State Government

To review and rank each project, the ten advisory committee members used a written evaluation process and RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects using the board's adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

As part of the technical review, evaluation, and post-evaluation meeting on August 31, RCO staff met with the WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results. In addition to the Natural Areas category, these members also evaluate the Critical Habitat and Urban Wildlife Habitat categories.

The advisory committee participated in a pre-evaluation meeting to receive a refresher on using the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module. They then provided feedback on projects during technical review and a written summary of ways applicants could improve their proposals before evaluation. Suggestions included:

- Using the board adopted guidance for each criterion. Be clear about whether the guidance applies to the priority parcel or to the natural area in general. For example, if the natural area is available for research and education, will the properties in the project be available for that use as well.
- If something does not apply to the properties in the project, be explicit and explain. For example, when responding to the *Multiple Benefits* evaluation criterion, an evaluator would rather see a statement that says “no other resource uses are compatible with the goals of the natural area preserve”, rather than for the applicant to not address the criterion.
- Make sure the properties brought forward for acquisition are within the adopted boundary for the habitat area. If not, be clear about the status of the boundary expansion.
- Photos submitted as part of the visual packet should be labeled to draw attention to the specific criterion the applicant is addressing. For example, if there is a particular “threat” occurring at the site, include a photo of the threat (development, logging, etc.) and cross-reference the photo at the appropriate place in the response to the criterion.
- While the applicants provide good boundary maps, the corresponding photos should include aerial images of the priority parcels for the grant application.
- Ask a coworker to proof-read the responses to the criteria to ensure there are no grammatical or spelling errors.
- Many of the proposals are presented in a very clinical fashion. As a result, any sense of urgency is lost. Don't bury the lead, but rather ensure the response to the criteria begins with the most compelling statement(s).

A consistent weakness is that applicants do not always address all the elements in each evaluation question, or the information is misplaced within the proposal (i.e., statistics for question 1 might be included in question 3 instead).

After reviewing the suggestions, RCO staff plans to provide additional instructions to applicants during the next grant round to help them address the criteria in a way that makes scoring easier.

Public Comment

There are letters of support for Natural Areas category projects included as Project Support or Concern documents and are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, and its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-26.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-26, including Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25
- B. State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects
- C. Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-25
- E. Natural Areas Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-26
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, nine Natural Areas category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all nine Natural Areas category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and community support, relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Areas category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency or organization representatives using evaluation criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitats and the demonstrated need to protect it, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Natural Areas category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

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

Date: October 25, 2022

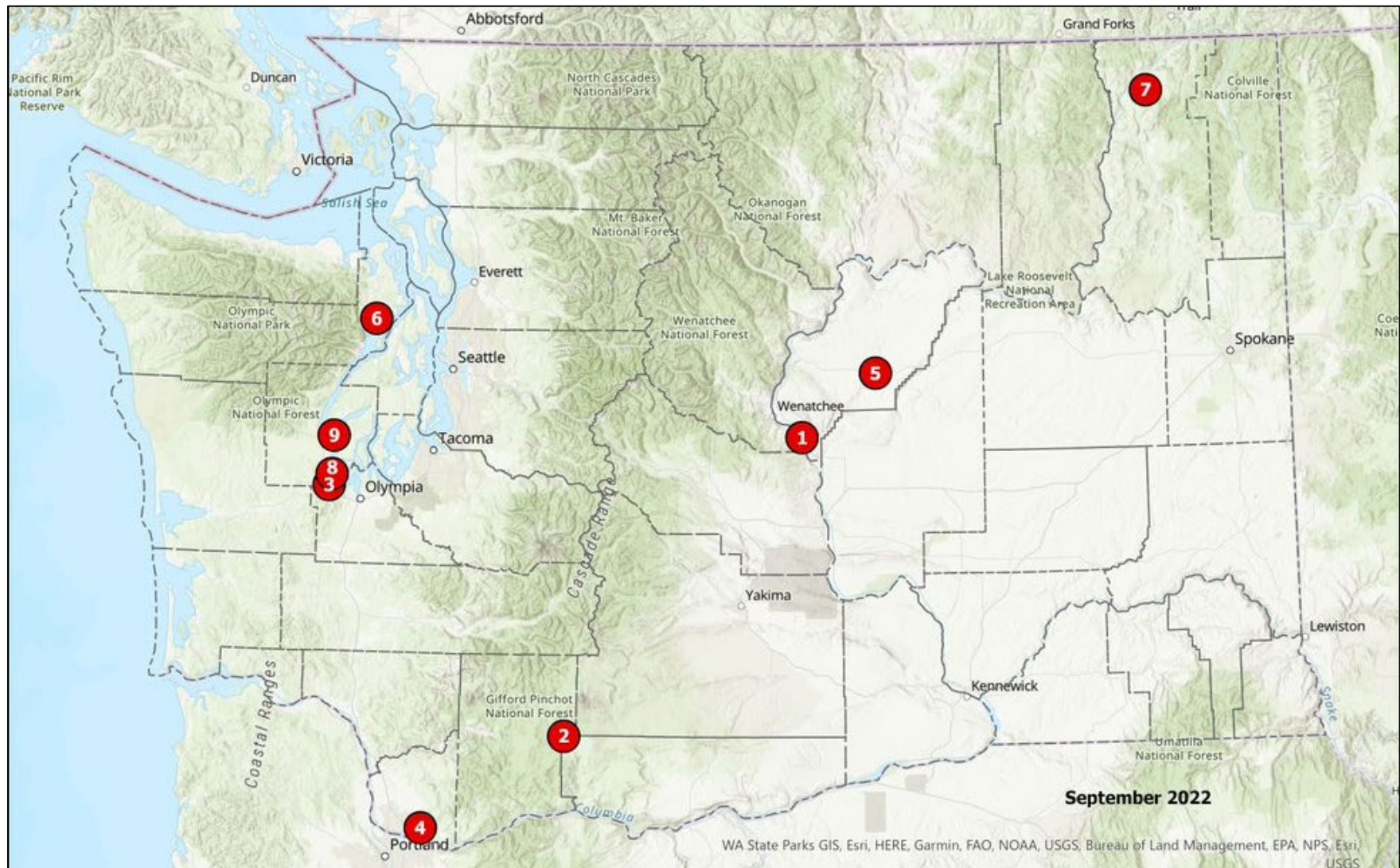
Table 1: WWRP Natural Areas Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution: 2022-26

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
1	42.60	22-1380 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	\$1,927,277	\$1,927,277
2	42.40	22-1294 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve	\$870,024	\$870,024
3	41.10	22-1290 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$3,595,349	\$3,595,349
4	39.70	22-1291 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	\$525,590	\$525,590
5	39.00	22-1293 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve	\$1,729,255	\$1,729,255
6	38.60	22-1289 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Dabob Bay Natural Area	\$642,896	\$642,896
7	37.70	22-1379 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve	\$1,219,995	\$1,219,995
8	37.10	22-1292 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve	\$675,209	\$675,209
9	33.60	22-1376 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve	\$524,558	\$524,558
Total					\$11,710,153	\$11,710,153

Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects



Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Natural Areas means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.”³

Natural Areas Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goals and objectives • Location maps 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Statewide significance • Species or communities • Quality of habitat and natural features 	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Pollinator habitat 	10
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Consideration of a conservation easement • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship 	15
4. Public Benefit and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
5. Multiple Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation uses • Resource uses and management practices 	3
Total Points Possible		53

³Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Natural Areas Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scores

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a) (iii, v-vii, ix, xi, xiii, xiv, xvi)

2. Species or Communities with Special Status

What is the significance of each species or community listed on the required Species or Communities with Special Status table?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iv, vii, ix, xi, xiii, xv, xvii)

3. Manageability and Viability

What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable (functioning) over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (ii, iv, vi, x)

4. Public Benefit and Community Support

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from, or support, the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iii, xii, xiv)

5. Multiple Benefits

Recreation Uses: Does the project area include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

Resource Uses and Management Practices: Does the project area include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (i)

Natural Areas Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

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	
1	22-1380 A	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	16.90	9.00	12.70	2.90	1.10	42.60
2	22-1294 A	Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve	16.20	8.90	11.60	3.60	2.10	42.40
3	22-1290 A	Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area	15.30	7.20	11.80	4.40	2.40	41.10
4	22-1291 A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	15.20	7.90	11.30	3.40	1.90	39.70
5	22-1293 A	Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve	15.50	8.00	11.00	3.10	1.40	39.00
6	22-1289 A	Dabob Bay Natural Area	15.40	6.70	11.70	3.20	1.60	38.60
7	22-1379 A	Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve	15.00	6.80	12.20	2.60	1.10	37.70
8	22-1292 A	Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve	13.80	6.60	12.30	2.90	1.50	37.10
9	22-1376 A	Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve	12.80	6.50	10.60	2.50	1.20	33.60

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-5

Project type: A=acquisition

Natural Areas Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$1,927,277**
Protecting a Plant Found Nowhere Else in the World

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 1,513 acres to expand the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve, which is about 10 miles south of Wenatchee. The preserve was established in 1989 to protect a rare plant species, Whited's milkvetch, which exists nowhere else in the world besides in the less than 9 square miles centered around the existing preserve. This is the second phase of acquisition, after which 95 percent of Whited's milkvetch will be protected in the preserve. The preserve provides exceptional opportunities for scientific research and environmental education for school groups and the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1380)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$870,024**
Protecting Frogs in the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy and manage 126 acres of private land within the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve's approved boundary. The preserve contains high-quality freshwater wetlands and supports a large population of the Oregon spotted frog, which is a state endangered species and a species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The preserve also is a nesting and foraging area for the greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. In addition, several rare plants are found in the seasonally wet meadows and adjacent oak woodlands. This grant would protect permanently all the remaining privately-owned Oregon spotted frog breeding habitat in the Trout Lake watershed to protect the species from future habitat loss and ensure the ability of biologists to continue monitoring breeding populations. The preserve provides exceptional opportunities for scientific research and environmental education for school groups and the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1294)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$3,595,349**
Protecting a Salt Marsh and Salmon Runs in the Kennedy Creek Natural Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 173 acres in the 1,460-acre Kennedy Creek Natural Area, in Mason and Thurston Counties. Buying the land will help permanently protect one of the few remaining high-quality salt marshes and one of the most abundant fall chum salmon runs in southern Puget Sound, with average of 30,000 fish. Kennedy Creek also supports coho salmon and coastal, resident, cutthroat,

and steelhead trout. After spawning, the salmon carcasses provide important nutrients and supplement the diets of 120 different wildlife species, including northern river otter, bobcat, and red-tailed hawk. The mudflats in the natural area provide critical feeding habitat for more than 150 species of birds. In a single day, 10,000 migratory shorebirds have been counted in the Kennedy estuary and 2,000-5,000 dunlin winter there each year—the largest concentration in central and southern Puget Sound. Each November, more than 5,000 people, including 3,500 students, visit the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, which is in the Natural Area and between the land to be purchased. The trail offers the best salmon education option for school children in southern Puget Sound. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1290)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$525,590**
Buying Land for the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 28 acres of rare plant communities and species in Lacamas Prairie Natural Area, northeast of Vancouver. This Willamette Valley wet prairie represents the only example of its size and quality in Washington, and it is threatened by its closeness to one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in the state. The land supports the second largest of 20 known populations of Bradshaw's Lomatium, a globally critically imperiled, state endangered plant species. It also contains habitat for five state sensitive plant species and the rare slender-billed white breasted nuthatch. The land will be open to the public for environmental education and low-impact use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1291)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$1,729,255**
Buying Shrub-Steppe in the Two Steppe Natural Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy and manage 1,380 acres in Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve in Douglas County. The preserve was established in 1997 to protect three, high-quality, plant communities and to provide habitat for species listed on both federal and state endangered species lists, including sage grouse, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, and golden eagle. Shrub-steppe has been fragmented by conversion to farms, altered by invasive species, and degraded by incompatible land management practices. The preserve is in the Moses Coulee National Sage Grouse Priority Area for Conservation and in breeding area of the Douglas-Grant County greater sage-grouse population. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1293)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding the Dabob Bay Natural Area****Grant Requested: \$642,896**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly 8 acres, including saltwater shoreline, mature forest, and streams to expand the Dabob Bay Natural Area, in Jefferson County. The purchase will protect permanently the natural processes that occur on a shoreline, such as moving sediment and woody materials, to aid the bay's high-quality coastal spits. The land has 5.7 acres of uplands and 809 feet of shoreline, including 652 feet of streams. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1289)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding the Onion Ridge Natural Area to Conserve Important Landscapes****Grant Requested: \$1,219,995**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 300 acres, known as Onion Ridge, to protect three priority landscapes, 16 miles north of Colville in Stevens County. The purchase will target Idaho fescue/parsnip-flowered buckwheat grassland, which is found on ridgetops or around rock outcrops. It is extremely rare to find high-quality examples of this grassland type and is being protected in only two other areas. The purchase also will target ponderosa pine-Douglas fir/bluebunch wheatgrass woodland, which occurs around balds and on shallow soils. It is not known whether this dry forest community type is protected elsewhere. Finally, the purchase will target western redcedar/wild sarsaparilla forest. Protecting this priority land will add significant acreage to the preserve and ensure that the best examples of these bald and forest communities are protected from logging being planned for forests immediately outside the approved preserve boundary. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1379)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding the Skookum Inlet Natural Areas to Conserve Rare Salt Marshes****Grant Requested: \$675,209**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 11 acres to expand the Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve to protect rare salt marshes in Little Skookum Inlet, 6 miles from Shelton in Mason County. The preserve protects two salt marsh types along with their associated plant communities, which are important, high-quality examples of wetlands in southern Puget Sound. The site also protects tideflats, second-growth forest buffer, chum and coho salmon, and resident cutthroat trout. Winter steelhead, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, is found in Skookum Creek, the major tributary to the inlet. The preserve provides opportunities for environmental education and research. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1292)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$524,558**
Protecting a Forested Bog by Expanding Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 2.6 acres of forested wetland buffer for inclusion in the Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve in Mason County. The land is next to an already protected wetland and will protect the wetland's water quality from stormwater runoff and wastewater leaching. The preserve protects a rare example of Puget lowland wetland and forested bog, along with the southern headwaters of fish-bearing Schumacher Creek. In addition, the preserve conserves three rare plant communities. One of the those—Sitka alder/skunk cabbage-water parsley community—is only found in the Puget lowlands and is critically imperiled globally. The second community, the shore pine/bog Labrador tea/Sphagnum community, is ranked as globally vulnerable. The third community is the red alder/salmonberry/slough sedge/skunk cabbage community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1376)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Riparian Protection Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Thirteen project proposals in the Riparian Protection category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be Request for Decision
 Request for Direction
 Briefing

Resolution: 2022-27

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Riparian Protection category projects provide habitat adjacent to water bodies for fish and wildlife species. These habitats include estuaries, lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines, tidelands, and wetlands. To be eligible for consideration, a project must include acquisition of real property (fee title, easement, or lease).

The Riparian Protection category receives 15 percent of the funds allocated to the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

(WWRP). In addition, any amount above \$3 million in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category must be distributed to this category.

Program Summary

A summary of this category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and state agencies¹ • Federally recognized Native American tribes • Nonprofit nature conservancy organizations • Special purpose districts, or other political subdivisions of the state that provide services to less than the entire state
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Acquisition and development • Acquisition and habitat restoration and enhancement • Development of a stewardship plan as part of an acquisition • Extension of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) leases
Funding Limits	<p>Applicants must request a minimum of \$25,000. There is no maximum request amount.</p>
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit conservancy applicants must provide a 1:1 matching share. • No match required for state agencies.
Public Access	<p>Must be accessible for public access and outdoor education unless the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board specifically approves limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.</p>
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Projects must include acquisition of real property (fee title, conservation easement, or 25-year Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program leases). • Projects may include restoration or enhancement of the property acquired to improve ecological function or restore historic conditions. • Projects may include limited development for low impact public access facilities such as trails, trailheads, parking, restrooms, fencing, signs, and kiosks.

¹Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington Departments of Enterprise Services, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources. The Departments of Transportation and Corrections may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies to apply in partnership. RCW 79A.15.040(5)

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Members of the WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee evaluated 13 Riparian Protection projects on August 17-18, 2022, in an online virtual meeting. Applicants are requesting \$18.4 million in grant funds. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation and restoration. The following members participated this year:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
Merci Clinton, Port Orchard	Citizen
Todd McLaughlin, Reardan	Citizen
Glen Mendel, Dayton	Citizen
Debbie Rose, Seattle	Citizen
Cindy Wilson, Olympia	Citizen
Peter Guillozet, San Juan County Land Bank, Friday Harbor	Local Government
Erin Lanum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish	Tribal Government
Nathan Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust, Vancouver	Nonprofit Organization
Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources, Olympia	State Agency
Richard Tveten, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia	State Agency

Using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), the ten advisory committee members reviewed and ranked the projects in a meeting that was broadcast live for members of the public. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria

At the end of the evaluation meeting and during the post-evaluation meeting on August 31, the WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee members provided feedback on the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results. The advisory committee felt the process was organized and efficient. They felt comfortable with the criteria and thought it worked well.

Committee members raised a few questions and concerns. First, they felt it was challenging to score projects proposing acquisition of a conservation easement vs. fee simple title since it is a different level of protection. The concern is that the landowner may continue some other activities on portions of the property that may or may not be compatible with the protected riparian habitat. Second, they felt project readiness is important, but it is not reflected in the evaluation criteria. Finally, they struggled

somewhat with projects that will allow timber harvesting on the uplands being acquired. With only the application materials and evaluation presentations, it is difficult to assess how compatible those activities will be versus the ecological functions we are trying to protect. Staff has added these concerns to a list for future policy consideration.

