

**Critical Habitat Projects
Grants Awarded**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2015-06								
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Requested	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded ²
1	40.60	14-1085A	Mountain View	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
2	40.20	14-1096A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$2,459,750 P
3	39.90	14-1087A	Mid Columbia - Grand Coulee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$2,821,250 P
4	39.70	14-1090A	Heart of the Cascades	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	Alternate
5	37.20	14-1091A	Cowiche Watershed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000	Not Funded ³
6	36.80	14-1089A	Tunk Valley	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000	Not Funded ³
7	35.40	14-1099A	Kettle River Corridor	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	Not Funded ³
8	23.70	14-1609C	Sage Grouse Habitat Acquisition in Deep Creek	Foster Creek Conservation District	\$302,000	\$303,152	\$605,152	Not Funded ³
					\$20,502,000	\$303,152	\$20,805,152	\$9,281,000

¹Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

²P=Partial funding

³No Legislative authority for funding.

Critical Habitat Projects

Preliminary Ranking

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	40.60	14-1085A	Mountain View	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
2	40.20	14-1096A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
3	39.90	14-1087A	Mid Columbia-Grand Coulee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
4	39.70	14-1090A	Heart of the Cascades	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
5	37.20	14-1091A	Cowiche Watershed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000
6	36.80	14-1089A	Tunk Valley	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
7	35.40	14-1099A	Kettle River Corridor	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
8	23.70	14-1609C	Sage Grouse Habitat Acquisition in Deep Creek	Foster Creek Conservation District	\$302,000	\$303,152	\$605,152
					\$20,502,000	\$303,152	\$20,805,152

Project Type: A = Acquisition; C = Combination

Critical Habitat Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	
1	Mountain View	16.80	8.80	10.90	4.10	40.60
2	Simcoe	16.90	7.90	11.40	4.00	40.20
3	Mid Columbia - Grand Coulee	15.80	7.50	12.40	4.20	39.90
4	Heart of the Cascades	16.30	7.60	12.10	3.70	39.70
4	Cowiche Watershed	15.20	7.30	11.00	3.70	37.20
6	Tunk Valley	15.80	8.00	9.90	3.10	36.80
7	Kettle River Corridor	14.80	7.10	10.30	3.20	35.40
8	Sage Grouse Habitat Acquisition in Deep Creek	9.70	4.80	7.20	2.00	23.70

Evaluators score Questions 1-4

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Mountain View Ranch

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 1,900 acres of a 12,000-acre ranch that is home to many plants and animals in Asotin County. The project will conserve land that drains the lower Grand Ronde River and is next to a U.S. Forest Service roadless area to the north and Bureau of Land Management-owned canyon lands to the south. The department already has acquired 6,433 acres in the area. The land to be purchased includes portions of Wenatchee Creek, Cougar Creek, and the Grande Ronde River, as well as a diverse array of land types, such as grasslands; stands of ponderosa pine, aspens, and curlyleaf mahogany; wetlands; basalt cliffs, and talus slopes. The area is used by many animals, such as bull trout, Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Rocky Mountain tailed frogs, golden eagles, Lewis' woodpeckers, flammulated owls, bighorn sheep, gray wolves, and numerous game species. The purchase will conserve the land before it's developed or damaged. This is the fourth of a six-phase project. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1085)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Simcoe Mountains

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 2,700 of 22,000 acres on the Simcoe Mountains in Klickitat County. The land includes forests, shrub steppe, grasslands, cliffs, and 10 miles of shoreline along upper Rock Creek and its tributaries. The purchase would conserve habitat for steelhead, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, Chinook salmon, western gray squirrels, mule deer, burrowing owls, and western toads. The purchase will protect habitat connections from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains, and open the land for hiking, fishing, and hunting, which are unavailable in this area. Threats to this property include conversion into small recreational properties. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1096)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving the Grand Coulee Ranch for Grouse Habitat

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 8,200 acres of a planned 20,500-acre purchase of shrub-steppe habitat used by Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in Douglas County. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse are the rarest of six subspecies of sharp-tailed grouse, a close relative of prairie-chickens, and were the most abundant and important game bird in eastern Washington during the 1800s. Their numbers declined dramatically when the places they lived were turned into farms. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission declared sharp-tailed grouse as threatened with extinction in 1998. The land to be purchased contains one of the largest, active, leks (dancing grounds where males conduct courtship displays) in the state and connects grouse in Douglas, Okanogan, and Lincoln counties. Located on the south

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



shore of the Columbia River, the land boasts a diversity of habitats and is used by a variety of priority species including greater sage-grouse, sage thrasher, golden eagle, and mule deer. The size, location, quality, and diversity of habitats on the land enable the department to provide some of the things grouse need, such as winter and breeding habitat. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1087)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$4,000,000** **Conserving Wildlife Habitat in the Heart of the Cascades Mountains**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 4,014 acres of wildlife habitat on the eastern slope of the central Cascade Mountains in Kittitas County. The land is about 20 miles southwest of Ellensburg, between the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area to the east and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to the west. It is used as a breeding and foraging area by northern spotted owls, supports large herds, and contains streams used by steelhead and salmon. Conservation of this land will protect critical habitat in a biologically rich and high priority area, help the department coordinate management of its land, and protect public access. Longstanding and popular access through these lands to public lands is under threat. Previous land purchases in this area have totaled nearly 22 square miles, and this purchase will secure a critical remaining gap. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1090)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$2,200,000** **Conserving the Cowlitz River Watershed**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve 3,292 acres of critical habitat northwest of Yakima, in Yakima County. The land, which is between two wildlife areas and next to other public lands, has valuable habitats including shrub steppe, stream, aspen, oak woodlands, and big game winter range. It is used by raptors, bats, woodpeckers, mid-Columbia River steelhead, mule deer, and elk. Development can break connections between habitats for many wildlife species and make it more difficult for the department to manage wildfires and invasive species. The land also supports recreation and is used for hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, and mountain biking. This project has strong support from the Cowlitz Canyon Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1091)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$2,000,000** **Conserving the Tunk Valley for Wildlife**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve more than 2 miles of river shoreline and 3,100 acres of mostly shrub-steppe habitat for sharp-tailed grouse in Okanogan County. Sharp-tailed grouse are a close relative of prairie-chickens and once were the most