Public Comment

There are letters of support for Riparian Protection category projects included as Project Support or Concern documents. They are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-27.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-27, including Table 1 – *WWRP, Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Riparian Protection Category Projects

- C. Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Riparian Protection Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-25
- E. Riparian Protection Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-27
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, 13 Riparian Protection category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all 13 Riparian Protection category projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*; and

WHEREAS, these Riparian Protection category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) that considers the riparian habitat benefits and relationship to existing plans, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects include acquisitions that provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity; protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Riparian Protection category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

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

Date: October 25, 2022

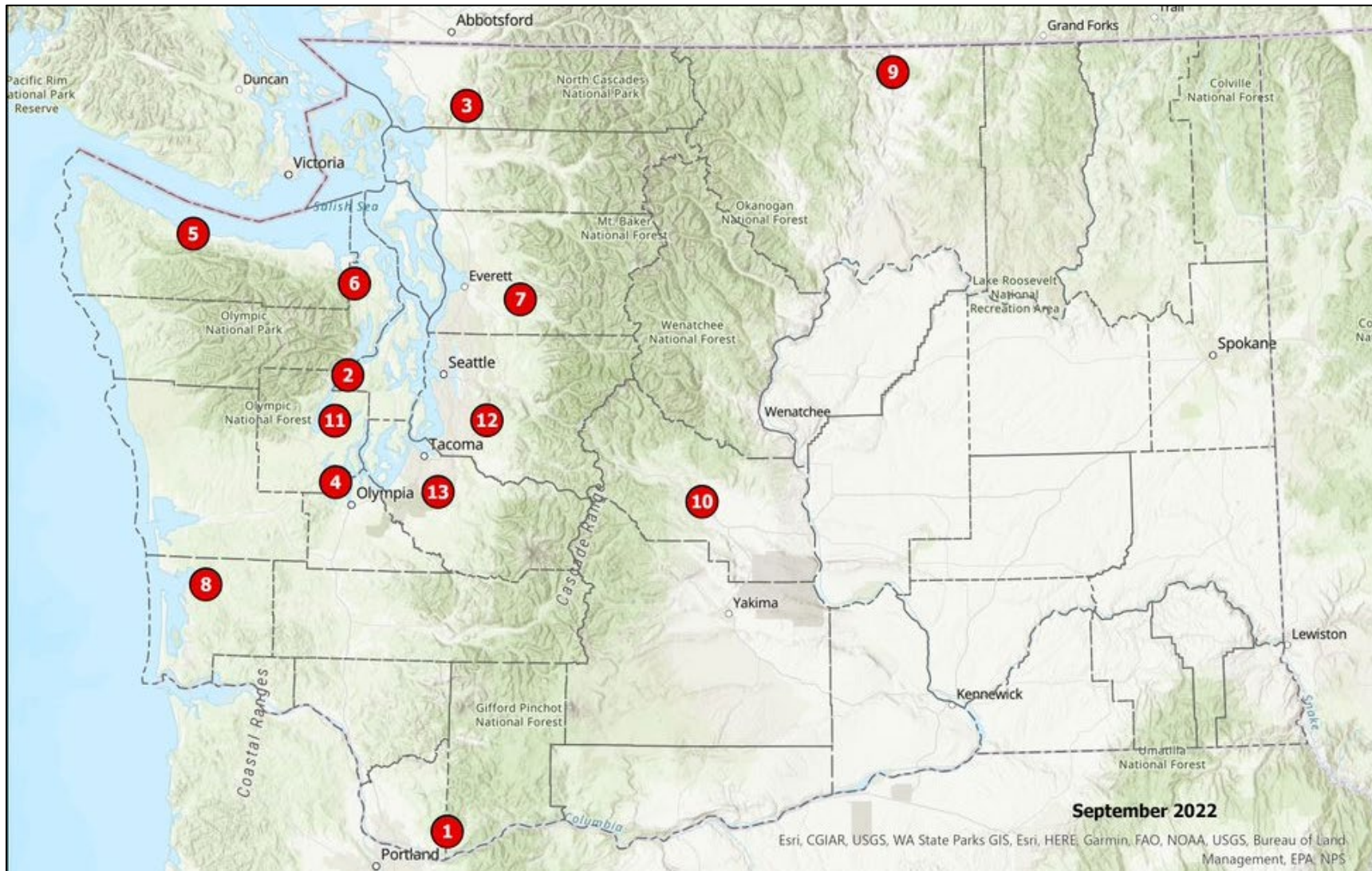
Table 1: WWRP – Riparian Protection Category Projects
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution 2022-27

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	60.00	22-1623 A	Columbia Land Trust	West Fork Washougal Conservation	\$1,500,000	\$3,861,000	\$5,361,000
2	57.10	22-1295 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$3,884,685		\$3,884,685
3	54.90	22-1279 A	Whatcom Land Trust	Stewart Mountain Riparian Reserve	\$665,402	\$1,790,000	\$2,455,402
4	54.70	22-1241 A	Capitol Land Trust	Hudson Cove Riparian Habitat Protection	\$2,122,000	\$2,124,000	\$4,246,000
5	54.30	22-1240 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	\$1,095,250		\$1,095,250
6	54.20	22-1416 C	Jefferson Land Trust	Salmon Creek Ruck Acquisition	\$250,000	\$478,690	\$728,690
7	54.10	22-1600 A	Forterra	Woods Lake Acquisition	\$297,425	\$297,425	\$594,850
8	54.00	22-1239 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline	\$3,950,000		\$3,950,000
9	52.70	22-1238 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	North Okanogan County Inholdings	\$295,000		\$295,000
10	52.60	22-1245 A	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Thorp Reach Acquisition	\$1,245,089	\$1,245,089	\$2,490,178
11	51.80	22-1369 A	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Tahuya River Protection	\$1,113,600	\$1,221,200	2334800
12	49.20	22-1598 A	Seattle Public Utilities	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Reach Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,317,500	\$2,317,500
13	45.90	22-1683 A	Forterra	Clover Creek Protection Tacoma Water Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$5,212,000	\$6,212,000
Total					\$18,418,451	\$17,546,904	\$35,965,355

Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination (acquisition and restoration)

State Map for Riparian Protection Projects



Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Riparian habitat" means land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.²

Riparian Protection Evaluation Criteria Summary			
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Project Type	Maximum Score
Scored by the Advisory Committee			
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Project goals and objectives 		Not Scored
1. Acquisition Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological makeup Riparian habitat Pollinator habitat Surrounding land uses Level of protection 	All types	20
2. Planning and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan support Community engagement 	All types	15
3. Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational capacity Stewardship plan 	Acquisition	16
		Acquisition and Restoration	8
4. Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration plan 	Acquisition and Restoration	8
5. Threats to the Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to the site Immediacy of threat 	All types	5
6. Community Benefits and Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Benefits Public Access Education and scientific opportunities 	All types	10
Scored by RCO Staff			
7. Matching Share	Other resources	All types	3

²Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010(8)

Riparian Protection Evaluation Criteria Summary			
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Project Type	Maximum Score
8. Matching Share Bonus	Non-federal, non-state contribution	All types	1
9. Growth Management Act		All types	0
Total Possible Points			70

Riparian Protection Detailed Scoring Criteria³

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Acquisition Benefits**

What are the specific environmental benefits of this project?

2. **Planning and Community Support**

How does this project or its ecological characteristics support a current organizational plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort?

3. **Stewardship**

Please describe what expertise and capacity the applicant's organization has for long-term management of the site including staff, volunteer, and finance resources and any other relevant factors.

4. **Restoration**

Please describe what expertise and capacity the applicant's organization have to conduct this riparian restoration project?

5. **Threats to the Habitat**

Characterize the threats to the site. Threats may be ecological, biological, human-caused, or related to climate change.

6. **Community Benefits and Public Access**

How does this project provide multiple benefits to the community, habitat, or surrounding ecological landscape?

Scored by RCO Staff

7. **Matching Share**

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

8. **Matching Share Bonus**

Does the non-state, non-federal contribution described in the Matching Share criterion above equal more than 10 percent of the total project cost?

9. **Growth Management Act Compliance**

RCW 43.17.250

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

³ RCO 79A.15.060 (5)(c)

Riparian Protection Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Acquisition Benefits	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Stewardship	4. Restoration	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	0-8	0-5	0-10	0-3	0-1	-1-0	
1	22-1623 A	West Fork Washougal Conservation	18.20	12.40	13.30		4.30	7.80	3.00	1.00	0.00	60.00
2	22-1295 A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	17.50	13.30	13.90		4.50	7.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.10
3	22-1279 A	Stewart Mountain Riparian Reserve	16.00	12.20	11.80		3.60	7.30	3.00	1.00	0.00	54.90
4	22-1241 A	Hudson Cove Riparian Habitat Protection	16.60	12.80	12.40		4.60	7.30	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.70
5	22-1240 A	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	17.10	12.40	12.40		4.00	8.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.30
6	22-1416 C	Salmon Creek Ruck Acquisition	16.20	11.90	6.20	6.60	4.20	8.10	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.20
7	22-1600 A	Woods Lake Acquisition	16.60	11.70	13.00		3.80	8.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.10
8	22-1239 A	North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline	17.20	12.00	13.30		3.70	7.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00
9	22-1238 A	North Okanogan County Inholdings	17.30	12.50	12.60		2.90	7.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.70
10	22-1245 A	Thorp Reach Acquisition	16.70	11.70	12.00		4.10	7.10	0.00	1.00	0.00	52.60
11	22-1369 A	Tahuya River Protection	16.30	11.40	12.40		4.20	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.80

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Acquisition Benefits	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Stewardship	4. Restoration	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	0-8	0-5	0-10	0-3	0-1	-1-0	
12	22-1598 A	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Reach Acquisition	14.50	10.80	12.00		3.40	7.50	0.00	1.00	0.00	49.20
13	22-1683 A	Clover Creek Protection Tacoma Water Acquisition	12.20	10.10	10.20		4.40	6.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	45.90

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-6; RCO staff score Questions 7-9
 Project type: A=acquisition,

Riparian Protection Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-2025

Columbia Land Trust **Grant Requested: \$1,500,000** **Conserving the Oldest Private Forest on the West Fork Washougal River**

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 307 acres in Skamania County to preserve one of the oldest and largest remaining private forests in the Washougal River watershed. The purchase also will conserve more than 3 miles of shoreline habitat on the West Fork Washougal River and perennial tributary Jackson Creek for salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The land has steeply sloped forests of mature Douglas-fir, cedar, and hemlock. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$3.8 million in federal and private grants and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1623)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$3,884,685** **Buying Hood Canal Shoreline in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 169 acres along Hood Canal in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, near Seabeck in Kitsap County. The purchase will add to the conservation area and the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, which combined provide high-quality and regionally diminishing wildlife habitat and are a crucial part of a larger landscape of forestlands on the western Kitsap Peninsula. Acquisition will support wildlife in an urbanizing area and protect Puget Sound shoreline habitat, mature forest, and critical wetlands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1295)

Whatcom Land Trust **Grant Requested: \$665,402** **Conserving Sensitive Land in the Stewart Mountain Community Forest**

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 550 acres of salmon-bearing tributaries, forest, and forested floodplain in the South Fork Nooksack River valley as the first phase of building the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The community forest is a collaborative effort to convert 5,500 acres of forestland into local ownership to be managed as a working forest that supports a range of uses and community benefits. The land to be purchased contains nearly 2 miles of stream bank on the South Fork Nooksack River and more than 1 mile of fish-bearing tributaries in steep inner gorges. In 2021, severe weather led to mass deaths of 2,500 pre-spawning Chinook salmon, debris flow, and a stream leaving its channel, all showing a pressing need to conserve the land and protect both wildlife and people in the Nooksack River valley. The Whatcom Land

Trust will contribute more than \$1.7 million in Conservation Futures⁴ and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1279)

**Capitol Land Trust
Conserving Hudson Cove Habitat**

Grant Requested: \$2,122,000

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁵ on nearly 228 acres of mostly undeveloped shoreline, pocket estuary, salt marsh, and forest on Totten Inlet in Olympia. Known as Hudson Cove, this is the largest property on the inlet under private ownership. The cove provides sheltered habitat for juvenile salmon species migrating to the Pacific Ocean, spawning areas for the fish salmon eat, and important nesting and foraging habitat in the salt marsh and mud flat for shorebirds. Fifteen species listed on state and federal endangered species lists rely on the land's important habitat at some point in their lives. The land hosts more than 1.5 miles of largely undeveloped, forested, marine shoreline, a 7.8-acre pocket estuary, and 0.8 mile of streams. The land is zoned for houses and faces a high likelihood of development. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute more than \$2.1 million in federal and local grants and a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1241)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Twin Rivers**

Grant Requested: \$1,095,250

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 216 acres of TwinsNearshore and West Twin River, which have some of the most complex shorelines of the Salish Sea, and one of the most diverse. The land includes shoreline, river, coastal wetland, and forest habitat on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Acquisition of land will protect and enhance the natural processes, conditions, functions, and biological responses of wildlife habitat in one of the remaining functional ecosystems in western Washington. Many fish use the shoreline, including Chinook, coho and chum salmon; cutthroat, steelhead, and bull trout; and forage fish. In addition, it has intact eelgrass and kelp beds and provides rich shorebird and migratory bird habitat, including a flight corridor for federally listed marbled murrelet. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1240)

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.

⁵This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

**Jefferson Land Trust
Conserving Salmon Creek**

Grant Requested: \$250,000

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 155 acres, including nearly 1 mile of Salmon Creek, to protect permanently this important habitat at the head of Discovery Bay. The Salmon and Snow Creek Estuary is the most intact of its type on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and is the unquestioned stronghold of the Strait of Juan De Fuca summer chum salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Salmon Creek is the spawning grounds for chum and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. This land is next to already conserved lands and expands the successful protection and restoration efforts conducted by Chumsortium partners since 2001. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$478,690 in Conservation Futures⁶ and a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1416)

**Forterra Northwest
Conserving Woods Lake Habitat**

Grant Requested: \$297,425

Forterra, in partnership with the Tulalip Tribes, will use this grant to buy 40 acres near Woods Lake, near Monroe. Woods Lake is a pristine, 21-acre freshwater lake surrounded by a forested wetland featuring bog-related species. Freshwater bogs are considered imperiled by the Washington Natural Heritage Program, and many have been eliminated by development. The land supports many plants unique to freshwater bogs including healthy, dense stands of bog labrador tea, western bog laurel, bog cranberry, and round-leaf sundew. The land is next to state forestlands and its purchase would protect nearly all the lake's shoreline. The Tulalip Tribes will own the land and use it for cultural access and traditional uses and will allow some limited public and educational access. Forterra will contribute \$297,425 in Conservation Futures.⁷ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1600)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline**

Grant Requested: \$3,950,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy up to 1,500 acres of forest and wetlands along the northern shore of Willapa Bay, between the mouths of the Willapa and North Rivers. The purchase would help provide nearly uninterrupted connectivity over a fragmented 10 miles of department-owned shoreline and riverbanks. The land is used by wildlife designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need such

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.

⁷Conservation 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.

as marbled murrelet, dusky Canada goose, band-tailed pigeon, and game species such as Roosevelt elk, Columbia black-tailed deer, and a variety of waterfowl. The land overlaps the mouths of ten fish-bearing freshwater streams used by chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, the land includes tidally influenced areas of Willapa Bay that are identified as critical habitat for green sturgeon, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1239)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$295,000**
Buying Habitat Inholdings in North Okanogan County

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy nearly 54 acres to protect important wildlife species. The department will buy 37 acres next to the Similkameen-Chopaka Unit of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area that is surrounded on all sides by department land and the last non-department owned 16.5 acres on Eyhott Island, which is in the Driscoll-Eyhott Island Unit of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. Buying the land will allow the department to protect critical habitat along water bodies; the state imperiled, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe and ponderosa pine woodland; and savanna ecological systems. These habitats support a diverse array of birds including wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and woodpeckers, in addition to Columbia River steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, kokanee salmon, and freshwater mussels. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1238)

Kittitas Conservation Trust **Grant Requested: \$1,245,089**
Conserving a Yakima River Reach in Thorp

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to buy 235 acres of floodplain including 1 mile along the Yakima River in Thorp. This project will better protect multiple habitats and migration corridors for steelhead, rainbow, cutthroat and bull trout, and Chinook and coho salmon as well as many native fish and aquatic species. The Kittitas Conservation Trust will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the salmon recovery program, a private grant, and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1245)

Great Peninsula Conservancy **Grant Requested: \$1,113,600**
Conserving the Tahuya River

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy the lower 4 miles of the Tahuya River in Mason County. The Tahuya is the largest river flowing into the east side of Hood Canal and the lower 4 miles are privately owned, mostly in unsubdivided large parcels. They are important as the watershed's only spawning and rearing habitat for Hood Canal summer chum and Chinook salmon, both of which are listed under the

federal Endangered Species Act. The project represents an extremely rare opportunity to conserve the entire lower part of a large, undeveloped river system in Puget Sound. The conservancy will buy 145 acres and conservation easements⁸ on another 27 acres, covering 172 acres and 1.5 miles of riverfront and tributaries. The Great Peninsula Conservancy will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the salmon recovery program and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1369)

**Seattle Public Utilities
Expanding Upper Royal Arch Reach**

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to buy 20 acres of floodplain on the Upper Royal Arch Reach of the Cedar River, west of Maple Valley, to improve resting and rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmon and trout species. This includes 720 feet of river frontage to be used for future restoration. Seattle will contribute more than \$1.3 million in Conservation Futures⁹ and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1598)

**Forterra Northwest
Protecting Clover Creek**

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Forterra will use this grant to buy 113 acres of forest and wetlands near the headwaters of Clover Creek to preserve this critical habitat for salmon and other species. Protecting this land, which is in a commercial-only zoned area of Frederickson, is extremely important to maintain clean and cold water in the creek system. Forterra is partnering with the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club Land Conservation Foundation to protect this land, which has seen immense growth in the past decade. The land is predominantly along Clover Creek and forestland with healthy, functioning wetland complexes. The infrastructure on site, including several shooting ranges, will continue to be used recreationally. Forterra will contribute more than \$5.2 million in Conservation Futures,¹⁰ a state appropriation, and grants from the salmon recovery program and local, state, and private organizations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1683)

⁸This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

⁹Conservation 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.

¹⁰Conservation 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.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Habitat Conservation
Account: State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Dan Haws, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Eight projects in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: Request for Decision

Resolution: 2022-28

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects allow for restoration and enhancement of habitats on existing state lands. These habitats may include salt or freshwater areas, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, and other ecosystems or habitats native to Washington State. Restoration brings the site back to its original function through activities that can reasonably be expected to result in a site that is, to

the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category receives ten percent or \$3 million (whichever is less) of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.

Program Summary

There were no changes to the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category this grant round. A summary of this category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Natural Resources • State Parks and Recreation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of existing habitats • Enhancement or creation of habitats
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of \$25,000 per project • Maximum of \$500,000 per multi-site project • Maximum of \$1,000,000 per single-site project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Habitat areas must be accessible for public access and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility • Properties must be state-owned and managed primarily for resource preservation and protection • Multi-site projects must be for similar habitat improvements (for example, wetland restoration, shrub-steppe enhancement, etc.)

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eight State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects requesting nearly \$2.3 million were evaluated July 25 through August 18, 2022. The WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
Merci Clinton, Port Orchard	Citizen
Todd McLaughlin, Reardan	Citizen
Glen Mendel, Dayton	Citizen
Debbie Rose, Seattle	Citizen
Cindy Wilson, Olympia	Citizen
Nate Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust, Vancouver	Local Government
Peter Guillozet, San Juan County Land Bank, Friday Harbor	Local Government
Erin Lanum, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish	Tribal Government
Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources, Olympia	State Government
Richard Tveten, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia	State Government

To review and rank the projects, the team of ten advisory committee members used a written evaluation process and criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board). The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

During the post-evaluation meeting on August 31, staff met with the advisory committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results. The advisory committee felt the process was organized and efficient. They were satisfied with the materials provided and felt reviewing projects using the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module made the review easier. Committee members discussed the challenge of comparing and scoring the variety of habitat types in these applications. They noted that it was helpful when applicants provided a map of other protected lands in the area surrounding a project for context. They were confident in the resulting ranked list and noted the projects that scored well were those that were collaborative or had specific restoration work plans.

Public Comment

There is one letter of support for a State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category project included as a Project Support or Concern document. The letter is attached to the Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration Phase 2 proposal in Project Snapshot. The letter is accessible by clicking the project number on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open

manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, via Resolution #2022-28.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-2025 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board's briefing materials describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-28, including *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects
- C. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Evaluation Scores 2023-25
- E. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-28
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, eight State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all eight projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens and agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the uniqueness or significance of the habitat, threat, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the board's objectives to help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and to fund projects that maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

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

Date: October 25, 2022.

Table 1: WWRP–State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025

Resolution: 2022-28

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
1	52.90	22-1554 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration	\$502,500	\$502,500
2	50.00	22-1589 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration Phase 2	\$130,000	\$130,000
3	47.80	22-1405 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Klickitat Canyon Deer Creek Wetland Restoration	\$111,500	\$111,500
3	47.80	22-1585 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Restoration of Hope Island Natural Area Preserve	\$160,000	\$160,000
5	47.60	22-1690 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	West Foster Creek and China Creek Riparian Restoration	\$229,700	\$229,700
6	46.50	22-1626 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Taneum River Mile 5 Floodplain Restoration	\$380,000	\$380,000
7	42.80	22-1689 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Toutle River Riparian Restoration	\$533,000	\$533,000
8	40.80	22-1517 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Little Walla Walla River Restoration	\$242,900	\$242,900
Total					\$2,289,600	\$2,289,600

Project types: R=restoration

State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects



State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals and objectives Statewide, vicinity, and site maps 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger picture Uniqueness or significance Target species and communities 	15
2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem to be addressed Threat 	15
3. Project Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of project design Best management practices 	15
4. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency with existing plans Puget Sound Partnership guidelines 	5
5. Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public educational or scientific value 	5
Maximum Possible Score		55

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

- 1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
Describe why the site is worthy of long-term conservation.
- 2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement**
Describe why this restoration or enhancement project needs to be completed.
- 3. Project Design**
Describe how the proposed project will address the problem(s) identified earlier.
- 4. Planning**
Specifically describe how the project is consistent with planning efforts occurring in the area.
- 5. Public Benefit**
Describe the degree to which communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	3. Project Design	4. Planning	5. Public Benefit and Support	Total
			Point Range 0-15	0-15	0-15	0-5	0-5	
1	22-1554 R	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration	14.90	14.70	13.90	4.70	4.70	52.90
2	22-1589 R	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration Phase 2	14.20	13.70	13.40	4.50	4.20	50.00
3	22-1405 R	Klickitat Canyon Deer Creek Wetland Restoration	13.60	13.60	12.20	4.30	4.10	47.80
3	22-1585 R	Restoration of Hope Island Natural Area Preserve	14.00	13.20	12.60	4.00	4.00	47.80
5	22-1690 R	West Foster Creek and China Creek Riparian Restoration	13.20	12.70	12.80	4.30	4.60	47.60
6	22-1626 R	Taneum River Mile 5 Floodplain Restoration	12.90	12.40	13.20	4.30	3.70	46.50
7	22-1689 R	Toutle River Riparian Restoration	11.60	11.50	11.60	3.90	4.20	42.80
8	22-1517 R	Little Walla Walla River Restoration	10.00	11.90	11.50	3.40	4.00	40.80

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-5

Project types: R=restoration

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-25

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$502,500** **Restoring Grassland and Oak Woodlands in South Sound**

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore more than 700 acres of outwash prairie, grassland bald, oak woodland, and wetland habitat at five of the most significant conservation sites in the south Puget Sound region: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area, Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and Bald Hill Natural Area Preserve. The agencies will acquire native seeds and transplants; prepare restoration areas for seeding through burning, mowing, and controlling invasive plants; and then seed and replant these areas. These sites harbor some of the last remaining populations of federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals and Department of Fish and Wildlife's Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the region. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1554)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Grant Requested: \$130,000** **Completing Restoration of Leadbetter Point Coastal Dunes**

State Parks will use this grant to complete restoration of 55 acres of native coastal dune habitat in Leadbetter Point State Park. State Parks will control invasive plants to restore the native dune topography, processes, plants, and habitat for four species of concern and imperiled ecosystem. The dunes are home to the western snowy plover and the streaked horned lark, two species that are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and the pink sand verbena and bear's-foot sanicle, both of which are on the on the state endangered species list. The work also will benefit the critically imperiled dune ecosystem, the North Pacific Maritime Coastal Sand Dune and Strand. This work builds on extensive restoration by State Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of more than 850 acres of herb- and shrub-dominated dunes at the north end of the Long Beach peninsula. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1589)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$111,500** **Restoring the Deer Creek Wetland**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the 122-acre Deer Creek wetland in the Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area, 3 miles northeast of Glenwood. The wetland is used by the greater sandhill crane, a state

endangered species. One of only five sandhill crane nesting areas in Washington is near the project site. The site provides important foraging habitat during the nesting season. Deer Creek wetland has been seriously damaged by ditching, roads, livestock grazing, and invasion by non-native species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1405)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$160,000
Restoring the Hope Island Natural Area Preserve

State Parks will use this grant to restore imperiled grassland balds and rare and high-quality forests on Hope Island Natural Area Preserve, in Skagit County. State Parks will remove invasive annual grasses and encroaching trees and then seed and plant native forbs and grasses. This project builds on past restoration efforts, with a goal of increasing the cover and resilience of native plant communities to a point where only spot treatments of invasives will be needed in the future. The grassland balds support more than 50 native plant species, including Washington's largest population of Indian Valley brodiaea, a species thought to extirpated from the state until re-discovered in 2021. The majority of Hope Island is dominated by two Douglas-fir-western hemlock forests and a rare Pacific madrone forest, in a mosaic of old-growth and maturing second-growth trees arising from past fires and wind events. These forests have been recognized as some of the best examples of lowland, old-growth forest in the Puget Trough ecoregion. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1585)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant Requested: \$229,700
Restoring the Banks of West Foster and China Creeks

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 0.35 mile of West Foster Creek in the Wells Wildlife Area and 0.4 mile of China Creek in the Big Bend Wildlife Area. Floods and wildfires have damaged these creeks, especially water birch, which is the preferred winter forage habitat for the endangered Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Fires destroyed many of these stands forcing the grouse elsewhere in search of food. The department will install beaver dam replicas and post structures, which slow the water and reduce erosion. The structures also block the water, allowing the water to reconnect with adjacent plant communities. In addition, the department will remove invasive vegetation and plant native shrubs, trees, and forbs along the creek banks. Planting the creek banks will reduce erosion as the roots of the plant hold back the sediment. Long-term, the project will allow the creeks to meander, improve water quality, increase groundwater recharge, and expand creek bank buffer areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1690)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring the Taneum River Floodplain****Grant Requested: \$380,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, will use this grant to place logjams in Taneum Creek, remove old road materials from the floodplain, and change the access point to reduce the amount of road fill in the historic floodplain. Additionally, the department will plant 3,000-5,000 plants in the floodplain. The work will change the channel bed, reconnect the floodplain with the creek more frequently, and restore former wet meadow habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1626)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring the Banks of the Toutle River****Grant Requested: \$533,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to install log structures in a 3-mile stretch of the North Fork Toutle River, in the Mudflow Unit of the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area. The department will place lateral log wall structures in the river to move the water away from eroding banks and small logjams in the river to slow the water and create a more stable river channel. This work will slow bank erosion and allow recovery of the forest along the riverbank, ultimately improving habitat for salmon species and wintering elk. Logjams create places for salmon to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom to create spawning areas. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The department also will plant trees along the banks, which shades the water, keeping it cool for salmon. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother spawning gravel. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1689)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring the Little Walla Walla River****Grant Requested: \$242,900**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Tri-State Steelheaders and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will use this grant to restore about a quarter-mile of the West Little Walla Walla River and surrounding uplands in the Swegle Unit of the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area, in Walla Walla County. The department will place wood structures in the river, remove reed canary grass and poison hemlock from the riverbank, and plant trees and shrubs along the riverbank and in the surrounding upland to improve habitat for pollinators and other wildlife species. Planting the banks will help restore the degraded Columbia Basin Foothill Riparian

Woodland and Shrubland habitat type found in the area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1517)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2023-25

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Five project proposals in the Urban Wildlife Habitat Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, the technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program WWRP.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Resolution: 2022-29

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Urban Wildlife Habitat category funds projects that protect functioning, native habitat near urban and urbanizing communities while providing opportunities for people to participate in nature-based activities. These habitats may include forests, riparian zones, and wetlands, and serve as a corridor for wildlife movement in existing populated areas.

To be eligible in this category, the land must be located within five miles of one of the following:

- The designated urban growth area of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more, or
- A designated urban cluster with a population of 5,000 or more, or
- An adopted urban growth boundary in a county that has a population density of 250 people per square mile or greater.

The Urban Wildlife Habitat category receives 15 percent of the WWRP funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹ The funds are allocated as follows:

- 45 percent to local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations
- 45 percent to state agencies;
- Ten percent to fully fund partially funded local agency, Native American tribe, and nonprofit organization projects;
- Remaining funds may be used for partially funded state agency projects and then to fund the next highest ranked project(s) regardless of sponsor.

Program Summary

There were changes to the Urban Wildlife Habitat category for this grant cycle. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted a carbon credit and ecosystem services payment option for grant funded projects.² Also, there were enhancements to PRISM Online that included security updates, a cultural resources mapping tool, and revised match metrics. The following table summarizes general policies for the Urban Wildlife Habitat category as outlined in [Manual 10b, WWRP Habitat Conservation Account](#):

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and state³ agencies • Federally recognized Native American tribes • Park and recreation districts • Qualified nonprofit nature conservancy organizations • Special purpose districts
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition (in fee or perpetual conservation easement) • Development • Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments and nonprofit nature conservancy organizations must provide a 1:1 matching share. • No match required for state agencies.
Public Access	Must be accessible for passive public recreation, outdoor education, or citizen science unless it meets the criteria outlined in

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

² Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2021-02

³ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (Formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

	the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board policy for limiting public access due to conservation easements, or to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for habitat conservation purposes in perpetuity. • Development limited to facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, informational kiosks, restrooms, roads, and parking. • Projects involving renovation of existing facilities, habitat creation, enhancement or restoration are ineligible.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

The WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee evaluated five Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects, requesting \$9.7 million, on August 18, 2022. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat protection, enhancement, and conservation. The following members participated this year:

Advisory Committee Members	Affiliation
John Gamon, Sumner	Citizen
Dave Hays, Olympia	Citizen
Pene Speaks, Olympia	Citizen
Matt Tweedy, Yakima	Citizen
Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County	Local Agency
Lincoln Bormann, San Juan Land Bank	Local Agency
Mickey Fleming, Chelan Douglas Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Lydia Mendoza, Columbia Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency

These ten advisory committee members used video conferencing to review the proposals and RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects with board adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 18 and during the post-evaluation meeting on August 31, RCO staff met with WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee members, who also evaluated the Critical Habitat and Natural Areas categories. The meeting provided an opportunity to debrief and assess the application materials provided, the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. The committee was appreciative of the work that RCO put into organizing and managing the technical review and evaluation sessions.

As described last grant round, the recently added Pollinator Habitat element of the *Ecological and Biological Characteristics* criterion proved to be a challenge for applicants. The committee asserts that most applicants did not explain how the proposed acquisition site would support feeding, nesting, or reproduction of pollinator species.

When addressing the *Planning and Community Support* criterion, the committee felt the applicants' efforts toward public engagement was weak. While applicants reference diversity, there was limited check in with underserved communities to discuss what they wanted or needed, nor did applicants make any effort to incorporate input into the final proposal. Applicants do not appear to be proactive in soliciting community feedback. The committee believes it is imperative that applicants take a more genuine approach and engage underserved communities earlier in project development.

Advisory committee members were concerned about the number of applications submitted this grant cycle and believe the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted applicants' ability to provide match. The committee would like an enhancement to the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module so they can see all their scores before submitting to RCO.

Public Comment

Letters of support or concern for Urban Wildlife Habitat projects are attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot as Project Support or Concern documents. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

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

strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* via Resolution #2022-29.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the approved list. The 2023 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the WWRP funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2022-29, including *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects
- C. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2023-25
- E. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Descriptions 2023-25

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2022-29
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, five Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, all five projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit, community support, and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, these Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects were evaluated by a team of citizens, nonprofit organizations, and state and local agency representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Burgess

Resolution seconded by: Member Gardow

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

Date: October 25, 2022

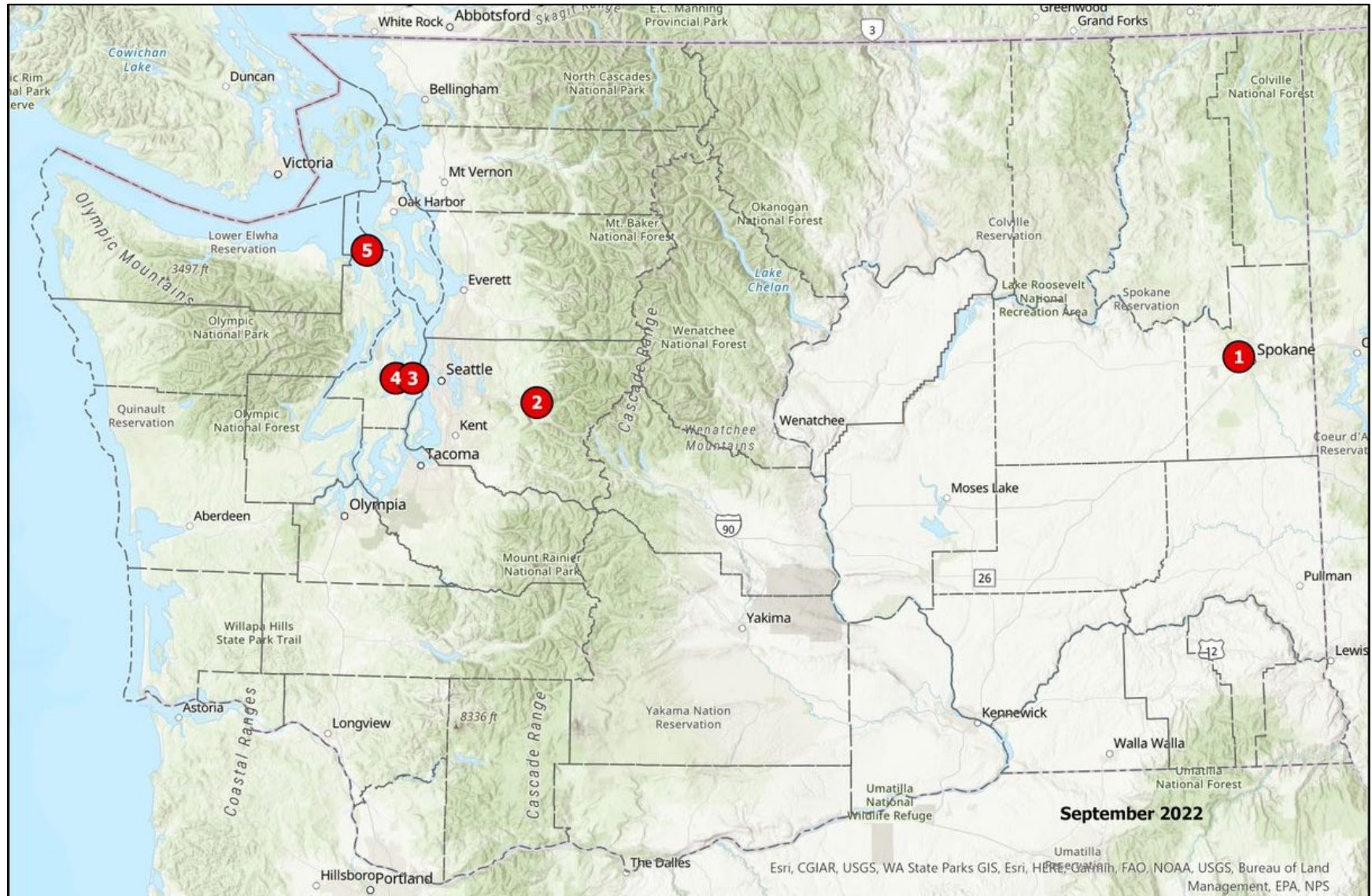
Table 1–WWRP–Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25

Resolution 2022-29

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	99.90	22-1464 A	Spokane County	Rimrock to Riverside Acquisition	\$731,744	\$781,456	\$1,513,200
2	99.40	22-1378 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Mount Si, Middle Fork, and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas	\$5,474,856		\$5,474,856
3	90.90	22-1518 A	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,070	\$3,700,070
4	89.70	22-1613 A	Kitsap County	Illahee Preserve Phase 2	\$655,000	\$655,000	\$1,310,000
5	86.40	22-1415 A	Jefferson Land Trust	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions	\$984,717	\$1,482,343	\$2,467,060
Total					\$9,696,317	\$4,768,869	\$14,465,186

Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects



Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area."⁴

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

⁴ Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15.010 (15)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Describe the project area and the ecological makeup of the site(s).

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a) (i, v-vii, ix, xiv); (5)(b)(ii)

2. Planning and Community Support

How is this project supported by a current plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (IV, xi, xiii)

3. Community Benefits and Public Access

What public access, public health, recreational, educational, or cultural opportunities will this site provide?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (ii, iv, vi, viii, x, xii)

4. Management and Stewardship

Describe the anticipated stewardship and management needs of the site, including those related to the species and ecosystems, public access, recreation, education, and cultural opportunities.

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (i, iii, xiv)

RCO Staff Scored

5. Growth Management Act Preference

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

RCW 43.17.250

6. Population of Urban Area

What is the population of the largest city, town, or urban cluster within 5 miles of the project?

RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(b)(i)

7. Proximity of Urban Area

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

RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(b)(i)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects Evaluation Scores 2023-2025

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	22-1464 A	Rimrock to Riverside Acquisition	32.80	13.90	30.70	12.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	99.90
2	22-1378 A	Mount Si, Middle Fork, and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas	35.10	12.80	29.00	12.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	99.40
3	22-1518 A	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	30.00	12.00	27.40	11.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	90.90
4	22-1613 A	Illahee Preserve Phase 2	31.00	11.70	26.60	11.40	0.00	4.00	5.00	89.70
5	22-1415 A	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions	27.80	13.20	28.20	11.20	0.00	1.00	5.00	86.40

Advisory committee scores Questions 1-4; RCO staff score Questions 5-7

Project type: A=acquisition

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Descriptions (in rank order) 2023-25

Spokane Connecting Rimrock to Riverside

Grant Requested: \$731,744

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to buy 118 acres to expand and connect Palisades Park to Riverside State Park, preserving an extensive wildlife corridor. The land contains forest, shrub-steppe, wetland, and cliff habitat and is a corridor for moose, elk, and white-tailed deer. In addition, the purchase will allow the County to expand trail-based recreational use such as hiking and mountain biking within one-third mile of Spokane. Spokane County will contribute \$781,456 in Conservation Futures.⁵ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1464)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding Natural Resources Conservation Areas in King County

Grant Requested: \$5,474,856

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 482 acres in the Mount Si, Middle Fork Snoqualmie, and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas in east King County. The goal is to conserve land in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that provides crucial habitat and is highly threatened by residential development. The greenway is a 100-mile landscape of forests, wildlife habitat, and open areas along Interstate 90, a National Scenic Byway. The department plans to buy 38 acres at Mount Si, 330 acres at Middle Fork Snoqualmie, and 114 acres at West Tiger Mountain. The conservation areas' distinctive features include talus, high-elevation lakes, streams, wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, cliffs, and landscape connections for wildlife. Large mammals known to use the conservation areas include cougar, bobcats, mountain goat, black bear, coyote, and elk. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers also have been observed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1378)

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conserving Rockaway Bluff

Grant Requested: \$1,850,000

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use this grant to buy the 45-acre Rockaway Bluff Preserve, an exceptional forest lying upland of Rockaway Beach on Bainbridge Island. The preserve forms the core of an extraordinary forest with wetland habitat and

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

provides a stunning visual impression of the Island from the ferry. The preserve serves as a refuge for many species, particularly birds, displaced from habitats lost to Puget Sound area development. This project protects one of the last eight parcels larger than 20 acres. The project permanently protects key parts of a complex habitat network and supports watershed functions and stability of a bluff. The preserve is in the long plateau between two already conserved public parks—Pritchard Park and Blakely Harbor Park—providing an opportunity not only for conserving permanent habitat connectivity, resilient to a changing climate, but also ensuring an enjoyable pedestrian trail network. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.8 million in Conservation Futures⁶ and donations of services and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1518)

Kitsap County

Grant Requested: \$655,000

Expanding Illahee Preserve Heritage Park

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy up to 30 acres bordering Bremerton to expand the 618-acre Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. Located in the heart of the most densely populated area of Kitsap County, the preserve is a mature forest with unique natural features, such as deeply incised canyons and areas so pristine and wild it has been called "The Lost Continent." The land to be purchased is prime wildlife habitat and includes 0.4 mile of stream and stream bank and wildlife corridors connecting the preserve with Illahee State Park. The purchase will bring the preserve within 98 percent of its ultimate size. Public access is provided by a trail system. Kitsap County will contribute \$655,000 in a state appropriation and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1613)

Jefferson Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$984,717

Expanding the Quimper Wildlife Corridor

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy nearly 50 acres to expand the 245-acre Quimper Wildlife Corridor, in Port Townsend. Jefferson County, Port Townsend, and the land trust have worked since the mid-1990s to conserve a 3.5-mile corridor of forest and wetlands that follows the city's largest drainage basin across the north Quimper Peninsula. The corridor provides habitat for more than 130 bird species, including state priority species Vaux's swift and golden eagles, as well as amphibians, mountain beaver, bobcat, cougar, deer, elk, and other wildlife. An extensive network of trails and rights-of-way through the corridor provide access to the public for hiking, horse riding, biking, bird watching, school nature programs, and educational activities. The land trust also

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

will use the grant to update a management plan and inventory the rare, old-growth trees scattered in the forest. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.4 million in Conservation Futures,⁷ a private grant, and donations of land or property interest and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1415)

⁷Conservation 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.