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



abundant and important game bird in eastern Washington. Their numbers declined dramatically when the places they lived were turned into farms. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission declared sharp-tailed grouse as threatened with extinction in 1998. The department will pay landowners not to develop their land using voluntary land preservation agreements.¹ The grant not only will protect important sharp-tail ground, but also will conserve habitat for at least 46 other priority species and habitats, including several considered at risk of extinction. The land will connect with department wildlife areas or other public land, allowing wildlife to cross between them. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1089)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Kettle River Corridor's Old Growth Forest

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve old-growth ponderosa pine forest, eastside steppe, and other diverse habitats on 614 acres in northern Ferry County. The department will pay the landowner not to develop the land using voluntary land preservation agreements.² The land is used by wildlife, such as golden eagles, pileated and Lewis woodpeckers, western toads, mule deer, and elk, and plants such as narrowleaf skullcap. The land connects large, contiguous areas of public land, expanding protection of an important wildlife corridor between two federally-designated roadless areas. The property has unique ecological and biological characteristics making it worthy of long-term conservation. The property has never been logged and represents old-growth forest in its natural state and it has been maintained in a roadless, unfragmented condition. As a result, the site supports intact eastside steppe vegetation, including several high quality rare plant communities. The landowner wants to sell and the old-growth forest makes the property appealing to commercial timber companies. Existing land use regulations will not protect the property from impacts associated with logging, road construction, or other development. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1099)

¹ A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

² A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



Foster Creek Conservation District Conserving Sage Grouse Habitat in Deep Creek

Grant Requested: \$292,826

The Foster Creek Conservation District will use this grant to conserve 860 acres in northeast Douglas County near Leahy Junction. The district will pay the landowner to not develop his property using a voluntary land preservation agreement.³ The land has rolling hills with rocky buttes, three wet meadows, and the start of three branches of Deep Creek. The land is accessible only by foot and is home to big sage and bunchgrass communities with water birch and cattails in the streams. The land is between two active leks (dancing grounds where sage grouse males conduct courtship displays) and provides a significant opportunity to protect critical sage grouse nesting and rearing habitat. The district wants to protect and enhance the quality of the habitat and increase the quantity of nesting and brood rearing habitat in the region. The Foster Creek Conservation District will contribute \$292,826 in donated property interest. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1609)

³ A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

Natural Area Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2015-06								
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Requested	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded ²
1	43.00	14-1249A	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,240,955		\$3,240,955	\$3,240,955
2	40.13	14-1254A	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$849,659		\$849,659	\$849,659
3	39.50	14-1252A	Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserves	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,214,554		\$2,214,554	\$2,214,554
4	37.88	14-1722A	Queets River	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,643,135	\$560,000	\$2,203,135	\$119,112 P
4	37.88	14-1247A	South Lake Ozette Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,588,360		\$1,588,360	\$123,220 P
6	37.38	14-1253A	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$648,164		\$648,164	Not Funded ₃
7	35.88	14-1245A	Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$215,118		\$215,118	Not Funded ₃
8	33.75	14-1094A	Merrill Lake Natural Area	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	Not Funded ₃
					\$12,899,945	\$560,000	\$13,459,945	\$6,547,500

¹Project Type: A = Acquisition

²P=Partial funding

³No Legislative authority for funding in WWRP.

Natural Area Projects

Preliminary Ranking

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	43.00	14-1249A	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,240,955		\$3,240,955
2	40.13	14-1254A	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$849,659		\$849,659
3	39.50	14-1252A	Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserves	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,214,554		\$2,214,554
4	37.88	14-1722A	Queets River	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,643,135	\$560,000	\$2,203,135
4	37.88	14-1247A	South Lake Ozette Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,588,360		\$1,588,360
6	37.38	14-1253A	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$648,164		\$648,164
7	35.88	14-1245A	Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$215,118		\$215,118
8	33.75	14-1094A	Merrill Lake Natural Area	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000
					\$12,899,945	\$560,000	\$13,459,945

Project Type: A=Acquisition

Natural Area Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
			Ecological and Biological	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	
1	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline		17.50	8.38	13.00	4.13	43.00
2	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve		15.88	7.50	12.50	4.25	40.13
3	Ink Blot and Schumacker Creek Natural Area Preserves		16.50	8.00	11.63	3.38	39.50
4	Queets River 2014		15.38	7.63	11.00	3.88	37.88
4	South Lake Ozette Natural Area Preserve 2014		15.38	7.88	11.50	3.13	37.88
6	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve 2014		15.63	7.63	11.13	3.00	37.38
7	Marcellus Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve 2014		14.63	7.38	10.63	3.25	35.88
8	Merrill Lake Natural Area Preserve 2014		13.00	6.38	10.88	3.50	33.75

Evaluators score Questions 1-4.

Natural Areas

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$3,240,955

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 100 acres of shoreline in Dabob Bay Natural Area along Hood Canal in Jefferson County. The land includes coastal bluffs and shorelines that provide sediment and fallen trees and other woody debris, which are important building blocks for coastal spits. Additionally, the land is home to high quality types of forest plants listed in the natural heritage plan, which are under-conserved. The land has multiple owners and purchase will allow the department to remove shoreline bulkheads and restore natural stream function. The land will provide access for education and research and possibly low-impact recreation. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1249)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding Kennedy Creek Preserve to Conserve a Salt Marsh

Grant Requested: \$849,659

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 80 acres off U.S. Highway 101, about 12 miles west of Olympia, to increase protection for one of the few remaining high-quality salt marsh communities in Puget Sound, including vital habitat for migrating shorebirds and salmon. The purchase also will protect a segment of Schneider Creek, which supports the health of the salt marsh ecosystems. The land will provide opportunities for education and research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1254)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek Preserves to Conserve Wetlands

Grant Requested: \$2,214,554

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 114 acres in two natural area preserves to protect imperiled wetlands. The department will buy 100 acres at Ink Blot Natural Area Preserve, north of Shelton and west of U.S. Highway 101 in Mason County, to conserve land that contains rare and important wetlands. The Douglas' spirea and sphagnum community found at Ink Blot is considered imperiled in Washington. Its occurrence in Ink Blot is the highest quality example remaining in the state. The land also is one of the largest blocks of this wetland habitat type left in the Puget Sound region. The department also will buy 14 acres at Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve, north of Shelton and west of U.S. Highway 101 in Mason County, to conserve wetlands that are extremely rare in the Puget trough eco-region; there are no other opportunities to protect such a feature. One of the plant communities found at Schumacher Creek, the Mountain alder-Sitka alder and skunk cabbage-water parsley community, is found only in the Puget trough eco-region and is critically imperiled. The wetland systems at both Ink Blot and Schumacher Creek remain intact with little evidence of human