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan Update

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the development of the 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan's priorities, goals, and unified strategy.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) update the State Recreation and Conservation Plan every six years. The plan serves as Washington's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and satisfies the National Park Service's requirements for administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and other outdoor recreation planning obligations required by Washington State law.

At minimum the plan must:

- describe the methodology(s) used
- include ample opportunity for public input
- evaluate demand for outdoor recreation opportunities
- evaluate supply of outdoor recreation opportunities
- be comprehensive: identify issues of statewide importance, how LWCF will address these issues and what issues will be addressed through other means
- identifies the State's strategies, priorities, and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment

RCO staff began developing elements of the plan in February 2021 and first briefed the board on the plan development process and timeline at the March 2021 meeting. Since that time, staff have completed five public surveys of Washington residents, updated the state's outdoor recreation mapped inventory, developed a gap analysis of foundational recreation assets, and begun drafting the final plan report.

The central component of the comprehensive plan identifies the state's priorities, goals, and unifying strategy to address outdoor recreation and conservation needs of Washington's residents. This memo provides an overview of the 2023 State Recreation and Conservation Plan report and describes RCO's proposed approach for the plan's priorities, goals, and unified strategy.

2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan Report

The 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan report sets the stage for the priorities and unified strategy. The report first describes RCO's planning authority, plan requirements, purpose and development process. Next the report summarizes findings of the public engagement surveys, recreational inventory map, and presents a vision for outdoor recreation and conservation over the planning horizon. The report integrates recently completed RCO studies on the benefits of outdoor recreation with a comprehensive literature review on issue topics identified by the advisory committees and RCO staff.

The report is currently being drafted by RCO staff. Upon direction of the board, RCO will finalize the draft plan, including the Action Compass and Unified Strategy and prepare the report for public review and comment. An outline of the 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan report is included as Attachment A.

Outdoor Action Compass

Washington's Outdoor Action Compass is a conceptual framework for the 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan priorities and Unified Strategy. As a compass guides a traveler, RCO's action compass will help identify our true north and chart a path through four priorities that result in improvements in outdoor recreation and public lands conservation across Washington State for years to come.

The plan identifies four core values that act as the four fundamental directions. These core values are standards that weave through the four strategic priorities and act as touchpoints for each goal. The strategic priorities and goals address the most pressing issues and challenges identified through early public engagement, the advice of the two planning committees, stakeholders, and RCO staff. The core values, strategic priorities and goals identified in the Outdoor Action Compass will guide the prioritization and

distribution of RCO's statewide funding programs for outdoor recreation and conservation.

The Unified Strategy, as required by state law,¹ represents RCO and the Board's implementation plan for, "meeting the needs of Washington's citizens." Where the action compass identifies statewide priorities and goals, the Unified Strategy is an internally focused suite of approaches to guide RCO and the Board in advancing the plan's priorities.

In developing the Unified Strategy, RCO staff worked with the board members to refine and prioritize a suite of potential actions identified by the advisory committees and RCO staff. The result is seven strategies composed of more specific actions. The actions cover policy, program, and agency administrative activities and are intentionally broad to enable each grant program area to implement the strategies' intent without being overly prescriptive.

The Outdoor Action Compass and Unified Strategy is included as Attachment B.

Request for direction

RCO staff requests authority to finalize the draft plan report, including the priorities, goals, and unified strategy, and solicit public review and comment.

Next Steps

Subject to the Board's direction, RCO staff will prepare the draft plan report to publish for public review and comment. The plan will be published on RCO's website and stakeholders will be notified through our diverse communication network. Staff will then revise the draft plan based on public's input and prepare the final draft for the Board's consideration in January 2023.

¹ [RCW 79A.25.005](#)

2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan Outline

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
 - a. Defining outdoor recreation in WA state
 - b. History/Legacy/Mission of RCO
 - c. Creating this plan
 - i. Statutory Authority and Federal Requirements
 - ii. Advisory Committees
 - iii. Public engagement overview
3. Outdoor Recreation and Conservation in Washington State
 - a. WA Population and demographic context (projections and trends)
 - b. Participation, Access, and Inclusion (national trends and research)
 - i. barriers to participation
 - c. Benefits of Outdoor Recreation (Literature and studies on Washington's outdoor legacy)
 - i. health and wellness
 - ii. environment
 - iii. economics
 - d. Outdoor Recreation Participation and Experience
 - i. Resident Demand Survey – summary of methods and results
 - ii. Experience Survey – summary of methods and results
 - e. Conservation Challenges: Land Manger and Tribal Natural Resources Surveys
 - i. Recreation provider survey – methods and summary of findings
 - ii. Tribal Natural Resources survey – methods and summary of findings
 - f. Supply and Availability
 - i. mapped inventory overview
 - ii. service area and access analysis overview
 - g. Vision 2050: making the case (a long-term inspirational vision)
4. 2023 Outdoor Recreation Action Compass (See Attachment B)
 - a. Core Values: Equity; Collaboration; Connection; Resilience
 - b. Strategic priorities (Statewide priorities and goals)
 - c. Unified Strategy (RCO and RCFB actions to advance the statewide strategy)

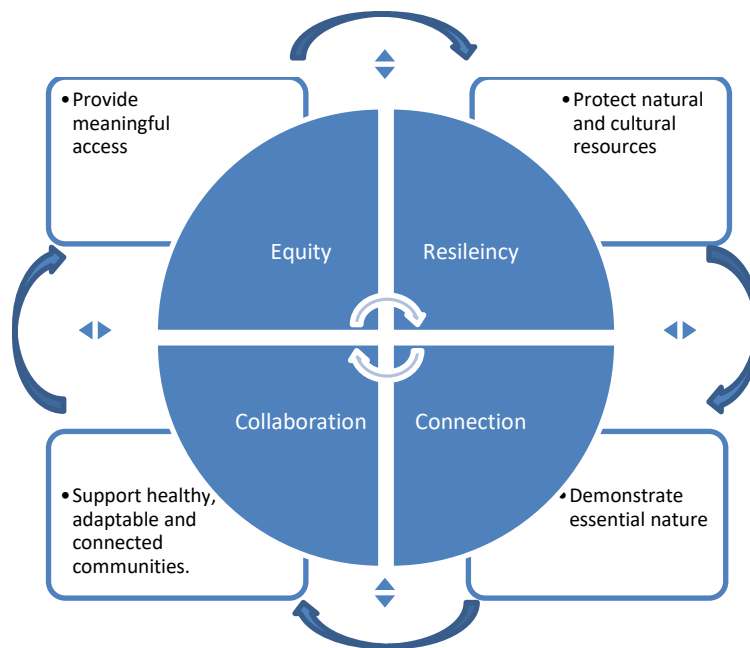
5. RCO program areas
 - a. Parks, Recreation and Open Space
 - b. Trails and NOVA
 - c. Water Access, Boating, and Paddle Sports
 - d. Working lands: Farms and Forests
 - e. Habitat and Conservation Lands
 - f. Wetlands Preservation

6. Concluding remarks

7. Appendices
 - a. Demand survey report
 - b. Experience survey report
 - c. Provider survey report
 - d. Tribal survey report
 - e. Literature review
 - f. Mapping and access analysis methodology
 - g. citations/bibliography

Outdoor Action Compass

A framework of priorities and goals for enhancing outdoor recreation and public lands conservation statewide



Core Values

Equity - Equity means valuing and empowering all individuals by providing opportunities for them to fully participate, recognizing that we do not all start from the same place, and we must meet people where they are. We must identify and overcome barriers arising from bias and systemic structures ([RCO DEI values](#)). As a core value, RCO recognizes a need to provide greater support to communities that have experienced underinvestment in public land and outdoor recreation resources.

Resiliency – Resiliency is durability in the face of change and challenge. Communities across Washington have shown incredible resiliency through the myriad responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent social and environmental challenges. A thriving network of public lands and outdoor recreation facilities supports social, economic, and environmental resiliency. As a core value, RCO recognizes that equitably investing in proactive, science-based approaches to planning, site design, development, resource conservation, and adaptive management results in multiple overlapping benefits to Washington’s social, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

Connection – Connections are strengthened through physical interactions with a place, growing networks that enable movement, expanding interpersonal and inter-agency relationships, and deepening cultural and spiritual bonds. Forging these connections has the power to create a more hopeful future for individuals, communities, and nature. RCO strives to be a dedicated partner who connects communities with resources to articulate achievable goals, provide pathways to attaining those goals, and empowers them to pursue those pathways. *(Adopted from: [Hope Research Center \(ou.edu\)](https://www.hrc.ou.edu/)).*

Collaboration – Ensuring the positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes of outdoor recreation and protected public lands equitably benefit the public will require the efforts of many individual public and private entities working together. Achieving the strategies outlined in this plan will require joint initiatives that integrate outreach, policy, and project development activities. RCO is well-positioned to be a convener and supporter of such efforts, but long-lasting, holistic success requires the participation of all our partners and stakeholders. RCO strives to be a trusted partner in protecting and improving the best of Washington’s natural and outdoor recreation resources.

Strategic Priorities

Priorities and goals to guide public lands conservation and outdoor recreation development in Washington State

Priority 1 Provide meaningful access to outdoor recreation for all

- Goal 1.1 All people are welcomed, included, and have the means to enjoy Washington’s public lands, waters, and outdoor recreation resources
- Goal 1.2 Physical, social, and economic barriers to accessing outdoor recreation opportunities are well understood, accounted for, and reduced
- Goal 1.3 Parks, trails, public lands, and waters are safe, welcoming, and available for a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation activities and diversity of users.
- Goal 1.4 Recreation users experience high levels of satisfaction and safety across the spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 2 Protect natural and cultural resources while managing increasing demand

- Goal 2.1 A mosaic of protected public and private lands and waters supports outdoor recreation, resource conservation, public health, and community development
- Goal 2.2 Agencies and communities have the capacity and resources needed to inclusively plan for, acquire, develop, and maintain public lands and recreation facilities.
- Goal 2.3 Impacts to natural and cultural resources from societal and environmental stressors are understood, anticipated, managed, and reduced.
- Goal 2.4 Access to outdoor recreation and conservation funding is inclusive and outcomes are equitable

Priority 3 Demonstrate the essential nature of parks, natural areas, and recreation infrastructure

- Goal 3.1 Public lands and outdoor recreation is supported as critical infrastructure and an essential public service
- Goal 3.2 Accurate, up-to-date land and resource data, including the appropriate use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, is continually compiled, refined, and used to guide management activities
- Goal 3.3 Public feedback consistently guides planning, management, and development to ensure experiences with public lands, waters, and recreation facilities equitably align with the needs and expectations of Washington residents
- Goal 3.4 The multiple, intersecting benefits and challenges of outdoor recreation on public lands and waters are researched and communicated

Priority 4 Support healthy, adaptable, and connected communities

- Goal 4.1 Agencies and communities have the capacity to advance conservation priorities and respond to changes in outdoor recreation participation and satisfaction

- Goal 4.2 Resources for climate-smart planning, land acquisition, management, site design, and construction are widespread and universally available
- Goal 4.3 Outdoor recreation users are connected to recreation destinations with a safe, accessible spectrum of multi-modal transportation options
- Goal 4.4 Existing parks, trails, and water access facilities meet the needs of current and future recreation users.

Unified Strategy

RCO and RCFB implementation strategies to advance the statewide priorities and goals

Strategy 1 Update grant evaluation criteria to reflect statewide priorities and goals

- Identify, incorporate, and weight measures to help address disparate outcomes in outdoor recreation and conservation funding
- Prioritize projects that address gaps in access to public lands and foundational outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improve understanding of how public engagement influences project placement and design
- Assess anticipation of climate change impacts and other environmental stressors through planning, adaptation, and carbon mitigating strategies

Strategy 2 Review effectiveness and revise grant program policies to support community needs and challenges

- Reduce barriers to accessing grant funding for under-resourced communities
- Encourage collaborative partnerships for planning, development, and maintenance of public lands and outdoor recreation facilities
- Enhance visitor support services and pathways to experiencing new opportunities
- Support integrated solutions to land use, resource conservation, community development, public health, and safety challenges
- Promote multi-site projects to address like needs across recreation and public land systems

- Leverage innovative acquisition strategies for trails, recreation, habitat, and working lands conservation.
- Improve opportunities to preserve, protect and restore quiet spaces for solitude and wildlife refuge in both urban and rural settings
- Adapt to emerging community needs while ensuring RCO investments are achieving the funding purpose
- Implement recommendations from recent RCO studies, including:
 - Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs
 - Youth Physical Activity Task Force
 - Health and Economic Benefits of Recreational Trails
 - Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance

Strategy 3 Support, collaborate, and coordinate with federal and state agencies, counties, communities, Tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations to holistically and adaptively manage the state’s portfolio of public lands and outdoor recreation.

- Work with natural resource agencies to develop, refine, and coordinate methods for measuring and monitoring visitor use and resource condition across public lands.
- Support natural resource agencies’ work to measure and monitor recreational use and resource condition and improve coordination of visitor management activities across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Work with public land managers and non-governmental organizations to align management intensity where significant resources and recreational use intersect.
- Work with transportation agencies, public land managers, non-profit organizations, and communities to develop and connect a spectrum of recreational opportunities to optimize recreational capacity and resource protection

Strategy 4 Maintain and improve data, decision support, and technical assistance resources to address statewide priorities and goals

- Normalize resident demand survey activities and categories to create year-to-year consistency and comparability with other state and national participation research
- Continually support, maintain, and add value to the Washington State Trails Database, Recreation Inventory, Public lands Inventory, and other data resources
- Maintain and improve access analysis mapping for foundational recreation assets
- Work with land managers to develop, improve, and maintain resource libraries to support technical assistance and recreation planning

Strategy 5 Improve and expand community engagement practices

- Establish methods for more consistent feedback and evaluation of recreation demand, user satisfaction, and grant program policies, processes and outcomes
- Ensure public engagement reach and participation is representative of state population demographics and socioeconomics
- Increase frequency, consistency, and diversity of participation in public engagement
- Consistently evaluate barriers to accessing outdoor recreation facilities, opportunities, and funding programs

Strategy 6 Research and communicate the multiple intersecting benefits, challenges and opportunities to align outdoor recreation with healthy ecosystems in Washington state

- Conduct a fuel use study to appropriately calibrate NOVA and Boating Facilities programs funding
- Better understand and identify opportunities to mitigate any unintended impacts of outdoor recreation
- Continue monitoring and evaluating economic contribution of outdoor recreation to Washington state
- Continue monitoring and evaluating the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation and spending time in nature

- Identify, track, and pursue opportunities to leverage state funding with additional federal and private funds

Strategy 7 Develop, deploy, adaptively manage, and maintain support for emerging programs

- Community Forests Program
- Planning for Recreation Access and technical assistance program
- Community Outdoor Athletics Facilities Fund program



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: Cost Increase Discussion

Prepared By: Brock Milliern, Policy Director

Summary

Project sponsors are experiencing unprecedented costs increases in grant programs administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This memo summarizes the status of cost increases for grant programs and suggests policy areas to address this rising concern.

Board Action Requested

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

Cost Increases

Current Operating Environment

At the July Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting, the issue of “increased costs” was mentioned several times. The rising cost of construction, real estate, and labor has created a significant increase in costs associated with funded Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant programs projects from 2016-2020, due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For context, there are many different reports and studies on the rising costs of construction across the United States, including in Washington. One survey by the National Home Builders Association found that their members had experienced a 26.1 percent increase in material costs, on average, between June 2020 and July 2021. The previous record was 6.1 percent, making the current increases unprecedented.

Background

Most RCO grant programs allow for cost increases, except the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account, WWRP Outdoor Recreation

Account, and Aquatics Land Enhancement Account (ALEA). The programs that do allow cost increases include Boating Facilities Program, Firearm and Archery Range, WWRP Forestland and Farmland, Boating Infrastructure, Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, and Youth Athletic Facilities. In addition, every salmon grant program administered by RCO allows for cost increases.

Most recreation and conservation grant programs that allow for cost increases prescribe allowing the RCO Director to authorize cost increases up to 10 percent of total project value. Projects that require more than a 10 percent increase must be authorized by the appropriate board.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board directs funds be set aside to absorb cost increases. Salmon projects requesting no more than 20 percent of total project costs are brought to the director regularly to be considered for increased funding due to cost increases. Occasionally, when projects require more than 20 percent increase, they may be evaluated by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to be considered for cost increases, as per the grant manuals.

Existing Options for Cost Increases

- RCO staff may choose to bring projects in front of the board if there are pressing circumstances that necessitate a waiver of policy.
- Staff work with project sponsors to “downscope” a grant and fit the work into the current grant funding level.
- Project sponsors secure additional funding to address the shortfall.

Policy Options for Consideration

The board could choose not to act. The significant rise in costs is unprecedented, but likely temporary. Outdoor grants managers worked closely with project sponsors to ensure funding requested lines up with project scope, making this a point of emphasis for the 2022 grant cycle to reduce the request for cost increases. However, should the board choose, the following policy options could be taken:

- Change the policy to allow for cost increases in all WWRP programs and ALEA.
- Encourage or direct staff to prioritize returned funds for one or more of the following purposes:
 - Cost increases
 - Funding projects that only received partial funding
 - Funding alternates

- Both of the above options could be enacted at the same time to comprehensively address rising costs.
- Direct funding to be set aside for cost increases at the beginning of a biennium

Next Steps

RCO staff will take input from the board at the October 2022 meeting and, if desired, follow up with policy options in the January 2023 meeting.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Manual 3, Acquisition Project exert

Included is language from RCO "Manual 3, Acquisition Projects."

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

On occasion, the cost of completing a project exceeds the amount written into the agreement. Such overruns are the responsibility of the project sponsor. If funds are available, however, and on written request, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will consider a cost increase. The director may approve cost increase requests that do not exceed 10 percent of the total project cost, which includes both the grant and the sponsor's match. The board will consider approval of other amounts.

Land acquisition project cost increases must meet the following criteria:

- The sponsor must have diligently pursued the acquisition at the estimated fair market value, as appraised, and reviewed.
- An appraisal, developed using a technique accepted by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (see Section 5 in this manual), supports the increased real market value.
- A written report from the sponsor must explain any relocation cost over-runs.

An individual parcel review is the basis for any land acquisition cost increases. Compensation for the property and direct relocation cost is the basis for any condemnation increases allowed. Court or legal costs are not eligible for reimbursement.



APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District, Tacoma Metro Parks
Eastside Pool Conversion

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager

Summary

The City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Metro Parks Tacoma seek Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval of the Eastside Pool conversion that occurred in 2018 when the pool was permanently closed.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2022-30

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the Tacoma Eastside Pool conversion and Portland Avenue Park sprayground and restroom as replacement.

Overview of the Board’s Role and Applicable Rules and Policies

This memo outlines a conversion of a developed facility that was funded with a state Bonds grant (Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) [82-063D](#)). The grant was used to build an indoor swimming pool, locker-room/bathhouse, and parking at the Gault Middle School in east Tacoma in 1982. The project was a joint venture by the City of Tacoma, Tacoma School District 10, and Metro Parks Tacoma.

The pool was permanently closed in 2018, and the sponsors are proposing a sprayground and restroom at Metro Parks Tacoma - Portland Avenue Park as replacement.

The Role of the Board

Because local needs change over time, state laws and RCO rules allow for conversion of a grant-funded project if the project sponsor provides for adequate replacement as listed below.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) evaluates the practical alternatives considered for the conversion and replacement (including avoidance) and whether the replacement meets the requirements set in RCO administrative rules and policies. The board does not have the authority in statute or rule to levy penalties or dictate the future use of the property or project area being converted.

Applicable Policies and Rules

Board policy states that interests in real property, structures, and facilities that were acquired, developed, enhanced, or restored with board funds, including state bond funds, must not be changed or converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved, without the approval of the board.¹ The grant agreement includes a condition that prohibits conversion without approval.

The board adopted Washington Administrative Code² and policy that defines when a conversion occurs, the appropriate replacement measures, and the steps that sponsors must take to request approval. The rule that applies to a development project is below:

- The sponsor has demonstrated the need to convert the project area³ including all efforts to consider practical alternatives, how they were evaluated, and the reasons they were not pursued;
- Provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the identification, development, and evaluation of the alternatives, including a minimum public comment period of at least thirty days; and
- Provide a new project area with new development (facility) to serve as replacement. The replacement must:
 - Be of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location;
 - Be administered by the same sponsor unless otherwise approved by the board;
 - Satisfy need(s) identified in the sponsor's current plan, or other relevant local or statewide plan;

¹ Policy is consistent with state law and administrative rule.

² WAC 286-13-170

³ WAC 286-04-010 (19) Project area is a geographic area that delineates a grant assisted site which is subject to application and project agreement requirements.

- Be eligible in the grant program of the original project unless otherwise approved by the board; and
- Satisfies the conversion without grant assistance from the board.

Background

The project is described below.

Project Name:	Eastside Pool	Project #:	82-063D
Grant Program:	Bonds	Board funded date:	1982
Bonds	\$297,129	Original Purpose:	The development included an indoor swimming pool, locker-room/bathhouse, and parking.
Project Sponsor Match	\$393,868		
Total Amount:	\$690,997		

The Tacoma Eastside Pool was located at the former Gault Middle School in east Tacoma. The project area is located south of I-5 and about three blocks north of 38th Street and four blocks east of Portland Avenue. (Attachment A)

It was one of the first joint projects between the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Metro Parks Tacoma. The pool facility was built on school-owned property with grant funding that had been awarded to the City and Tacoma Public Schools. Metro Parks Tacoma operated and maintained the pool. The pool was used by community members, school children, and participants in Metro Parks programs for over 30 years. (Attachment B)

The Conversion

In October 2018, the pool was permanently closed when the school district decided to sell the property, creating a conversion.

Details of Replacement Project Area

Location / Property Characteristics

The proposed replacement project area is at Portland Avenue Park (Attachment C). It is a community park with ballfields, picnic shelter, playground, pathways, and parking. The majority of the park is proposed to be included in the final replacement boundary. (Attachment D)

The replacement facilities include a sprayground and restroom that will be built in the park.

Analysis

When reviewing conversion requests, the board considers the following factors, in addition to the scope of the original grant and the proposed substitution of land or facilities:⁴

- All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement will provide reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Conversion

The school was closed in 2009 and the Eastside Pool was the only remaining open building on the school grounds. However, the school district decided to sell the property, leading to the pool closure in 2018.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Replacement

The sponsors are not proposing to replace the closed pool with another pool. Renovating or replacing the pool at the school site was not feasible due to the district's plan to sell the property. Building a new pool is not financially viable nor is a new pool an identified need due to a newer aquatic facility that is available at the Eastside Community Center, which is two miles south of the closed pool.

Because a pool was not a feasible option, the sponsors considered the needs for other types of water-related recreational facilities that would serve the same community. They identified the Portland Avenue Park as the location and development of a new sprayground and restroom as replacement.

Portland Avenue Park will provide a new project area and serve the same community as the closed pool. (Attachment D)

⁴ Manual #7: *Long-term Obligations*

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location and Usefulness

The Portland Avenue Park is located 0.4 miles from the closed pool. The park is open year-round. (Attachment A)

The sprayground will provide a water-related recreational facility. It will be operated seasonally and available free for public use. A new restroom is included as part of the replacement as a support amenity to the sprayground.

The sprayground meets an identified priority for Metro Parks to provide outdoor water recreation facilities.

Evaluation of Public Participation

Metro Parks Tacoma published a public notice on August 9, 2022. The 30-day comment period ended on September 9, 2022. Ten comments were received from the posting and 38 comments were received during a resource fair held at Portland Avenue Park.

Of the 48 comments received, 43 supported the sprayground at Portland Avenue Park, five were opposed to the location, and one wanted a new pool. Those in opposition supported development of a sprayground or pool in the McKinley and Portland Avenue neighborhoods.

Other Basic Requirements Met

[Same Project Sponsor](#)

The replacement project area will be administered by Tacoma Metro Parks.

[Satisfy Needs in Adopted Plan](#)

The replacement project area is at a community park. Metro Parks plan defines community parks as providing a variety of major recreation facilities to serve the public within a one and a half mile radius. Spraygrounds are noted within the top 15 most desired facilities in a community park.

The replacement project area is located at Portland Avenue Park (Attachment E). The park will provide public outdoor recreation opportunities year-round and serve the same community.

[Eligible in the Funding Program](#)

The replacement project area and facilities are eligible.

Conversion Policy Requirements Met

RCO staff have reviewed the sponsor's conversion documentation and verify that all requirements are met.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend approval of the conversion and replacement properties as described and illustrated in the memorandum.

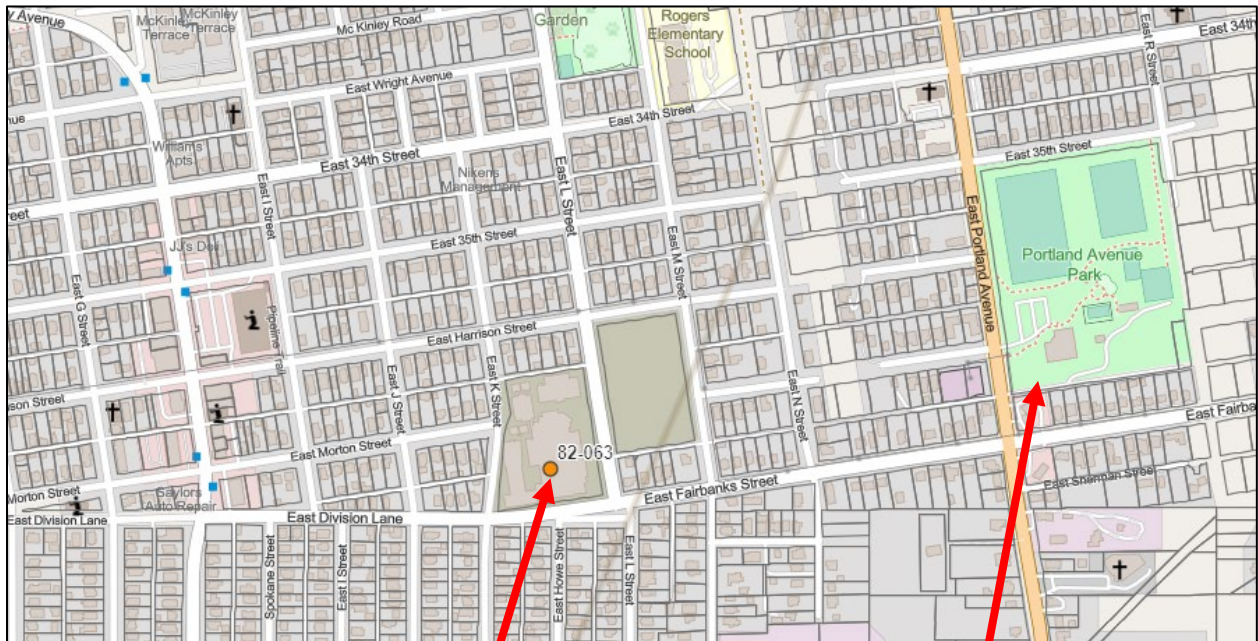
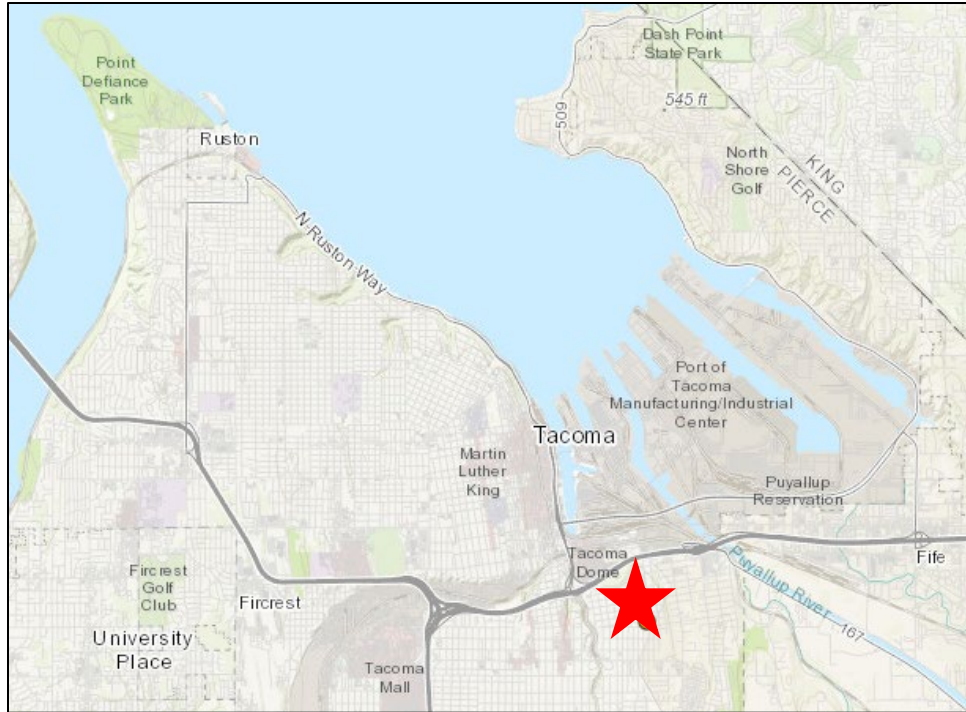
Resolution 2022-30 is provided for board consideration. (Attachment E)

Next Steps

Should the board approve the conversion and replacement, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the project agreement, as directed.

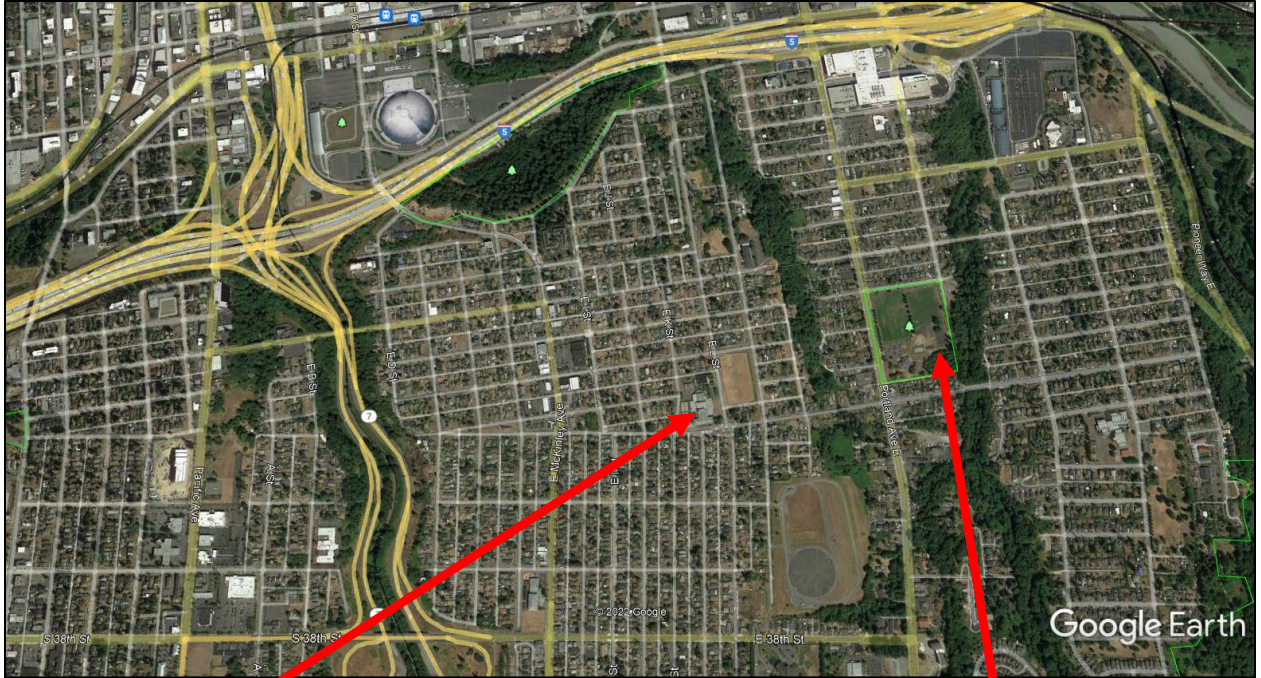
Attachments

- A. Tacoma Eastside Pool Site Location and Aerial Maps
- B. Tacoma Eastside Pool Photos
- C. Replacement Project Area – Portland Avenue Park Photos
- D. Replacement Boundary
- E. Resolution 2022-30



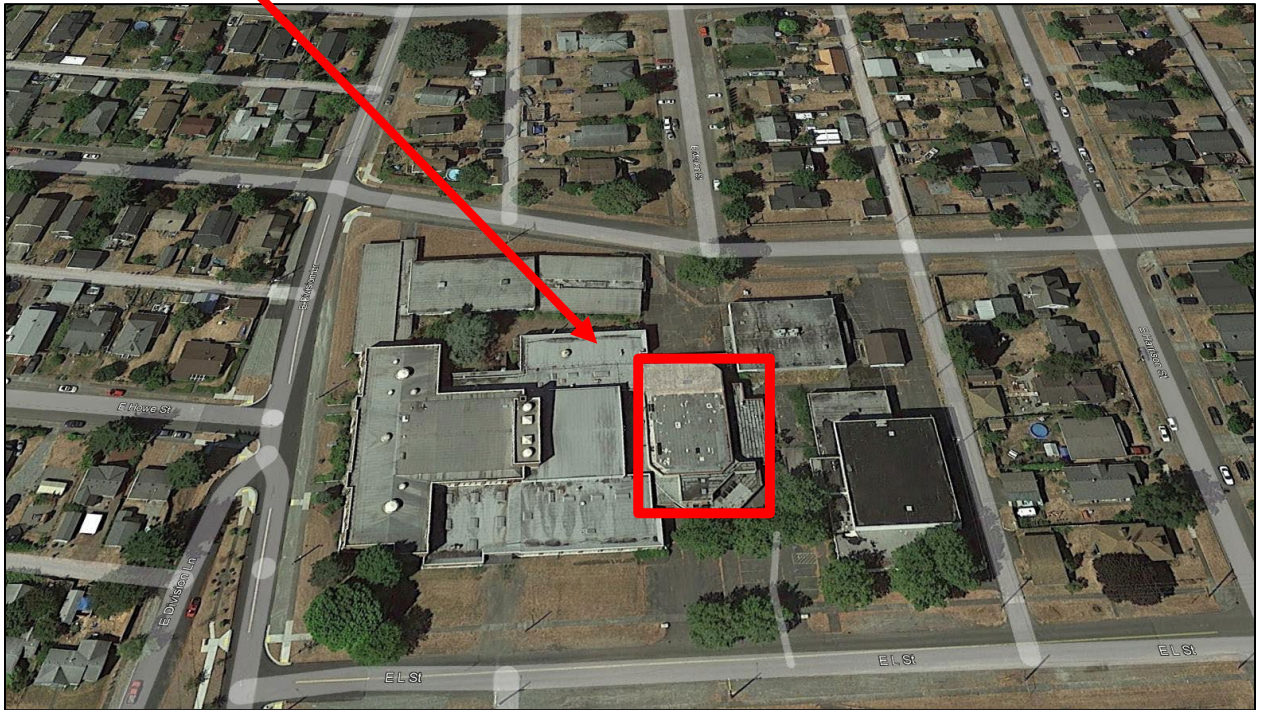
Eastside Pool

Portland Avenue Park



Eastside Pool

Portland Avenue Park









Closed Wading Pool



Resolution 2022-30
Conversion Request: Tacoma Eastside Pool
RCO #82-063D

WHEREAS, that the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and Metro Parks Tacoma used a state Bonds grant to develop the Eastside Pool facility; and

WHEREAS, the Eastside Pool was permanently closed, and thereby created a conversion; and

WHEREAS, that as a result of this conversion, the project area no longer satisfies the conditions of the RCO grant; and

WHEREAS, that sponsors are asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval to replace the converted pool facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement facility is located at Portland Avenue Park and will include development of a sprayground and restroom; and

WHEREAS, the replacement boundary will include most of the park as depicted on Attachment D; and

WHEREAS, the replacement facilities are supported in Metro Parks Tacoma’s plan, thereby supporting the board’s goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, that the sponsor sought public comment on the conversion and replacement, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to regularly seek public feedback in policy and funding decisions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the conversion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board the Board authorizes the Director to execute the necessary amendments.

Resolution moved by: Member Burgess

Resolution seconded
by:

Member Gardow

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

Date:

October 26, 2022



APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 25-26, 2022

Title: City of Bellingham Frank Geri Complex Field 4, RCO #96-1178D
Request for Time Extension of Non-Conforming Use

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager

Summary

This memo outlines a request to extend the non-conforming use of a portion of the project area of the Frank Geri Complex Field 4 and parking lot. The current approval expires on December 20, 2022.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: **2022-31**

Purpose of Resolution: To approve an extension of the non-conforming use through June 30, 2024.

Overview of the Non-Conforming Use Policy

In January 2019, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved an Exceptions to Conversion policy. The policy includes an exception for a non-permanent non-conforming use.

The policy states:

A non-permanent, non-conforming use or temporary closure that will have minimum impact to the project area (or portion of) that will last 180 days or less does not require RCO review. A non-permanent, non-conforming use or temporary closure that exceeds 180 days and will last no more than 2 years must be reviewed by RCO

and may be approved by the director. The project area impacted must be restored¹ in a specified period of time following the use. The board may approve an extension of the non-permanent, non-conforming use or temporary closure.

Non-Conforming Use of the Project Area

The City of Bellingham (City) permitted the installation of temporary housing units at the Field 4 parking area for a planned 90-day period that began on December 20, 2020. The field was not in use at that time due to the impact of COVID and cancellation of all activities. The parking area was selected after an evaluation of multiple City-owned properties. The City's evaluation criteria included conflicts with other City uses, surrounding land uses, long-term availability, site suitability, public safety, and public health. The use was permitted under a City of Bellingham executive order and emergency ordinance for using public facilities for temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

The City issued a permit and license to HomesNow, a non-profit, to operate the temporary housing area. The license limits the size and number of structures (25) and residents (28) at the site. The permit and license recognize the site is subject to grant obligations and the use is subject to Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) approval. The license is revocable and contains conditions of permitted and prohibited uses and a termination clause. It terminates if RCO and/or board approval is not granted.

In February 2022, HomesNow requested the City extend the use to 2024. In response, the City's Planning and Community Development Department issued notices for public comment of the continued use on the City's website, in the local newspaper, to the Neighborhood Advisory Commission, and to the Whatcom Falls and Puget Neighborhood Associations (the field is in the Puget Neighborhood). Notices were sent to property owners within 500 feet of the site. The City completed the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process for the use with a determination of non-significance on March 31, 2022.