Natural Areas

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



disturbance or exotic species invasion. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1252)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Land along the Queets River

Grant Requested: \$1,643,135

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 585 acres along the Queets River, next to Olympic National Park, in Jefferson County. The Queets River is one of the most pristine coastal rivers in the western United States mostly because its headwaters and main stem are protected within the Olympic National Park. The river system has been recognized as one of the best opportunities to protect and restore native salmon and coastal rainforests in the nation. The river is used by five Pacific salmon stocks: Coho, winter steelhead, fall Chinook, chum, and spring Chinook. It also is used by summer steelhead salmon; bull trout, which are listed by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act; coastal cutthroat trout; Olympic mudminnow; western brook lamprey and river lamprey; and Pacific lamprey. The forested portions of the property are Sitka spruce forest habitat, which supports northern spotted owl, Pacific fisher, and marbled murrelet. The Department of Natural Resources will contribute \$560,000 in donated land. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1722)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving South Lake Ozette Forest

Grant Requested: \$1,588,360

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 465 acres of forest near the south end of Lake Ozette, 12 miles northwest of Forks, in Clallam County. The land boasts old-growth forests, natural second-growth forest, and forest plantations. There is little state or federal protection for such high quality Sitka spruce forest communities mixed with old-growth western red cedar-western hemlock forests. The land also is home to plants such as salal with Alaska huckleberry, deerfern, and swordfern. The land will provide opportunities for environmental education and research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1247)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Creating the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve

Grant Requested: \$648,164

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 300 acres, creating the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve that was designated in 2012. The purchase will protect habitat for rare plant species (including hoary willow, yellow mountain-avens, and steller's rockbrake), stream habitat, scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands, and limestone cliffs (including limestone-dependent species). This site is mostly undisturbed and offers an uncommon opportunity for study of natural ecological processes. The land is southeast of Northport, in Stevens County. The purchase will add under-represented natural heritage features to the

Natural Areas

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



statewide system of natural areas and provide opportunities for environmental education and research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1253)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Shrub-Steppe

Grant Requested: \$215,118

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 271 acres of high quality, shrub-steppe habitat, 7 miles north of Ritzville, in Adams County. The land provides the most extensive and highest quality example of sagebrush habitat. Ponds on the land are excellent examples of the driest, shallowest ponds called vernal ponds, found in the Columbia River Basin. The site helps complete the statewide system of natural areas and will provide opportunities for environmental education and research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1245)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land around Merrill Lake

Grant Requested: \$2,500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 882 acres in Cowlitz County between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River. The land has many unique features including lava beds, small old growth forests, and a 40-foot waterfall on the Kalama River. The purchase will allow the department to protect wildlife habitat and provide public access, particularly along the shorelines of the lake and river. Merrill Lake is a fishing lake and the land connects with a national forest to the north and a state protected area to the south. Many types of wildlife will benefit from this project including steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon; elk; marten; western toads; spotted owls; and osprey. The land is threatened by development into a resort and logging. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1094)

Riparian Protection Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2015-06								
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Requested	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded ²
1	98.10	14-1480A	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4	Nisqually Land Trust	\$1,100,000	\$1,479,500	\$2,579,500	\$1,100,000
2	97.20	14-1150A	Willapa Bay-Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition	Columbia Land Trust	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$1,750,000	\$875,000
3	95.10	14-1092A	Taneum Creek Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,700,000		\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
4	92.30	14-1097A	Reardan Audubon Lake	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$600,000		\$600,000	\$600,000
5	89.70	14-1095A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$1,060,000 P
6	88.80	14-1702A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	The Nature Conservancy	\$986,565	\$990,518	\$1,977,083	Alternate
7	88.70	14-1689A	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition Phase 2	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$140,000	\$145,000	\$285,000	Alternate
8	88.10	14-2179A	Hoh River Riparian	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,199,400	\$1,425,000	\$2,624,400	Alternate
9	82.60	14-1741C	Jacobs Point Addition	Anderson Island Park District	\$67,000	\$100,612	\$167,612	Alternate
9	82.60	14-1587A	Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$398,000	\$439,250	\$837,250	Alternate
11	73.30	14-1283A	Carbon River Valley Expansion	Pierce County	\$612,500	\$911,250	\$1,523,750	Alternate
12	67.00	14-1350A	Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat Protection	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$951,300	\$977,700	\$1,929,000	Alternate
					\$11,629,765	\$7,343,830	\$18,973,595	\$5,335,000

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²P=Partial funding

Riparian Protection Projects

Preliminary Ranking

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	98.10	14-1480A	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4	Nisqually Land Trust	\$1,100,000	\$1,479,500	\$2,579,500
2	97.20	14-1150A	Willapa Bay-Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition	Columbia Land Trust	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$1,750,000
3	95.10	14-1092A	Taneum Creek Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,700,000		\$1,700,000
4	92.30	14-1097A	Reardan Audubon Lake	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$600,000		\$600,000
5	89.70	14-1095A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
6	88.80	14-1702A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	The Nature Conservancy	\$986,565	\$990,518	\$1,977,083
7	88.70	14-1689A	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition Phase 2	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$140,000	\$145,000	\$285,000
8	88.10	14-2179A	Hoh River Riparian	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,199,400	\$1,425,000	\$2,624,400
9	82.60	14-1741C	Jacobs Point Addition	Anderson Island Park District	\$67,000	\$100,612	\$167,612
9	82.60	14-1587A	Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$398,000	\$439,250	\$837,250
11	73.30	14-1283A	Carbon River Valley Expansion	Pierce County	\$612,500	\$911,250	\$1,523,750
12	67.00	14-1350A	Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat Protection	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$951,300	\$977,700	\$1,929,000
					\$11,629,765	\$7,343,830	\$18,973,595