The City submitted a request to RCO for approval of the non-conforming use that had begun on December 20, 2020. The request was approved through December 20, 2022, which is the maximum time a non-conforming use may be approved by the RCO Director. Additional time beyond a two-year period requires board approval.

¹The portion of the project area impacted by the action is returned to its original (or better) surface condition.

The temporary housing use does not impact the maintenance and operation of Field 4. Public use of Field 4 and other Civic Field Park facilities has resumed. Although the parking area dedicated to Field 4 is not open to the public, there is parking available north of Field 4 and to the south at the other Geri Fields within the park.

City of Bellingham Extension Request

The City is requesting an extension through June 30, 2024. Relocating the temporary housing is planned for March 31, 2024, when an alternate location becomes available.

Following removal of the housing units, the funded parking area will be restored to its original or better condition no later than June 30, 2024.

Background on Funded Project

The project is described below.

Project Name:	Frank Geri Complex Field 4	Project #:	96-1178D
Grant Program:	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks	Board funded date:	July 1997
WWRP	\$250,000	Original Purpose: Development of a lighted softball field and parking as the fourth field of a ballfield complex located in the Civic Field Park.	
Project Sponsor Match	\$395,333		
Total Amount:	\$645,933		

The City of Bellingham was awarded a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks category in July 1997 to build a lighted softball field including a parking lot at Civic Field Park. The field was the fourth within the park complex. The project was completed in January 2000.

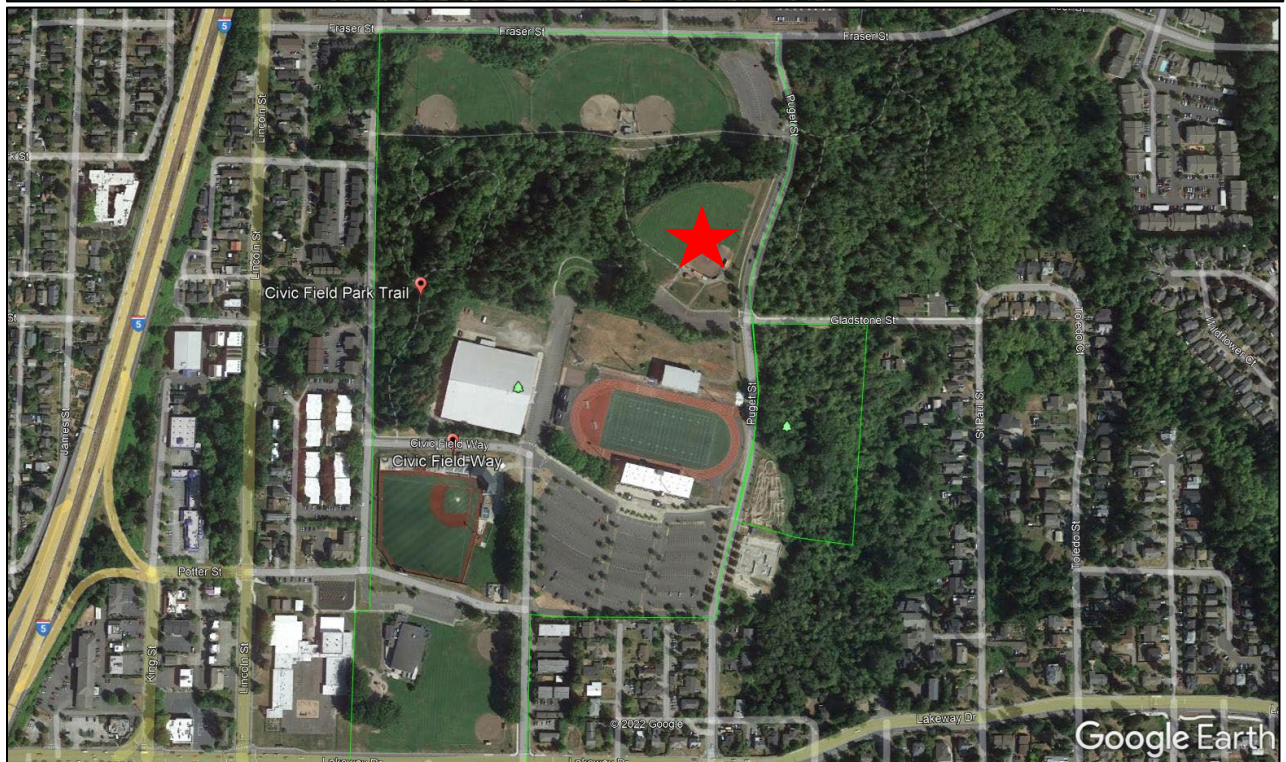
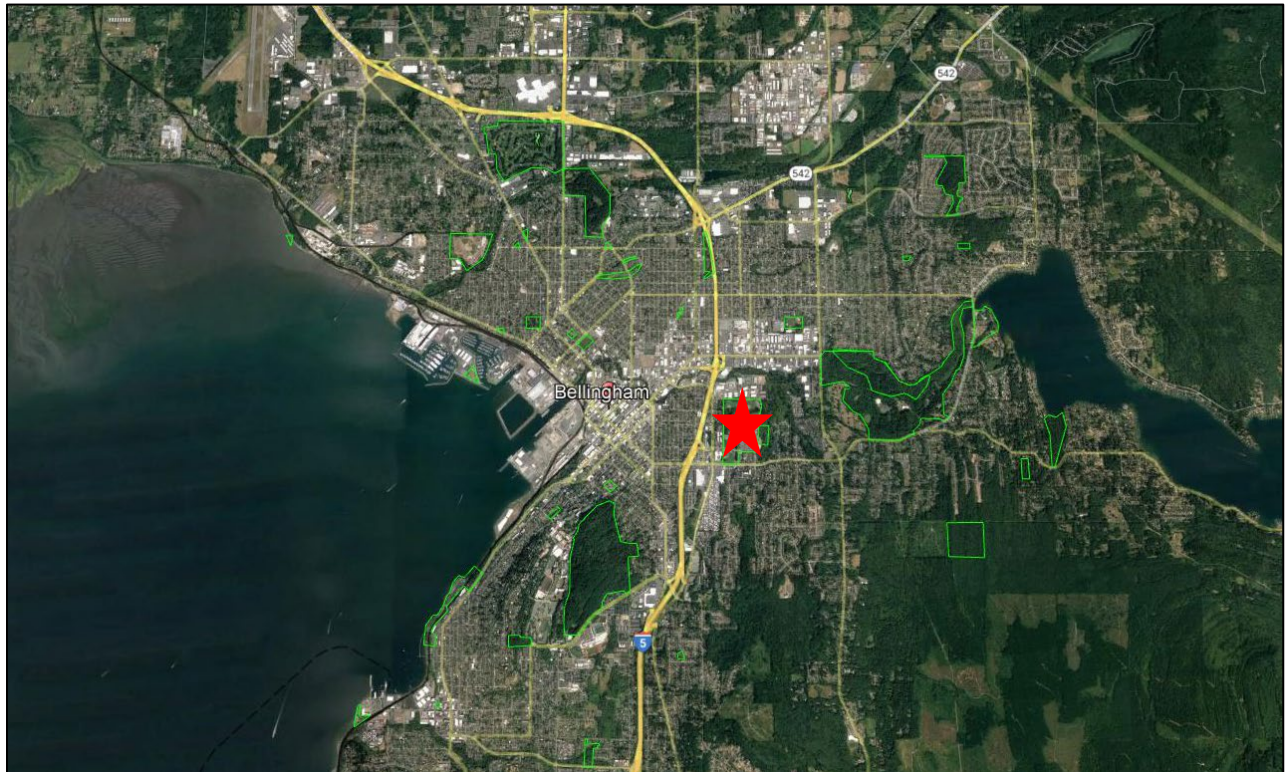
Attachments

Attachment A: Frank Geri Field 4 – Aerial Maps/Project Area Boundary

Attachment B: City of Bellingham Extension Request

Attachment C: Resolution 2022-31

Attachment A: Bellingham Frank Geri Field 4 – Location Aerial Maps





Frank Geri Field 4 Project Area Boundary – Outlined in Red













Parks and Recreation Department City of Bellingham

September 6, 2022

Megan Duffy, Director
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98505-0917
Sent via email to: myra.barker@rco.wa.gov and Allison.dellwo@rco.wa.gov

Re: Request for an extension of non-permanent, non-conforming use for project #96-1178

Dear Director Duffy,

Please consider this letter and the accompanying materials as the City of Bellingham's (City) formal request for an exception to conversion for a two-year period of non-conforming use of a portion of the Frank Geri Complex – Field 4. Development of this site was partially funded with a WWRP – Local Parks grant. The City permitted installation of a temporary tiny house encampment, Swift Haven Village (Swift Haven), in the parking area that serves Field 4. Our current non-conforming use approval expires December 20, 2022, and we respectfully request an extension to March 31, 2024.

Why was this location selected?

A team from the City's Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Planning and Community Development Departments first identified several City-owned or controlled sites that could potentially accommodate the use of a temporary tiny house encampment for people experiencing homelessness. Each site was then individually evaluated based on a set of criteria to determine whether the proposed use could be fully accommodated. The evaluation criteria included: conflicts with other City of Bellingham uses; conflicts with surrounding land uses; long-term availability (regulations allow up to two years); site suitability (i.e. access, stormwater management, water and power service, and short-term sewer connection); public safety; and public health. While it was found that several sites could accommodate the use, further research indicated that most of the sites had seasonal, environmental, or infrastructure limitations. Sites that were previously used in 2019 for similar tiny house encampments or were currently in use as such were eliminated. Those sites included City Hall, Maritime Heritage Park, Post Point, WhatComm, and Civic Field. The subject site was the best site that was available immediately. The site has ample area to allow for continued City operational use, roads and visual barriers provide separation from residential areas located to the east, and utilities can be provided. The site is accessible via public transit (Whatcom Transportation Authority stop #1012, #1011, #1033, and #3446) with multiple bus routes that lead downtown. It is also within walking or biking distance of grocery stores, multiple businesses, potential employers, social services, and health clinics.

Significant data demonstrate that the number of people experiencing homelessness is growing sharply in Washington State, spurred by a lack of affordable housing and a poorly funded mental health and substance abuse system. The increase in homelessness is a national issue and is found in virtually all

Main Office
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: (360) 778-7000
Fax: (360) 778-7001
Email: parks@cob.org
www.cob.org/parks

Operations
1400 Woburn Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Phone: (360) 778-7100
Fax: (360) 778-7101
Email: parks@cob.org
www.cob.org/parks

Arne Hanna Aquatic Center
1114 Potter Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Phone: (360) 778-7665
Fax: (360) 778-7062
Email: aquatics@cob.org
www.cob.org/ahac

Bayview Cemetery
1420 Woburn Street
Bellingham, WA 98229
Phone: (360) 778-7150
Fax: (360) 778-7151
Email: bayview@cob.org
www.cob.org/bayview

areas of the country that are experiencing economic and population growth. The Whatcom County Point-in-Time Census of Homeless Residents indicates that from 2012 to 2018, the county's homeless population grew steadily, from an estimated 493 to 815 people. In 2019, 700 people experiencing homelessness were counted in Whatcom County, and in 2020, 707 people were identified as experiencing homelessness. The published [2022 Point in Time \(PIT\) Count Report for Whatcom County](#) counted 832 individuals and 639 households experiencing homelessness. The City and County are working simultaneously to provide permanent housing solutions, respond to the need for emergency shelter, and address the root causes of homelessness. For more information about the City's efforts to address and prevent homelessness, visit the [State of Housing and Homelessness](#) webpage. In response to requests from homeless advocates and the public to provide more immediate shelter options, in December 2020 the City approved Swift Haven, a tiny home village at the Civic Athletic Complex. This 25-unit site is operated by HomesNOW under an emergency license agreement with the City which expired March 31, 2022. In accordance with Chapter 20.15 of the Bellingham Municipal Code (BMC), HomesNOW applied for and received a new Temporary Shelter Permit and new License Agreement with the City to continue operating on this site into 2024 contingent on extension approval by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.

What is the plan to return the area to the intended purpose (date)?

Swift Haven's Temporary Tiny House Encampment Permit (USE2022-0008 – "Use Permit") expires March 31, 2024. The permit duration is contingent upon RCO's approval to extend the temporary use beyond December 22, 2022. In conjunction with the Use Permit, the City entered into a License Agreement with the Operator, HomesNOW, which establishes the terms and conditions for the use of this City owned and grant encumbered property. The License Agreement dovetails the operational timeline established in the Use Permit and expires on March 31, 2024. At the conclusion of the permitted term, Swift Haven will be relocated to City-owned property at 2221 Pacific St. The tiny home village will be re-established behind the building currently serving as the City's Public Works Operations Center.

What assurances are there that it will be returned to the intended purpose?

The governing Use Permit places multiple operational conditions on the Operator, HomesNOW, to prevent and/or mitigate short- and long-term impacts to the site. The Director may immediately close the encampment if HomesNOW fails to comply with the requirements of BMC 20.15 or these conditions including, for example:

1. Violation(s) of any conditions of approval (which cannot be immediately remedied by HomesNOW) that present a significant adverse risk to the health or safety of HomesNOW staff, board members, volunteers, guests, visitors, or the general public.
2. Failing to ensure that an on-site manager is present at all times, as required.
3. Failing to enforce the code of conduct or otherwise failing to control unacceptable behaviors occurring within the temporary tiny house encampment.
4. Obstructing City and County staff, including police officers, fire and emergency crews, and approved social service agency personnel (e.g. caseworkers, counselors, the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), etc.) from having unrestricted access to the common areas of the site. HomesNOW may exclude or obstruct access to third parties or agencies that HomesNOW believes for good reason will/may be dangerous, unlawful or disruptive.
5. Refusing to provide encampment guest information to authorities when an imminent threat to health and safety of an individual or community is present.

6. Criminal conduct, or any series of events that the Chief of Police or Fire Chief deem to be a danger to the temporary tiny house encampment and/or surrounding community, including calls for service regarding assaults, disorderly behavior, or illegal substance use.”

The License Agreement also requires the site be restored to its original condition upon encampment closure and/or license termination. Section 3 pertains to deconstruction of the use, establishing, “It is understood by Licensee that it, at its sole cost, may need to disassemble Swift Haven Village should the Permit never take effect due to a successful appeal or for any other reason.”

The Use Permit coupled with the License Agreement establish stop gates to prevent damage to the site or impediment to the public. The License Agreement is legally binding to Licensee, HomesNOW, and requires complete restoration of the site upon closure and/or relocation of the use. The Licensee has agreed to all terms and conditions in the Use Permit and License Agreement and the City shall assume responsibility for site clean-up and restoration in the event the Licensee fails to comply.

User conflict and how it has been remedied

Swift Haven occupies the smallest of three parking lots in the Civic Athletic Complex. Swift Haven does not prevent the public’s ability to use recreational facilities like ball fields, trails, play equipment, etc. at the Civic Athletic Complex. Indirect impacts related to parking are relatively negligible as there is ample surface parking located elsewhere at the Civic Athletic Complex. A nearby parking lot south of Frasier Street is the most convenient for parking and drop-offs associated with ball games and practice at Geri Fields. Swift Haven guests and volunteers are prohibited from parking overnight at any of these other parking lots. Improperly parked vehicles within the complex are towed at the owner’s expense and parking lots within the complex have signage regarding vehicle towing. The City is retaining public use and access to the ADA stall inside the Swift Haven premises and will enforce this requirement via the License Agreement between HomesNOW and the City. The Civic Athletic Complex is also well served by transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and trail systems, which provide alternative modal options than the automobile. Based on the project’s location in a parking lot, its limited duration of 24 months, and the operational conditions required by this permit and the associated license agreement, permanent or long-term detrimental impacts to park facilities associated with this temporary shelter permit are mitigated and largely avoided. Should conditions imposed herein not be met and/or circumstances change, the City’s Planning and Community Development Director or designee reserves the right to revoke the permit or add new permit conditions necessary to protect public health and safety.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or for additional information. On behalf of the City of Bellingham, thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nicole Oliver
Parks and Recreation Director

Encl: Photographs

Resolution 2022-31
Non-Conforming Use Extension Request: Bellingham Frank Geri Field 4
RCO #96-1178D

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham used a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks category grant to develop Frank Geri Field 4 and parking area at Civic Field Park; and

WHEREAS, the City has permitted a non-conforming use of temporary housing to be located in the parking area on a portion of the funded site; and

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted policy that allows for a non-conforming use at a project area; and

WHEREAS, the current approval of the non-conforming use expires on December 20, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City is asking the Board to approve an extension of the non-conforming use to June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, upon the end date of the extension, the impacted area will be restored and returned to normal operation and public use, thereby supporting the board’s goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves an extension to June 30, 2024.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Burgess

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

Date: October 26, 2022

City of Oak Harbor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BOB SEVERNS
MAYOR

865 S.E. BARRINGTON DRIVE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277
(360) 279-4500

June 28, 2022

Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Ryan Elting, Conservation Director
765 Won Road, C-201
Greenbank, WA 98253

Subject: Objection to Conservation Easement Acquisition in Oak Harbor, Island County
 RCO Grant Application #22-1662

Dear Mr. Elting,

The City of Oak Harbor appreciates this opportunity to comment on the grant application. While the City fundamentally supports the work of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, the Oak Harbor City Council respectfully disagrees with the particular location for this land preservation process for the reasons listed below and therefore opposes the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Application #22-1662. Unfortunately, the City was not included in the early planning of the grant process and was unable to provide input to allow all parties to work together on common goals.

The land in question is comprised of several parcels either fronting, or very near, State Route 20 south of the City of Oak Harbor. The Urban Growth Area boundary of the City is contiguous with the highway frontage on the east side, and approximately 1200 feet to the north, of the proposed trust land. City limit boundaries are an equal distance from the north, and roughly 950 feet away to the east. It is also important to note that approximately 54% of the proposed trust land is within the City's existing Joint Planning Area.

State Route 20 is the main highway carrying traffic to and from the City of Oak Harbor, including residents, commuters, visitors, and deliveries. It is truly the main artery for commerce on Whidbey Island, and there are few, if any, safe and reliable alternatives for north-south travel on the island, especially in this particular area. As such, the highway provides a natural path for future urban expansion of the City to the south.

In other directions, the City is hemmed-in by various natural or man-made impediments to growth. To the north, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) and the flight paths associated with its runways prevent anything but low-density industrial and limited commercial development. To the west are wetland areas and another Whidbey Camano Land Trust preservation area at the Fakkema Farm and ultimately, the Salish Sea. Easterly from Oak Harbor are Navy-owned lands and areas impacted by flight paths and the Salish Sea.

Preventing development along this existing thoroughfare will cause development pressure to expand in other directions – to the west along Ft. Nugent Road, to the south along Boon Road, Scenic Heights Road, Miller Road and Balda Road – all existing lightly traveled county roadways that would require significant improvements to handle additional traffic. In the long-term, the effect of placing a constraint on this land increases urban sprawl as development expands around the trust land and onto parcels farther away from established travel routes.

Additionally, utilities would have to be extended into those far-flung areas, creating additional cost to the City and its existing residents, but also flying in the face of sound planning practices. At this time, the City has utility services very near the proposed trust lands, but not extending beyond or in other directions that development would be forced into if this land were to be restricted. Longer travel times for commuters passing by undeveloped areas into employment centers to the north of the site would create additional water and air pollution and other environmental impacts.

The goals of the 1990 WA State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.020(1&2)) address growth by encouraging development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner and the lessening of sprawl by reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into low-density development. The City has made, and is in the process of making, several changes to land development regulations to address the first point by removing barriers to construction of accessory dwelling units, allowing for greater flexibility in mixed-use developments, and increasing residential densities and reducing minimum lot sizes – preventing development on the trust land would contradict these goals.