Project Type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

Riparian Protection Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	Project Name	Riparian Habitat Benefits	Planning Priority	Site Suitability	Threats to the Habitat	Project Support	Public Access Opportunities	Ongoing Stewardship	Matching Share	GMA* Preference	
1	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase 4	16.60	17.00	16.60	12.60	12.30	12.20	8.80	2.00	0.00	98.10
2	Willapa Bay Seal Slough Conservation Acquisition	18.10	17.50	16.60	11.30	12.70	12.30	8.70	0.00	0.00	97.20
3	Taneum Creek Riparian	15.90	15.80	17.70	11.80	11.40	13.60	8.90	0.00	0.00	95.10
4	Reardan Audubon Lake	16.10	15.00	16.20	11.40	12.10	12.90	8.60	0.00	0.00	92.30
5	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	14.40	14.60	14.50	13.00	11.60	13.50	8.10	0.00	0.00	89.70
6	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	14.60	14.00	15.50	10.30	11.40	12.30	8.70	2.00	0.00	88.80
7	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition	16.60	15.00	15.70	10.40	10.20	10.40	8.40	2.00	0.00	88.70
8	Hoh River Riparian	15.30	14.40	14.80	10.10	11.00	11.70	8.80	2.00	0.00	88.10
9	Jacobs Point Addition	12.70	12.40	15.30	9.80	10.10	12.90	8.40	1.00	0.00	82.60
9	Grover's Creek Acquisition Phase 2	15.10	14.00	14.70	10.00	10.40	11.40	7.00	0.00	0.00	82.60
11	Carbon River Valley Expansion	10.50	11.40	13.30	9.20	9.80	10.50	6.60	2.00	0.00	73.30
12	Little Skookum Inlet Riparian Habitat	11.60	12.10	12.20	10.70	8.90	5.80	5.70	0.00	0.00	67.00

*GMA=Growth Management Act

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

Riparian Protection

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Nisqually Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$1,100,000

Buying Mashel River Shoreline for Salmon Recovery

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy more than 1,000 acres, which includes part of the Mashel River and surrounding forest near Eatonville to protect important salmon habitat. The land trust will buy land that includes 3.5 miles of the Mashel River, 6.2 miles of feeder streams, 884 acres of shoreline, and 128 acres of forest in the middle reach of the Mashel River and the upper reach of its headwater tributary, Busy Wild Creek. The Mashel River is the largest tributary to the Nisqually River and the salmon recovery plan for the area calls out these sections of the Mashel River as the highest priority for protection. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and steelhead trout. The land has steep, unstable slopes and is part of a larger industrial forest. Buying the land would prevent further habitat degradation from logging and development and would extend protected habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The purchase also will connect two substantial blocks of Mashel shoreline already protected, creating nearly 6 miles of protected river corridor. The purchase also helps recreation by providing room for expansion of the Mashel Greenbelt Trail and protecting a key section of the popular Mount Tahoma Trails cross-country ski trail. The Nisqually Land Trust will contribute \$1.4 million in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1480)

Columbia Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$875,000

Conserving Willapa Bay and Seal Slough

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 564 acres on Willapa Bay in Pacific County that includes 2 miles of Willapa Bay shoreline, 15 miles of sloughs and streams including Seal Slough, 70 acres of wetlands, and a forest. This project is part of a multi-year effort to conserve forever the last remaining undeveloped Willapa Bay shoreline for wildlife and people. Willapa Bay is the second largest estuary on the United States' Pacific Coast after San Francisco Bay. The land is just south of 900 acres of already protected land, extending habitat connectivity. Willapa Bay and its streams and wetlands are important habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds, and for salmon species, including Chinook, chum, coho, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat. Juvenile salmon need this type of estuarine habitat as a place to rest before migrating to the ocean. Other benefiting species include green sturgeon, eulachon (smelt), and bald eagles. In the long term, the restored forest could support marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl, which currently nest 1 mile away. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute \$875,000 in federal and private grants. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1150)

Riparian Protection Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Taneum Creek Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$1,700,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 370 acres of Taneum Creek shoreline, including nearly a mile of Taneum Creek and more than 2 miles of tributary streams, about 10 miles west of Ellensburg. Taneum Creek is critical habitat for mid-Columbia River steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and is used for coho salmon reintroduction efforts in the upper Yakima River basin. Bisected by Taneum Creek, the land lies at the transition of mixed forest and shrub steppe and contains a strong suite of habitats and species. River shoreline, wetlands, shrub steppe, cliffs, caves, snags, and talus habitats are found across the property. Coho and Chinook salmon, Columbia spotted frog, sharp-tailed snakes, golden eagle, elk, mule deer, and historic western gray squirrels also use the land. This acquisition helps implement actions identified in several salmon and bull trout recovery plans. The land is an inholding in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. Conserving this area removes threats that the land will be developed or logged. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1092)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Expanding the Reardan Audubon Lake Wildlife Area

Grant Requested: \$600,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 150 acres to expand its 277-acre Reardan Audubon Lake Wildlife Area, north of Reardan and 20 miles from Spokane. The land is used by more than 125 species of birds and is the last stop during spring migration before the Canadian wetlands. The land contains prairies with small mounds and shallow dips that fill with water in the spring and dry out in the summer, mima mounds, several large permanent ponds, and shoreline forests. The land also forms the headwaters of Crab Creek, a Columbia River tributary, and Deep Creek, a Spokane River tributary. The property is used by 11 priority habitat species, 5 state candidate species, 2 federal candidate species, and 5 Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat types or elements of special concern. Wildlife viewing would be the primary recreation at this site. The land is for sale for housing. This project implements the state Legislature's directive to develop wildlife viewing sites near rural communities. The department will partner with Inland Northwest Land Trust, Spokane Audubon, Ducks Unlimited, and the City of Reardan to cooperatively preserve and develop this unique wildlife viewing site. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1097)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Wildlife Habitat Near Merrill Lake

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 549 acres in Cowlitz County between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River, including shorelines along the Kalama River, Merrill Lake, and Dry Creek. The land, which is 5 miles north of Cougar and east of Woodland, has many unique features including lava beds with tree casts, high volume springs feeding the Kalama

Riparian Protection Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



River, small old-growth stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities. This site has large old-growth cedar or fir trees and includes land at a 40-foot waterfall on the Kalama River. The department wants to buy the land to provide public access, particularly along the shorelines of the lake and river, and to conserve wildlife habitat for a diverse suite of animals including steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon, elk, marten, western toad, spotted owls, and osprey. The land connects with Gifford Pinchot National Forest to the north and Washington Department of Natural Resources' Natural Resources Conservation Area to the south. Merrill Lake is managed as a fishing lake for catch and release trout. The land is threatened by logging and development into recreational lots or resorts. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1095)