There is a documented need for additional land capacity to accommodate housing in this community. According to the recently completed Housing Action Plan, *“the city has sufficient land to accommodate roughly 56 percent of the projected 2,900+ additional residents through 2036.”* In other words, existing lands available for urban development will only house slightly over half of the anticipated need for the next 14 years.

Expansion of the City’s Urban Growth Area (UGA) will be necessary to address future growth, and is mentioned in several places within the 2019 City of Oak Harbor Comprehensive Plan – Urban Growth Element:

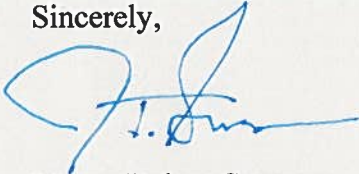
Policy 1.b. - Ensure that sufficient land in the UGA is available to provide reasonable development opportunities to accommodate twenty years of population and employment growth.

Policy 1.c. - Progress toward eliminating unincorporated enclaves in order to provide for the most efficient provision of urban services within the UGA.

The proposed trust lands could potentially house hundreds of new residents and commercial development. With sound planning practices and flexible development standards, the area could be a model for planning in this unique island environment. When the City envisions development in areas such as this, it is not 'typical' sprawl – it is a community that includes a mix of uses including residential, commercial, recreational, and open spaces. Development that is contiguous to existing neighborhoods and reduces the dependence on automobiles, rather than increasing it.

Again, the City supports the worthy goals of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, just not in this particular location. Accordingly, we are requesting that the Whidbey Camano Land Trust withdraw RCO Grant Application #22-1662 to allow the opportunity to work together on revising the grant application to balance urban and rural interests. If the application continues as currently proposed, the City of Oak Harbor requests that the Washington RCO, Governor, and State Legislature deny this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Severns', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Mayor Robert Severns



July 27, 2022

City of Oak Harbor
Mayor Bob Severns
865 S.E. Barrington Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



Dear Mayor Severns,

Thank you for your letter dated June 28, 2022, regarding the City's objection to the Land Trust including 70 acres of the 130-acre property owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC (the 70 acres is "subject property") in our state farmland grant application ("farmland grant") because it is within the Joint Planning Area ("JPA"). To clarify, the Land Trust does not own the subject property now, nor will it ever; it will remain private property with a conservation easement, not as "trust lands".

Please note that half of the 70 acres in the JPA (~35 acres) is designated by the County and City as a wetland critical area that is part of the larger Waterloo Marsh (Tax lot R13209-057-4540) and is identified by the City as a protection priority (see attached information). Therefore, we assume it is the remaining 35 acres (or 27% of the subject property) that the City is concerned about ("subject 35 acres").

Until this farmland grant, we were only vaguely aware of the JPA and its significance - please accept our apologies. Such notification was not a requirement of the farmland conservation easement we purchased on the 315-acre Fakkema Farm in 2016, which used \$1 million in County Conservation Futures Funds with the strong support of all three County Commissioners, including Jill Johnson. So, we were surprised to learn that it is in the JPA. Nevertheless, in that case, because Fakkema Farm was immediately adjacent to the City, we deliberately left out the easternmost 50 acres of the farm from the conservation easement to accommodate future urban growth. The owners later came back to ask if we would purchase a conservation easement on those 50 acres, and we declined because it was so obviously a high priority for future development and in a much more immediate timeframe than the subject 35 acres. We do recognize and support the critical need throughout Island County for more housing, especially affordable housing.

In the current case, the City's by its own admission is many years away (20 years or more) from expanding into the subject 35 acres. It may very well be much longer that that or never happen at all depending on future circumstances which none of us can accurately predict, including losing access to water supplies from the Skagit River, a Navy downsize releasing surplus lands, an earthquake destroying the bridge, or any number of unknown conditions.

Following Ryan's presentation, City Council members remarked that placing a conservation easement on this property "would be catastrophic for urban growth" and "this project is the worst thing that could happen for the future of the City". Ryan pointed out that the subject 35 acres had sat on the active real-estate market for years and asked why the City didn't purchase the acreage during this time. He received no response from the Council, but it does make sense that the City would not buy property today when it is uncertain if and when it might be needed for growth.

Given that situation, the recent past owners of these properties were left to sell them on the open market. It may be decades, if ever, that the subject 35 acres is needed by the City to expand urban growth and during that time the subject 35 acres can be either be maintained in agriculture with no significant infrastructure, as desired by the new private property owner today, or developed into three 10-acre minimum estate lots as allowed by the current rural agriculture zoning, the latter constituting the "highest and best use" in appraisal terms.

But just as with three developed homesites on the property, a conservation easement on the subject 35-acres in no way removes the City's ability to condemn the property (or in lieu of condemnation) if needed. The State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) granting agency has a process for accommodating "conversion" on grant funded projects like this one. And the reality is that condemning a single open farmland parcel, versus three house sites, would be much more cost-effective for the City, if the need arises. This of course is neither our hope nor intention for any of our conservation projects, but a point it feels necessary to make in this case. **To be clear, placing a conservation easement on the subject 35 acres does not preclude its future annexation into the City or subsequent development under RCO's existing conversion process.**

In the meantime, while it remains in farmland and open space, the property can continue to serve the public good, furthering many of the goals of the City's current Comprehensive Plan (see attached information).

Lastly, we received a call from City employee, David Kuhl, expressing interest on the part of some Council members to meet with us. We are certainly willing to do this if the private property owners are also willing, and Ryan will discuss this with them in the coming weeks and get back to you.

Sincerely Yours,



Patricia Powell
Executive Director

Attachment

ATTACHMENT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. The 35 acres in the JPA that is designated as wetland critical area and part of Waterloo Marsh:
 - a. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2019), identifies properties that may be suitable to create an open space link between Waterloo Marsh and Swantown Lake.
 - b. Element 5 of the City's Comprehensive Plan – Open Space Section:
 - Item 15. Identify properties that may be suitable to create an open space link between Waterloo Marsh and Swantown Lake.
2. The subject 35 acres that is in the JPA and could be developable in the future and, in the meantime, the following sections of Element 5, Open Space section of the City's Comprehensive Plan are consistent with having it in farmland until needed by the City:
 - a. Statement on Page 86: Open Space is a signature element that helps to define the quality of life in Oak Harbor. Important for habitat and places for people to enjoy the area's scenic beauty and cultural heritage (*farms are part of this*). Open Space can serve many functions within a community. Those functions may include agriculture and forestry, wildlife habitat, wetlands protection, groundwater protection, flood management, view corridors, etc.
 - b. Identify, designate and protect open space lands that provide forage, migration and habitat for wildlife.
 - c. Item 9: Promote the conservation of open space that are in both public and private ownership.
 - d. Item 10: Utilize open space conservation as a method to establish a "green belt" around the urban core of the City.
 - e. Item 11: Identify important "view corridors" that provide visual access to scenic vistas.
 - f. Item 12: Protect open spaces that provide important ecological functions and values.
 - g. Item 13: Work with Island County staff to identify opportunities for cooperation in preserving open space areas within the City's UGA, as well as within the city/county JPA.
 - h. Item 18: Review and revise, as necessary, the City's development regulations to ensure that adequate provisions are made to preserve open space as land is developed.



October 20, 2022

Via Email to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
C/O Julia McNamara, Board Liaison
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Re: Whidbey Camano Land Trust's RCO Grant Application #22-1662

Dear Board Members:

The City of Oak Harbor opposes Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Application #22-1662 submitted by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

On June 28, 2022, the City of Oak Harbor (City) provided the Whidbey Camano Land Trust with a letter from Mayor Bob Severns explaining the City's opposition to grant application #22-1662, and to the Whidbey Camano Land Trust's purchase of conservation easements on the following parcels:

i) Parcel No. R13210-067-1770 owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC, 26.24 acres adjacent to State Route 20. The property is in the City's Joint Planning Area (JPA) and next to the City's Urban Growth Area (UGA). The City is extremely opposed to a conservation easement on this parcel funded by RCO as this will block future urban growth.

ii) Parcel No. R13210-033-0990 owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC, 10.00 acres adjacent to Parcel No. R13210-067-1770. The property is in the City's JPA. The City is opposed to a conservation easement on this parcel funded by RCO as this will limit property available for future urban growth.

iii) Parcel No. R13215-496-0650 owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC, 21.00 acres adjacent to State Route 20. The City is extremely opposed to a conservation easement on this parcel funded by RCO as this will block future urban growth along State Route 20.

iv) Parcel No. R13216-412-4630 owned by Sher-Footed Farm, LLC, 10.00 acres adjacent to State Route 20. The City is extremely opposed to a conservation easement on this parcel funding by RCO as this will block future urban growth along State Route 20.

Many of these parcels are less than a quarter mile from the City of Oak Harbor's UGA boundary, and 26.24 acres of the land is in the City's Joint Planning Area. For the reasons set forth in Mayor Severns letter (see attached), the proposed conservation easements are in the City's path for future urban expansion southward and would hinder the City's ability to meet its urban growth obligations under the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Given the nature of city government and infrequency of council meetings, the City was given little advanced notice, and even less opportunity to provide meaningful feedback, before the Whidbey Camano Land Trust ("Land Trust") executed commitments with landowner(s). When the Land Trust representative, Ryan Elting, presented to the City Council on June 7, 2022, and was given universally negative feedback from the City Council regarding his plans, he admitted the Land Trust had already executed commitments with landowners, suggesting the entire matter was a *fait accompli*. Those real estate documents were not shared with the City. The City does not view the Land Trust's actions here as meeting the requirement, much less the spirit, of conferring under RCW 79A.15.110 and RCW 79A.15.010.

The remainder of this letter responds to the Land Trust's July 27th letter from Patricia Powell to the City of Oak Harbor (see attached).

1) If the RCO Board were to fund Grant Application #22-1662, the Land Trust would use those funds to purchase conservation easements from the subject private property owners. Conservation easements separate development rights from the full bundle of property rights owned by the property owners. Thus, private owners could no longer develop the properties because the Land Trust, not the private owners, would hold the development rights on those properties.

The Land Trust's insistence that the land would not be "trust land" is immaterial to the City's concerns. The Land Trust would use RCO grant money to buy and hold a valuable ownership interest in the subject properties. The Land Trust, as the holder of the conservation easements on the subject private properties, would not allow urban development on them as would be required under RCO's grant contracts. That is the crux of the issue.

2) The City agrees that the approximately 35 acres that is a wetland critical area is a protection priority. The City does not oppose a conservation easement on parcel number R13209-057-4540.

3) The City's present UGA accommodates less than 20 years of urban growth. In 2021, the City's consultant conducted a housing study that produced a "Housing Action Plan" that found the existing UGA only has room to house **one-half the expected additional City residents through 2036**. Encumbering properties with conservation easements funded with an RCO grant would permanently hinder the City's ability to grow southward.

The RCO should ignore the Land Trust’s speculative scenarios: an earthquake destroying Deception Pass bridge, losing water supplies, or the Navy downsizing. The GMA does not ask cities to factor in speculative worst-case scenarios when determining urban growth needs, any more than the RCO Board should include them as factors when making grant determinations. And, if the RCO Board were to consider those worst-case scenarios, they would depress growth so as to greatly lessen the need to purchase conservation land on Whidbey Island—those scenarios would be a reason to not fund Grant Application #22-1662.

4) The Land Trust comments that the City should have purchased the subject properties because they were on the real estate market for years is a red herring. Underlying this comment is an assumption that cities should expend tax money to buy land to bank for future development. Governments are not, however, in the business of buying or selling real estate—they are not a land speculator, land developer, or a land trust.

5) There is the suggestion in the Land Trust’s letter that it is merely purchasing rights in property that the City could have bought outright. In other words, the Land Trust had the wherewithal to act where the City did not, because it did not need the property for growth. However, when a city does not purchase property that does not mean it is not needed for growth. The Land Trust’s argument boils down to this: you could have purchased the property on the open market but did not, so don’t complain when we purchase its development rights. Such an argument is as unfair as it is unpersuasive. First, unlike the Land Trust, the City is not in the business of purchasing property. Second, the Land Trust’s “open market” purchase would be 100% subsidized by the State of Washington. The Land Trust would not use its own funds to make the purchase—it is relying on a prospective grant from RCO. A grant that should not be approved.

6) The City knows that conservation easements do not prevent condemnation or annexation. However, annexation of farmland is unusual in Washington. These are again red herrings that miss the point—the conservation easements prevent urban development in an area where the City expects to funnel future growth southward along State Route 20.

The City believes that the real estate documents the Land Trust executed with the private property owner(s) are contingent on the Land Trust obtaining grant funding. Thus, RCO Grant #22-1662 shall determine the fate of this matter.

It would be irresponsible for the RCO Board to fund this grant application for parcels in the City’s JPA when the City has a 2021 housing study that demonstrates, contrary to the Land Trust’s assertion, that the City’s UGA cannot accommodate 20 years of growth. Further, the conservation easements would be along State Route 20, which is the City’s obvious southward urban growth path. Not allowing sequential geographical growth of Whidbey Island’s largest city will unnecessarily put more growth pressure on other parts of the island. While the City supports preservation of natural areas, this is not the right place for it.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
October 20, 2022
Page 4

Very truly yours,

KENYON DISEND, PLLC

/s/ Robert Zeinemann

Robert Zeinemann
Attorneys for City of Oak Harbor

cc: Mayor Robert Severns, City of Oak Harbor
Blaine Oborn, Oak Harbor City Administrator
David Kuhl, Oak Harbor Development Services Director

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 25, 2022

Place: Hybrid- Room 172, 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA, 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee
Kathryn Gardow	Seattle	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	VACANT	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Ted Willhite opened the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting at 9 AM. He requested roll call, determining quorum.

Motion: Approval of October 2022 Meeting Agenda
Moved By: Member Herzog
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Chair Willhite highlighted the opportunities presented by the board to not only promote quality projects, but also projects that work to mitigate climate change.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Willhite shared that the consent agenda included the July 2022 meeting minutes, volunteer recognitions and several time extensions.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-13
Moved By: Member Shiosaki
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**
Motion: Approval of 2023 Calendar
Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Herzog
Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Director's Report

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director **Megan Duffy** summarized key agency activities. Director Duffy shared that the Centennial Accord is occurring on October 25, 2022; the Equity Review was submitted to the Legislature; and there were several staff changes including two new outdoor grants managers, an administrative assistant, and a new Governor's Salmon Recovery Office policy lead. The agency will also be hiring a board administrative assistant and a cultural resources specialist.

Chair Wilhite asked if the agency is considering the Inflation Reduction Act. Director Duffy shared that there are ongoing conversations with relevant state agencies to track what funds are available, for what purposes and who might be best able to access those funds.

Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, RCO Legislative and Policy Director, shared legislative updates regarding the five decision packages within the operating budget. These requests include \$4.47 million capacity for salmon lead entities and recovery regions; funding for a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) coordinator, tribal coordinator, and data coordinator; and \$50 thousand for the Flowering Rush program on behalf of the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Member Windrope asked what percentage increase was the \$4.47 million for the lead entities and regions. Director Duffy explained where the funding oriented from and Mr. Milliern noted that it was approximately a 55-60 percent increase.

Mr. Milliern shared the state revenue forecast is showing consistent predictions. There will be a \$43 million increase for the 2021-2023 biennium and a \$465 million decrease

for the 2023-2025 biennium. The next revenue forecast will be release in November, which will be the basis for the Governor's budget that is released in December.

Finally, Mr. Milliern noted that the Planning for Recreational Access Grants opened in early October and will close on November 14. Agreements will be written in December.

The [Grant Management, Grant Services, Performance and Fiscal Reports](#) were written only.

General Public Comment:

None.

Item 3: Introduction of New State Parks Director

Chair Willhite introduced the new State Parks Director, **Diana Dupuis**.

Director Dupuis noted that she had worked with State Parks for over 15 years. She has been the director at State Parks for 8 months. In her brief time as director, discussions between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and State Parks have occurred with a focus on state land usage and access; there has also been the addition of a DEI Director and Tribal Affairs Director at State Parks; and the Stewardship Program Lead has been elevated to the Executive Management team.

Board members inquired about access inequity due to cost, avenues for generating more funds, and how multi-use effect the user experience.

Director Dupuis explained that 70-80 percent of the agency is self-funded and losing funds would be detrimental to the land. However, these inequities need to be examined and State Parks programs need updating to address inequities. Unfortunately, outside of vendor proceeds, Discover Pass funds, and allocated funds from legislature, State Parks does not have another pathway for funding. As for the multi-use on state lands, Director Dupuis mentioned that this is a greater issue at smaller state parks than the larger parks, but users are typically good at navigating multi-use lands.

General Public Comment:

Note: The Department of Natural Resources state agency report was given here and is detailed under Item 14 with the other agency partner reports.

Doug Levy, Washington Recreation and Park Association representative, stated that the organization has asked to form a work group in partnership with RCO before the 2024

grant round to consider match surrounding the \$350,000 maximum for the Youth Athletic Facilities Large projects because cost inflation makes it difficult for projects to remain under this amount. He asked the board to consider the growing number of sports and activities his constituents must manage.

Note: The Department of Fish and Wildlife Agency Report was included here but can be found in detail below in Item 14.

BREAK: 10:37 – 10:57 AM

Item 4: Equity Review

Leah Dobey, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an update of the Equity Review Action Plan process, which was completed by the Prevention Institute in collaboration with RCO, to identify barriers for historically underserved communities in need of recreational opportunities.

The report, which can be found on RCO's website, included 13 findings, six high-level recommendations, and 45 detailed recommendations. The high-level recommendations include:

1. Prioritizing funding in high need areas
2. Modifying scoring criteria
3. Supporting proposal development and review
4. Building applicant capacity
5. Promoting community involvement
6. Funding intersectional projects

RCO staff identified priority levels for recommendations to determine what actions to take first and how impactful each would be. Twenty-five of the 33 priorities have a near-term need, but completion depends on staff capacity. The final action plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Member Ohlson-Kiehn asked about the scoring criteria process. Ms. Dobey emphasized that while the advisory committee works with the agency, RCO has the final decision to implement or not for office programs. The board would have the final decision for any board programs.

Member Shiosaki highlighted the intersection with housing, safety, and accessibility and asked how RCO will keep the grant programs from becoming more complicated. He highlighted the importance of hiring a DEI Coordinator who is focused on ensuring this work is completed to the best of its ability.

Member Herzog questioned the efforts that can be completed within an inequitable system. Director Duffy shared that there are many considerations taking place in terms of sequencing the recommendations, including the importance of performance measures and where external partners will have a role. For example, small governments might have limited capacity, so how can we support them? Several recommendations will require additional resources.

Member Gardow asked how the reduced match program has affected RCO project outcomes. Marguerite Austin, RCO Recreation and Conservation Section Manager, provided a Ferry County trail project as an example. The sponsor was approved for a 10 percent match and without the policy, the trail would probably not exist. This applies to other applicants as well. Mr. Gardow also asked if a map existed where there are project gaps. Ms. Doby explained that the Planning and Recreation Grant program will target areas like this to improve equity.

Chair Willhite highlighted the importance of DEI and how can this be sustained as a state. **Director Duffy** explained that the Washington State Office of Equity plays a major role statewide in setting policy and direction for the state and that state agencies are moving forward with planning and implementing efforts to improve equitable access.

Member Burgess requested future clarification on who holds decision-making authority for large scale changes to programs, be it the director, the board, or the legislature.

Public Comment:

David Olson, Mayor of the town of Cathlamet, shared that small entities often feel they are left out of the grant disbursement process. He said that Cathlamet has applied to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks Category the last two grant rounds (2020 and 2022), without success. He expressed that there is a perception of or a correlation between successful grants and who serves on the advisory committee.

LUNCH: 11:45 AM – 12:44 PM

[Item 5: Land and Water Conservation Fund: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Projects](#)

Karl Jacobs, RCO Senior Grants Manager, provided background information regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, which is a nationally competitive program. He also offered the 2023 grant round timeline and expressed that this presentation time provides public comment opportunity.

Mr. Jacobs highlighted the two project applications in progress:

1. The City of Everett's Holly Neighborhood Wetland Park, 22-2066
2. The City of Yakima's Martin Luther King Jr. Community Pool, 22-2059.

Chair Willhite questioned why there were not more applicants. Mr. Jacobs shared it was likely due to the specificity of the program that requires the project proposal be in an area considered to be a "park desert". However, application submissions have historically been low. **Marguerite Austin** shared that this is not due to lack of interest, but the eligibility requirements tend to limit who can apply. While additional outreach might help, there are few entities that will meet these eligibility criteria.

Member Gardow questioned where the entities are receiving match. Mr. Jacobs said any non-federal sources can be used and a limited number of federal funds.

[Item 6: Grant Program Framework](#)

Marguerite Austin, RCO Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, presented the grant program framework.

Ms. Austin shared that five RCO programs accepted applications in May, including the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), WWRP, the Community Forests Program (CFP), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF). Entities from thirty-six of Washington's 39 counties applied.

During the grant round RCO staff offered application webinars, conducted site visits, completed project reviews, and hosted technical review meetings for volunteer advisory committees who later served as evaluators.

Ms. Austin mentioned several changes to the grant round, which included a requirement for applicants to create a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account to access the PRISM application, enhancements to PRISM online summary pages, cultural resources mapping tool and metric data, and board approved policy changes, such as grant limits for LWCF, written evaluations for the WWRP farm and forest programs, carbon credit payment, and the reinstatement of match requirements.

There were 269 projects submitted initially, with 241 moving forward on the ranked project lists for \$218 million in requests.

Ms. Austin highlighted that the RCO grants managers will present the ranked list for board discussion and approval. The board has the authority to adopt, reorder, remove

and/or add to the lists, but Ms. Austin said the agency is recommending the board approve the ranked lists as presented.

Item 7: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Approval of Final Ranked List and Delegation Authority for Awarding Grants for 2023-25

DeAnn Beck, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided the LWCF program overview and the ranked lists of projects. The 25 projects requested a total of \$32,880,756 from the board and with match will total \$90,291,296 of overall funding.

After reviewing other projects from the ranked list, Ms. Beck highlighted the number one ranked project, city of Kent's Ruth Property at Clark Lake Park ([22-1779](#)).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-14
Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Shiosaki
Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

None.

Item 8: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA): Approval of Ranked List

Andrea Hood, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an ALEA program overview and presented the 2022 ranked list. The ten presented projects amount to about \$29 million in funds including match.

Ms. Hood highlighted presented components of the full project list before covering the number one ranked project from the City of Bellingham: Boulevard Park Shoreline Access and Enhancement ([22-1475](#)).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-15
Moved By: Member Herzog
Seconded By: Member Burgess
Decision: **Approved**

Item 9: Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF): Approval of Ranked List

Ashly Arambul, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the YAF program and presented the 2022 ranked list.

Ms. Arambul presented the activities that qualify for funding and shared that 34 projects were submitted to the large grants category and two projects submitted to the small grants category, totaling about \$44,313,614, with about \$34 million in match and \$10.4 million requested in board funds.

Ms. Arambul highlighted the City of Seattle’s Soundview Playfield Renovation project ([22-1261](#)), which is the top-rated project in the YAF large category, and Pacific County’s Lions Park Field Renovation project ([22-1539](#)), which is the top rated YAF small category project.

Member Shiosaki highlighted the limited funding for this program and Member Gardow sought details on how much funding would be requested. Director Duffy explained that the full amount to fund the entire lists would be requested.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-16
Moved By: Member Burgess
Seconded By: Member Shiosaki
Decision: **Approved**

Item 10: Community Forests Program (CFP): Approval of Ranked List

Marguerite Austin provided an overview of the CFP, which is an office program, and submitted a ranked project list.

For the 2022 cycle, five projects were submitted totaling \$18,789,016, with \$5.7 million in match and \$13.03 million in grant funds. Ms. Austin highlighted each of the five projects, with the top-rated project being from Forterra. This is the Montesano Community Forest project ([22-1568](#)).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-17
Moved By: Member Herzog
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

None.

Item 11: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

Local Parks

Allison Dellwo, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the WWRP Local Parks category and the ranked project list.

She noted that 59 applications were submitted totaling in \$136,303,173, with \$29.3 million in requested grant funds and \$106.9 million in matching funds.

After highlighting several projects, which included projects requesting funding for pickleball courts, sports field renovations, acquisitions, playgrounds, splashpads, skateparks, and pools, she highlighted the top ranked project from City of Seattle's Parks Department, the Rainier Beach Playfield Skatepark ([22-1255](#)).

Member Gardow asked how many projects would be funded with the request made. Ms. Dellwo explained that acquisition projects take priority (By statute, no less than 40% and no more than 50% of the funds in the Local Parks category shall be for acquisitions.), and remaining funds are be used to fund other projects. She noted it is not clear how many projects will be funded yet.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion:	<u>Approval of Resolution 2022-18</u>
Moved By:	Member Shiosaki
Seconded By:	Member Gardow
Decision:	Approved

State Lands Development

Dan Haws RCO Grants Manager provided an overview of the WWRP State Lands Development category and the ranked project list.

There were ten projects requesting nearly \$3 million, including trail head development, shoreline access development, and camping ground renovations. Department of Natural Resources had the top ranked project called the North Bend Community Connection ([22-1559](#)).

Public Comment:

None.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-19
Moved By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Seconded By: Member Herzog
Decision: **Approved**

State Parks

Hayley Edmonston, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the WWRP State Parks category overview and the ranked project list.

There were 14 applications, which included acquisition and development projects. The top ranked project from State Parks is Improving the Palouse to Cascade Trail (22-1480).

Public Comment:

None.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-20
Moved By: Member Herzog
Seconded By: Member Shiosaki
Decision: **Approved**

Trails

Jesse Sims, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the WWRP Trails Program and the ranked project list.

There were 16 applications submitted. The projects total came to \$54,351,522, with \$20 million in grant funds and \$34.3 million in matching funds.

The top ranked project is City of Lynnwood's Scriber Creek Trail Phase 3 (22-1265).

Public Comment:

None.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-21
Moved By: Member Shiosaki
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Water Access

Henry Smith, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the WWRP Water Access category and the ranked project list for approval.

There were four projects submitted, totaling \$9,099,204, with \$4.9 million in grant funding and \$4.1 million in matching funds. City of Lynnwood’s Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department held the top ranked project known as Sprague’s Pond Park Addition (22-1266)

Member Shiosaki questioned where funds would end up if 75 percent of funding could not be allocated to acquisitions, which is a requirement of this category. Ms. Austin clarified that if 75 percent of projects are not acquisition, then funding can be allocated to different project types.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-22
Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Item 12: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farm and Forest Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

Kim Sellers, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the WWRP farm and forest categories background and the 2022 ranked lists.

Farmland Preservation

In the Farmland Preservation category, there were 18 projects submitted totaling \$28,280,526, with \$19.4 million in grant funding and \$8.9 million in matching funds.

The top ranked project was by Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Bell’s Farm Expansion ([22-1662](#)).

Public Comment:

David Kuhl, Development Services Director for the City of Oak Harbor, shared his opposition to the Bell’s Farm Expansion proposal, noting that two letters of opposition were supplied, including one from Oak Harbor’s Mayor. The project is being opposed because it impedes on future urban growth opportunities for the city under the growth management act (UGA).

During discussion, the board inquired about a plan for annexation of project property in question into the or the city's Joint Planning Area (JPA) boundary. In response, Mr. Kuhl explained that there was no annexation planned.

Ms. Sellers noted that the Northern portion of Bell's farm is within the JPA, but not within the UGA, which indicates that development is not imminent. Mr. Kuhl explained that most of the area within the JPA boundary, including the nearby military and conservation easements, cannot be developed for various reasons.

It was unclear if or when the UGA boundary could be expanded to include Bell's farm.

Ryan Ellting, Executive Director of Whidbey-Camano Land Trust, shared that neither the land trust nor the farm owners intended to cause zoning conflicts for the city. They followed RCO's protocol and reached out to the city to notify them of the grant application. He also noted that the farm owners want to protect this land and that properties like theirs are important to conserve, as food resources on the island could be limited in the event of a natural disaster.

The board discussed the project boundaries and what would happen if the project became a conversion in the future. Ms. Sellers communicated that the land trust would have to pay back the funds or replace the property.

Chair Willhite, Member Ohlson, and Member Gardow voiced their support of keeping the project on the list and approving it has presented while Member Herzog voiced opposition.

Motion:	<u>Approval of Resolution 2022-23</u>
Moved By:	Member Gardow
Seconded By:	Member Shiosaki
Decision:	Approved

Forestland Preservation

Kim Sellers noted that there were two projects totaling \$4,023,490, with \$3 million in match and \$1 million in grant funds. It was emphasized that these lands are used for timber harvesting.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-24
Moved By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Seconded By: Member Burgess
Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

None.

BREAK: 3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Item 13: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account: Approval of Ranked Lists

Critical Habitat

Marguerite Austin provided an overview of the WWRP Critical Habitat category and the 2022 ranked list on behalf of Brian Carpenter, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager. There were seven applications submitted. The total project costs are \$22,005,300, with \$15.9 million in grant funds and \$6.1 million in matching funds.

Columbia Land Trust had the top ranked project, which is Klickitat Oaks Phase 1 (22-1630).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-25
Moved By: Member Burgess
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Natural Areas

DeAnn Beck provided an overview of the WWRP Natural Areas category and presented the nine projects for approval on the 2022 ranked list.

Because this category does not require match, the total project costs is \$11,710,153 in requested grant funds.

Washington's DNR top ranked project was the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve (22-1380).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-26
Moved By: Member Shiosaki
Seconded By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn
Decision: **Approved**

Riparian Protection

Karl Jacobs provided the WWRP Riparian Protection category overview and presented the 2022 projects for approval.

There were 13 projects submitted, which totaled \$35,969,355 and requested \$18.4 million while raising \$17.5 million in match totaling \$35.9 million.

Columbia Land Trust had the top ranked project, which is the West Fork Washougal Conservation project (22-1623)

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-27
Moved By: Member Ohlson
Seconded By: Member Herzog
Decision: **Approved**

State Lands Restoration

Dan Haws presented an overview of the WWRP State Lands Restoration category and the 2022 ranked project list for approval.

There were eight projects submitted, totaling in \$2,289,600. Because this category does not require match, the total funding is from grants.

RCO staff clarified that any additional funds remaining in this category are reappropriated to the Riparian Protection category.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-28
Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Shiosaki
Decision: **Approved**

Urban Wildlife Habitat

Marguerite Austin provided an overview of the WWRP Urban Wildlife category and the 2022 ranked list for approval.

There were five projects submitted, which totaled in \$14,465,186. The grant request was nearly \$9.7 million, with \$4.8 million in matching funds being provided.

The top ranked project in this category is from Spokane County. It is project Rimrock to Riverside Acquisition (22-1464).

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-29
Moved By: Member Burgess
Seconded By: Member Gardow
Decision: **Approved**

Ms. Austin shared that although this part of the grant process has concluded, there could be changes to project lists, such if a sponsor is unable to secure match, before funding is approved by the Legislature and disbursed in 2023.

Item 14: State Agency Reports

Governor's Office

Jon Snyder, Senior Policy Advisor, provided updates regarding the annual centennial accord meeting, bike-pedestrian safety, and budget updates.

From the centennial accord, he noted the discussion on how recreation impacts cultural resources. Concerning bike-pedestrian safety, there has been an increase in accidents due to a lack of supporting infrastructure, such as sidewalks. For the state budget, there is a \$895 million request for the Western State Psychiatric Hospital replacement, which could take up much of the State's bonding capacity.

Revenue predictions are unsteady. The state is looking to pursue funding options through the inflation reduction act.

Department of Natural Resources

Given after item 3, at 10:05 AM.

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, DNR Assistant Division Manager, provided a fourth quarter update on the agency.

She noted that several funding decision packages concerning agency priorities were submitted to legislature. This funding will be put toward supporting the state lands, specifically for recreation and the damage that it causes to the lands. Unfortunately, DNR is understaffed to manage the 5.6 million acres of acquired land.

The decision packages include funding for:

- 10 new law enforcement officers at a cost of \$5.5 million in general fund dollars
- \$2.3 million for three sustainable projects
 - The first project will create a tool to understand sensitive ecosystems, cultural resources, and treaty rights
 - Request of \$500,000 for a statewide recreation and planning process
 - \$450,000 towards a pilot project that provides access to Tribes' native foods on state lands
- Using Data from the National Heritage Program to understand where the most sensitive ecosystems are to priority conservation in Washington. There will also be mapping of at-risk forest lands and providing treatment to forests in need.

Member Gardow asked about forest fires, to which Member Ohlson-Kiehn communicated the DNR has a package that addresses forest fires and can bring back more information at a future meeting.

Chair Willhite asked about technological usage for safety purposes, specifically in areas where there is no cell service. Member Ohlson-Kiehn noted that this was not included within DNR's submitted legislative packages.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Peter Herzog, Washington State Parks and Recreation Development Director, shared that the agency has a large DEI decision package with the Legislature. There is an interpretive proposal (increase interpretation accessibility). There was also funding requested for the Climate Change Adaptation plan implementation and managing recreational impacts on state lands.

On the capital side, there is a request for \$145 million request.

There is also an operating budget request of \$35 million for Nisqually state park and there will be a new Miller Peninsula state park request.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Given after general public comment, at 10:25 AM

Amy Windrope, WDFW Deputy Director, provided an overview of the agency's last quarter and legislative requests.

She noted that \$5 million was received for Recreation Infrastructure funding in the last legislative session and it has enabled the agency to carry out necessary processes,

including the hiring of Partnership Coordinator and a Lands Stewardship Section Manager.

For the upcoming 2023 session, they have several packages being submitted. One package includes three policy asks:

- New license for fresh water smelt, crawfish and carp
- Setting authority for voluntary check stations to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive species
- An account to provide shoreline restoration revolving funds

Three of their additional asks include:

- Funding for data management of impact on state lands between WDFW, State Parks, and DNR
- \$9 million for the "Living with Wildlife" Program to assist with safety for those living among nature via education versus law enforcement
- \$47 million to increase the biodiversity of Washington

Unrelated to the 2023 legislative session, Member Windrope mentioned that the DNR Electronic Bike Report was finished.

RECESS: 5:16 PM

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 26, 2022

Place: Hybrid- Room 172, 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA, 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee
Kathryn Gardow	Seattle	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	VACANT	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Ted Willhite opened the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) meeting at 9 AM, and requested roll call, determining quorum.

Member Windrope joined the meeting at 9:02 AM and Member Shiosaki joined at 9:04 AM.

[Item 15: Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan \(SCORP\) Update](#)

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, presented an update on the draft 2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP). He described the updates that have occurred since the last meeting, the requirements of the plan, the plan report, the highlights of the drafted plan, and the plan priorities and goals.

The board's role for this plan includes the development of a "unified strategy", identifying action to address statewide issues, advising the draft plan, adopting it, and submitting it to the Governor's office and the National Park Service.

From the report, he covered the rapidly increasing Washington population, and the increasing age of Washington's population.

He next covered three surveys: The Resident Demand, Experience, and Provider surveys.

The Resident Demand survey asked what activities people participated in; the Experience Survey addressed barriers to participation, the importance of outdoor recreation, and how to encourage Washingtonians to get outdoors; and the Provider Survey targeted land managers and volunteer organizations that assist them to address management issues, challenges to addressing issues, and land priorities.

He next covered the goals of SCORP, which include meaningful access to outdoor recreation for all, demonstrating essential nature of outdoor recreation, supporting communities, and protecting natural and cultural resources and meeting the outdoor recreation demand.

Moving to the unified strategy, Mr. Donatelle communicated that there were seven strategies, which would achieve the overall goals.

For next steps, public feedback will be collected in November, the final plan will be created in winter, and the board and governor will be asked to adopt the plan in January 2023.

During board discussion, several board members commended Mr. Donatelle for the work on SCORP. The board provided guidance, including encouraging RCO staff to add more pictures of youth in the report.

There was consensus with the board to distribute the draft plan for public review.

BREAK: 10:10 – 10:25 AM

Item 16: Cost Increase Decision

Brock Milliern, RCO Policy and Legislative Director, summarized the current process for proposed project cost increases in the WWRP Habitat and Outdoor Recreation Accounts and ALEA and offered prospective solutions.

Currently the two programs above do not allow for cost increases. To address any cost increases that many arise, applicants currently decrease the project scope, they seek board approval, or they seek different funding opportunities.

Mr. Milliern proposed several options to address these cost increase issues:

- Change the policy to allow cost increases in all WWRP programs and ALEA
- Provide input or direction on prioritizing unused, returned funds
- Direct funding set asides for 2022 project cost increases
- Legislative alterations

Addressing next steps, Mr. Milliern noted that policy options concerning match will be provided at the January 2023 meeting and an update on any legislative options.

During discussion, board members made several suggestions:

- Sponsors plan for cost increases during the planning process
- The board could use OFM's cost escalation to determine how much funding for cost increase should be set aside
- Legislative options
- Provide technical assistance to smaller entities with limited capacity

Mr. Milliern expressed that he would develop some options for the board to consider at the January 2023 meeting.

Item 17: Tacoma Eastside Pool, RCO #82-063 Conversion Decision

Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Unit Manager, explained the background for the Tacoma Eastside Pool conversion and proposed replacement, which would be a sprayground and restroom built at Portland Avenue Park.

Members inquired about funding, the project timeline, and why the Eastside Community Center pool was not used as replacement. Ms. Barker explained that the Eastside facility was not proposed as replacement due to the various requirements, partnerships, and land ownership related to its funding and operation.

The Portland Avenue Park will serve as the new project area. The replacement facilities would not be built for about two years when the park's master planning process is completed. There has been funding set aside for the replacement.

Public Comment:

Debbie Russel, Director of Administration and Planning for Metro Parks, shared that the demographics are the same in both the original location and the replacement location. The recreation center has swimming classes, so the spray park is trying to fill a different need.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-30
Moved By: Member Burgess
Seconded By: Member Gardow
Decision: **Approved**

Item 18: Bellingham Frank Geri Complex Field 4, RCO #96-1178 Request for Time Extension of Non-conforming Use Decision

Member Ohlson left the meeting from 11:16AM – 11:19AM

Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Unit Manager, explained City of Bellingham’s time extension request of non-conforming use. In response to a housing emergency, the City of Bellingham utilized a parking lot in the Frank Geri Complex, Field Four, as temporary housing for Bellingham’s homeless population. The use is permitted and licensed by the city. The city is requesting an 18-month extension of the temporary housing use. The temporary housing units will be relocated to another city-owned property that will not be available until late spring 2024.

During discussion, Member Burgess asked about the outreach process, as it appears this was brought to the board late.

Public Comment:

Nicole Oliver, City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation, responded to Member Burgess’ question referring to the time that the board was made aware of the time extension. Ms. Oliver explained that the board was brought in late in the process. The intent of the emergency response was to put housing up for a few months; however, a cold spell led to an additional need for housing and the city was not aware of the encumbrance from RCO over the parking lot until later in the process. The city does have a new permanent housing location in the works. It requires additional time to finish it and then remove the housing at Frank Geri field.

During discussion, the board discussed concerns surrounding their obligations for recreation, health, and safety. The board ultimately voiced support but requested an update at the June 2023 meeting.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2022-31
Moved By: Member Shiosaki
Seconded By: Member Burgess
Decision: **Approved**

Member Gardow shared that this is her last official meeting until her replacement is found. Chair Willhite thanked Member Gardow for her work.

ADJOURN: 11:52 AM

Next meeting: January 24 - 25, online via Zoom and in-person at room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "W".

Chair Ted Willhite