The Nature Conservancy Conserving Clearwater River Shoreline Forests

Grant Requested: \$986,565

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to buy 740 acres, including 561 acres of shoreline forest and wetland habitat, and two inholdings along the Queets and Clearwater Rivers on the Olympic Peninsula, about 15 miles northwest of Clearwater. This purchase is part of a multi-year project to conserve shoreline forests from the headwaters of the Clearwater to its confluence with the Queets. The Nature Conservancy already has purchased 3,000 acres and soon will acquire more than 1,000 acres. The two rivers support some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making these rivers an essential anchor for conservation of salmon habitat and critical areas for biodiversity conservation on the Washington Coast. The rivers drain an area of more than 287,383 acres and are home to wild populations of Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon and steelhead, cutthroat, and bull trout. The rivers and associated shoreline forests also support numerous other animals, such as the Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and marbled murrelet. The project will address the two most significant threats to these river systems – logging and rural development. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$990,518 in cash donations. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1702)

Squaxin Island Tribe Conserving the Skookum Creek Estuary

Grant Requested: \$140,000

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to buy nearly 23 acres of estuary and shoreline at the mouth of Skookum Creek and at the head of Skookum Inlet, in Mason County. The land is next to the 143-acre Washington Department of Natural Resources' Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve. This acquisition will protect more than a half-mile of shoreline habitat and 7 acres of high quality saltmarsh. Skookum Inlet provides rearing and transition habitat for coho, chum, and Chinook salmon and cutthroat and steelhead trout. The land also is used by migratory birds including waterfowl and shorebirds. The Squaxin Island Tribe will contribute \$145,000. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1689)

Riparian Protection

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



The Nature Conservancy Conserving Hoh River Shorelines

Grant Requested: \$1,199,400

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to buy 1,168 acres of shoreline, floodplain, and tributary habitat in the Hoh River watershed on the Olympic Peninsula. Because its headwaters begin in Olympic National Park, the Hoh River is recognized as one of the healthiest coastal rivers and salmon fisheries on the West Coast. The Hoh's extensive floodplain is critical to riverine salmon. The Hoh supports some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making the river an essential anchor for the conservation of salmon habitat and a critical area for biodiversity conservation on the Washington Coast. Salmon are widely distributed in the Hoh River basin with wild populations of coho, Chinook, and chum salmon and steelhead. The Hoh also has been identified as a core recovery area for bull trout, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The river and its shoreline forest habitat also support other important species, including Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and marbled murrelet. The purchase will reduce the threats of logging and rural development. This project builds upon the conservation efforts of the Hoh River Trust, which has conserved more than 8,000 acres in the watershed. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$1.4 million in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-2179)

Anderson Island Park District Buying Land on Jacobs Point

Grant Requested: \$67,000

The Anderson Island Park and Recreation District will use this grant to buy and permanently protect 17.61 acres at Jacobs Point on Anderson Island in south Puget Sound, completing the land acquisitions for Jacobs Point Park. The land is on the east side of a peninsula and includes about one-third mile of pristine Puget Sound shoreline, 4 acres of tidelands and 13 acres of second-growth forest. The land will provide 1.2 miles of trails and shoreline access for hikers and boaters. The shoreline here supports a diverse array of fish, invertebrate, bird, and mammal species. Oro Bay and East Oro Bay border Jacobs Point on three sides and are part of the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve marine protected area. The land is identified in regional and local plans as a priority for acquisition to protect its ecological values and meet identified public needs on Anderson Island. The Anderson Island Park District will contribute \$100,612 in a private grant, a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and donations of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1741)

Great Peninsula Conservancy Conserving Grover's Creek Shoreline

Grant Requested: \$398,000

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to protect forever 111 acres of shoreline in the Grover's Creek watershed in north Kitsap County. The purchase will conserve interconnected, highly functioning shoreline habitat along 1.13 miles of fish-bearing stream and tributaries in the

Riparian Protection Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



lower reach of Grover's Creek. The purchase also will protect mature Sitka spruce-western red cedar forests, scrub-shrub, and wetlands. The conservancy will buy 60 acres directly and buy a voluntary land preservation agreement¹ for the remaining 51 acres. The property's habitat provides spawning and rearing areas for migrating fish, including steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; linked land and water habitat for amphibians; nesting and foraging area for birds; and a migratory corridor for mammals. The land is essential to the long-term protection of Miller Bay because it provides sediment storage, pollution filtration, and collection and slow release of water to maintain the flows needed at different salmon life cycles. The Great Peninsula Conservancy will contribute \$439,250 in a private grant, a salmon recovery grant, and donations of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1587)

Pierce County Expanding Carbon River Valley Park

Grant Requested: \$612,500

The Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 500 acres of forest and shoreline along the Carbon River near Carbonado to protect the high quality habitat and views at this popular recreation corridor leading to Mount Rainier National Park. The land abuts the Carbon River Valley county park, extending downstream from the State Highway 165 Carbon River Bridge to Carbonado. The land contains forests ranging in age from 45 years old to more than 80 years old. These forests provide critical habitat for migrating Rocky Mountain elk. They also help protect the water quality of the Carbon River, a significant salmon-bearing stream in the Puyallup River watershed, which is home to Puget Sound Chinook and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. In addition to these species, the property's mature conifer forest provides ideal habitat for a variety of mammals, cavity-nesting birds, and amphibians. Pierce County plans to provide public access to the property, which now is restricted to those who buy passes. Pierce County will contribute \$911,250 in conservation futures.² For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1283)

¹A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

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.

Riparian Protection Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Squaxin Island Tribe Conserving Little Skookum Inlet Shorelines

Grant Requested: \$951,300

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement³ to conserve 816 acres of forests, wetlands, and shorelines, including nearly 2 miles of Puget Sound shoreline along Little Skookum Inlet, about 20 miles west of Olympia. The shorelines are used by chum, Chinook, and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. They also host shellfish growing areas. The conservation of the land will prevent development and help protect water quality in the salmon-bearing streams and shorelines. The Squaxin Island Tribe will contribute \$977,700 in a private grant and a grant from the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1350)

³A land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and private land conservation organization or a government agency. The landowner maintains ownership of the land, continues to manage it, and receives compensation, such as cash, reduced taxes, or other incentives, in exchange for limiting development on the land.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2015-06

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Requested	Applicant Match	Grant Awarded ²
1	50.22	14-1697R	Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$387,700		\$387,700
2	48.67	14-1485R	Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$120,000		\$120,000
3	48.00	14-1508R	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$534,500		\$534,500
4	47.44	14-1525R	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$72,000		\$49,050 p
5	44.89	14-1482R	Coastal Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$188,800		Alternate
6	44.22	14-1355R	LT Murray Forest and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$375,000		Alternate
7	44.11	14-1518R	Klickitat Canyon NRCA Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$71,000		Not Funded ³
8	44.00	14-1670R	Phantom Butte Shrub-Steppe and Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$62,500		Not Funded ³
9	40.33	14-1535R	Admiralty Inlet Preserve Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$96,937		Not Funded ³
10	39.67	14-1507R	Selah Cliffs Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$37,000		Not Funded ³
11	39.11	14-1610R	Colockum Wildlife Area Fire Rehabilitation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$200,200	\$5,000	Not Funded ³
12	37.22	14-1447R	Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$235,000	\$35,000	Not Funded ³
					\$2,380,637	\$40,000	\$1,091,250

¹Project Type: R = Restoration

²P=Partial funding

³No Legislative authority for funding in WWRP.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects Preliminary Ranking

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	50.22	14-1697R	Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$387,700		\$387,700
2	48.67	14-1485R	Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$120,000		\$120,000
3	48.00	14-1508R	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$534,500		\$534,500
4	47.44	14-1525R	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$72,000		\$72,000
5	44.89	14-1482R	Coastal Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$188,800		\$188,800
6	44.22	14-1355R	L.T. Murray Forest and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$375,000		\$375,000
7	44.11	14-1518R	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$71,000		\$71,000
8	44.00	14-1670R	Phantom Butte Shrub-Steppe and Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$62,500		\$62,500
9	40.33	14-1535R	Admiralty Inlet Preserve Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$96,937		\$96,937
10	39.67	14-1507R	Selah Cliffs Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$37,000		\$37,000
11	39.11	14-1610R	Colockum Wildlife Area Fire Rehabilitation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$200,200	\$5,000	\$205,200
12	37.22	14-1447R	Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$235,000	\$35,000	\$270,000
					\$2,380,637	\$40,000	\$2,420,637

Project Type: R = Restoration

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	Total
	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Restoration or Enhancement	Project Design	Planning	Public Benefit	
1	Grassland Restoration in South Puget Sound	13.89	13.44	14.00	4.56	4.33	50.22
2	Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie Restoration	13.56	13.33	13.00	4.56	4.22	48.67
3	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration Phase 3	13.56	13.44	13.22	3.89	3.89	48.00
4	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 2	13.22	13.11	13.11	4.33	3.67	47.44
5	Coastal Forest Restoration	12.33	12.44	13.22	3.22	3.67	44.89
6	L.T. Murray Forest and Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	11.44	12.67	12.56	4.11	3.44	44.22
7	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Restoration Phase 2	12.67	12.33	12.22	3.33	3.56	44.11
8	Phantom Butte Shrub Steppe and Grassland Restoration	11.67	12.33	12.33	3.89	3.78	44.00
9	Admiralty Inlet Preserve Restoration Phase 3	11.67	10.78	10.89	3.56	3.44	40.33
10	Selah Cliffs Restoration	10.67	11.11	11.44	3.33	3.11	39.67
11	Colockum Wildlife Area Fire Rehabilitation	11.22	11.22	11.00	3.11	2.56	39.11
12	Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat Restoration	9.78	10.67	10.89	2.78	3.11	37.22

Evaluators Score Questions 1-5

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Grassland in South Puget Sound

Grant Requested: \$387,700

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 446 acres that are remnants of South Puget Sound grasslands and oak woodlands in the Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, Bald Hill, Rocky Prairie, and West Rocky Prairie areas. The areas are homes to rare plants and animals and are being invaded by nonnative wildlife. The department will restore these rare habitats by acquiring native seeds and transplants, preparing the areas for seeding through controlled fires and herbicide use, replanting the area, and controlling exotic grasses, forbs, and Scot's broom. The department also will enhance Oregon spotted frog habitat in the West Rocky Prairie. The department has partnered with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Joint Base Lewis McChord, and the Center for Natural Land Management to provide native seeds in for the grassland and oak woodland restoration. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1697)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Lacamas Prairie Oak and Wet Prairie

Grant Requested: \$120,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 79 acres of imperiled wet prairie and Oregon white oak woodland habitat in Clark County, north of Lacamas Lake and Camas. The Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve was created in 2012 to protect the last remaining example of Willamette Valley wet prairie in the state as well as habitat for five rare plants and one bird of conservation concern. These habitats are threatened by encroachment of invasive trees, shrubs, and grasses; alteration of the fire regime; and modifications of hydrology. This project will address these threats and improve conditions by controlling invasive weeds and encroaching woody vegetation, using site preparation techniques including fire, rehabilitating the hydrology, and restoring native wet prairie and oak woodland vegetation. Accomplishing these restoration objectives will protect and enhance habitat for rare species known to occur on the site, including Hall's aster, Oregon coyote thistle, slender-billed nuthatch, small-flowered trillium, and the endangered Bradshaw's lomatium. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1485)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area through Logging and Controlled Fires

Grant Requested: \$534,500

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore habitat in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area near Osoyoos in Okanogan County by logging and burning to thin out trees and brush in the area. Most of the site being restored hasn't been burned for nearly 100 years causing an uncharacteristic buildup of trees and brush, which choke out other plants that are more beneficial to wildlife. The department will log or burn about 1,820 acres, which will

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



improve conditions for many wildlife species, particularly flammulated owls, pygmy nuthatches, and white-headed woodpeckers. The project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, rejuvenate mule deer winter range, improve forest health, increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change, and provide jobs benefiting the local economy. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1508)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Trout Lake Meadows

Grant Requested: \$72,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to kill or remove nonnative plants and replant 45 acres of the 1,800-acre Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve, 24 miles north of White Salmon in the northwest corner of Klickitat County. The preserve hosts breeding and nesting areas used by a large population of the Oregon spotted frog, a state endangered species and proposed federal threatened species, and the greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. In addition, two rare plants, pale blue-eyed grass, a state threatened and federal species of concern, and rosy owl clover, a state endangered species, are found in the preserve's seasonally wet meadows. The department also will install three interpretive signs in the western portion of the preserve explaining the restoration work. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1525)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring a Coastal Forest

Grant Requested: \$188,800

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 800 acres of Pacific Northwest coastal forest in the Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves and the Elk River and Ellsworth Creek Natural Resources Conservation Areas. These sites are in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties and include rare salt marshes and forests, including significant pockets of mature and old-growth forest. These areas represent a large portion of a quickly disappearing mature and old-growth forest landscape in southwest Washington. Restoration will focus on thinning the densely planted commercial forest, which provides little habitat for diverse plant and animal communities and are not representative of a natural coastal forest ecosystem. Goals for the restoration include reducing stand density, increasing understory vegetation and plant diversity, increasing the amount of large woody materials on the forest floor, and creating wildlife snags. Doing so will dramatically improve the quality of habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, including marbled murelet, spotted owl, cavity dwelling birds, amphibians, and Roosevelt Elk. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1482)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving the L.T. Murray Forest and Creek

Grant Requested: \$375,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to thin trees and improve wildlife habitat in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area Unit, 15 miles west of Ellensburg and south of Cle Elum in Kittitas County. The department will thin about 500 acres of forest to improve the lands' resilience to catastrophic fire and place large logs and tree root wads in the North Fork Manastash Creek to restore habitat diversity. The logs and root wads will slow the river and create places for fish to rest and hide from predators. The department is partnering with The Nature Conservancy, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1355)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area

Grant Requested: \$71,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 45 acres in Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area, 5 miles north of Glenwood in Klickitat and Yakima Counties. This work will include restoring about 5 miles of the logging roads back to natural conditions; removing or killing nonnative plants on 25 acres in the old landings, wet meadows, and roads; thinning 10 acres of small trees and burning about 10 acres in the meadows. The work will continue the meadow and dry forest habitat restoration to benefit several sensitive plants and animals. This conservation area includes a 3-mile stretch of the free-flowing Klickitat River, talus habitats, a unique wet meadow and ponderosa pine complex, and mixed coniferous forest. The areas targeted for restoration include meadow communities and open ponderosa pine forest used by greater Sandhill cranes, Mardon skipper butterfly, and several rare plants including rosy owl-clover, Pusifer's monkey-flower, dwarf rush, Kellogg's rush, and long-bearded sego lily. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1518)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Phantom Butte Shrub-Steppe and Grassland

Grant Requested: \$62,500

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about half of a 250-acre field on Phantom Butte, which is in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County. This former wheat field was planted with grass in the mid-1980s. The department will remove the wheatgrass and weeds by light tilling and chemical fallowing and then replant the area with a native-like grassland and forb mix. The resulting grassland will resemble native meadows in the surrounding shrub-steppe habitat. This field is part of a larger area that supports Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and greater sage grouse, both listed by the state as threatened with

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



extinction. There is an extensive recovery program being conducted in this general area for both species, with more than 30 birds wearing radio transmitters, which will allow an evaluation of the effectiveness and use of this restored field. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1670)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Admiralty Inlet Preserve

Grant Requested: \$96,937

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 6 acres of rare, native habitat in the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve, 2.5 miles south of Coupeville on Whidbey Island. The department will remove invasive and nonnative species by a controlled burn, then plant up to 60,000 native prairie plants and use a local seed mixture to establish native plant cover. The department also will remove 3 acres of dense shrubs in the old-growth forest and replant with young conifer trees to help perpetuate the forest. The prairie restoration will increase habitat for birds, butterflies, and bees. The preserve has two populations of golden paintbrush, which is listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction and state government as endangered. The preserve also has a very rare moist prairie community and rare old-growth forest association; both have been nearly exterminated in the state. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1535)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Selah Cliffs

Grant Requested: \$37,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 40 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in the 300-acre Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve in the Yakima River canyon, near Selah in Yakima County. The work will conserve the ecological integrity and biological diversity of the natural area. Portions of the valley bottom and riverbanks have been severely damaged by past grazing and invasive species. The preserve, established in 1993, protects the largest known population of *Erigeron basalticus* (basalt daisy), a state threatened and federal species of concern known to exist only in a 10-mile stretch of the Yakima River Canyon. The daisy makes its home on the basalt cliffs where few other plants grow, rooting into cracks and fissures on the rock faces. The cliffs, many covered by lichens, also provide nesting and roosting habitat for raptors including prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, and kestrels. An interpretive trail in the preserve meanders through the area to be restored, and this project will include installation of two additional interpretive signs that discuss the restoration project. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1507)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries (In Ranked Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Replanting the Colockum Wildlife Area after a Fire

Grant Requested: \$200,200

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about 1,000 acres of forest burned by a 2013 wildfire in the Colockum Wildlife Area, 15 miles south of Wenatchee in Chelan and Kittitas Counties. The fire burned the trees and bushes, whose roots prevented sediment from entering the streams. The department will place large logs in the streams and replant the burned forest with a combination of conifer and shrub species. The wildlife area is a mix of shrub-steppe, stream bank, and forest habitats and is used by mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, bighorn sheep, cougars, black bears, bobcats, grey wolves, wild turkeys, forest grouse, woodpeckers, falcons, hawks, and eagles. The streams in the area provide habitat for rainbow trout; upper Columbia River steelhead trout, which are listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction; and Chinook salmon, which are endangered. The Colockum Wildlife Area is a popular destination for hunting, hiking, camping, horse-back riding, motorized recreation, and wildlife watching. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1610)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Habitat

Grant Requested: \$235,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to burn 1,274 acres in the Pogue Mountain and Chesaw Wildlife Areas, 110 miles north of Wenatchee in Okanogan County, to stimulate fire-dependent vegetation and to restore function to priority habitats. The two areas conserve native shrub-steppe plant communities and are in the sharp-tail grouse recovery zone. The *Conservation Strategy* identifies upland aspen forest, shrub-steppe, eastside grasslands and ponderosa pine forest and woodlands as the highest priority for conservation, all of which are found within the project area. The goal of the project is to restore fire as a natural process. The department will contribute \$35,000 from a private grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1447)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2015-06								
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded ²
1	63.90	14-1098A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$2,614,250 P
2	60.50	14-1276A	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	King County	\$748,000	\$748,000	\$1,496,000	\$748,000
3	58.30	14-1130A	Sage Hills Gateway Acquisition	Wenatchee	\$510,000	\$513,000	\$1,023,000	\$510,000
4	58.20	14-1251A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,765,352		\$3,765,352	Alternate
5	57.70	14-1250A	Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,147,269		\$3,147,269	Alternate
6	48.20	14-1093A	Ebey Island	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	Alternate
7	47.10	14-1441A	Hooven Bog Conservation Area	Snohomish County	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$985,500	\$492,750
					\$12,663,371	\$1,753,750	\$14,417,121	\$4,365,000

¹Project Type: A = Acquisition

²P=Partial funding

Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects

Preliminary Ranking

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	63.90	14-1098A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
2	60.50	14-1276A	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	King County	\$748,000	\$748,000	\$1,496,000
3	58.30	14-1130A	Sage Hills Gateway Acquisition	Wenatchee	\$510,000	\$513,000	\$1,023,000
4	58.20	14-1251A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,765,352		\$3,765,352
5	57.70	14-1250A	Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,147,269		\$3,147,269
6	48.20	14-1093A	Ebey Island	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
7	47.10	14-1441A	Hooven Bog Conservation Area	Snohomish County	\$492,750	\$492,750	\$985,500
					\$12,663,371	\$1,753,750	\$14,417,121

Project Type: A=Acquisition

Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2015-2017

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	Educational Opportunities	Public Use	Growth Management Act Preference	Population Proximity	
1	West Rocky Prairie	18.40	8.80	13.10	8.90	4.60	8.10	0.00	2.00	63.90
2	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	15.30	7.70	11.90	7.70	3.50	7.40	0.00	7.00	60.50
3	Sage Hills Gateway Acquisition	14.50	7.30	12.40	8.30	4.20	8.60	0.00	3.00	58.30
4	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	16.70	7.50	12.30	7.70	3.50	5.50	0.00	5.00	58.20
4	Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas	13.90	7.00	11.10	7.90	3.40	8.40	0.00	6.00	57.70
6	Ebey Island	12.40	6.20	9.20	6.80	2.90	5.70	0.00	5.00	48.20
7	Hooven Bog Conservation Area	13.10	7.40	8.00	6.10	2.80	4.70	0.00	5.00	47.10

Evaluators score Questions 1-6; RCO Staff Scores Questions 7-8.

Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving the West Rocky Prairie and Mima Mounds

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 220 acres in Maytown, 5 miles south of Tumwater, in Thurston County, as part of a larger project to protect one of the last native outwash prairies remaining in Washington. Rare and a local treasure, the West Rocky Prairie includes the Mima Mounds, which are considered an ecological wonder and prized by the residents of south Puget Sound. This purchase would create a 3,632-acre conservation network between Millersylvania State Park, McIntosh Tree Farm, Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area. The land in this area is used by many wildlife species that the state has declared at risk of extinction or in need of watching. The expanded wildlife area (1,555 acres) will be open to the public for hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting. The local community values this land because of its size and availability in urbanizing south Puget Sound. Friends of West Rocky Prairie formed in 2007 to conserve this land and presented Thurston County with 2,000 signatures requesting the site be protected from industrial use. The local Black Hills Audubon also strongly supports site conservation. The Evergreen State College and the University of Washington will use the site for prairie research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1098)

King County Conserving Land along Bass and Beaver Lakes for Birds and Other Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$748,000

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to conserve 136 undeveloped acres in the Bass-Beaver Lake complex, next to state parks in the Green River Gorge. The lake complex provides the highest bird species diversity in the county. The land is used by state priority bird species including bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, wood duck, bufflehead, great blue heron, common loon, and band-tailed pigeon. Other bird species using the area include golden eagle, turkey vulture, osprey, green heron, kingfisher, ruffed grouse, least sandpiper, goldfinch, Bewick's/marsh/Pacific wren, Swainson's thrush, rufous hummingbird, and spotted towhee. The complex and gorge are an important part of the range of one the state's 10 registered elk herds. It also is used by cougars, bobcats, and minks. The Green River supports Chinook, steelhead, and four other salmon species. Two forested wetland plant communities also are on the land and are designated as state priority habitats. This acquisition would complement King County's and State Parks' efforts to protect land in the lake complex. King County will contribute \$748,000 in conservation futures¹ and a voter-approved levy. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1276)

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

Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Wenatchee

Grant Requested: \$510,000

Conserving Access to the Wenatchee Foothills through the Sage Hills Gateway

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy nearly 139 acres, protecting centrally located access to the Wenatchee Foothills and a critical north-south connection to its trail system. The popular trail system is near cities and offers spectacular views of the Wenatchee Valley and Columbia River, abundant spring wildflowers, and easy access. Historically, the land owner has allowed hiking, mountain biking, and winter mule deer on the land but these uses are in jeopardy because the land is being considered for housing development. If developed, trail access from the south would be cut off and wildlife habitat would be destroyed. The land contains shrub-steppe habitat that supports a diverse community of wildlife including mule deer, migratory songbirds, and raptors. Through an extensive public outreach effort conducted over several years, the Sage Hills Gateway was identified as a priority for acquisition by the community. It is contained in the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*, *Wenatchee Foothills Trails Plan*, and parks and recreation comprehensive plan. The City is working with the Trust for Public Lands, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and the landowner, to buy the land. The City of Wenatchee will contribute \$513,000 in staff labor and donations of labor and land. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1130)

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Expanding Stavis and Kitsap Forest Areas

Grant Requested: \$3,765,352

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy more than 436 acres to add to the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, which includes the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve near Silverdale and Bremerton in Kitsap County. The purchase will fill important gaps in a large forested landscape that supports wildlife near cities; protect forests along Stavis and Harding Creeks, which provide spawning and rearing habitat for fall chum and coho salmon; protect a pocket estuary on the Hood Canal and an upland forest near Stavis Bay; and protect 1,600 feet of Hood Canal shoreline. The land will provide opportunities for low-impact public use, recreation, environmental education, and scientific research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1251)

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Expanding the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Conservation Areas

Grant Requested: \$3,147,269

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 1,181 acres in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Areas in east King County. The department will focus on lands in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that are threatened by housing development and are crucial wildlife habitat. The Greenway is a 100-mile landscape of forests, wildlife habitat, and open spaces along Interstate 90, a National Scenic Byway. Distinctive physical features of the lands include talus, high and low elevation lakes, streams and wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, and cliffs. A variety of birds, mammals, amphibians,

Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



and fish call this area home as do cougars, bobcats, mountain goats, black bears, coyotes, and elk. Red-tailed hawks, osprey, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers have been observed there as well. The purchase will allow the department to protect significant urban wildlife habitat, natural resources, and wildlife habitat connections, and to provide low-impact public use. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1250)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Expanding Ebey Island Wildlife Areas

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 104 acres, expanding the 1,237-acre wildlife area unit on Ebey Island in Snohomish County. The department's long-term vision calls for the grassland to be restored to wetlands for waterfowl, song and shorebirds, beavers, and other wildlife. The land is in the Pacific Flyway and used by migrating and wintering waterfowl. By buying the land, the department will be able to offer permanent public access to 440 acres of the department's Ebey Island Unit for waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1093)

Snohomish County Conserving Hooven Bog

Grant Requested: \$492,750

The Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant to buy 29 acres of important bog, fen, wetland, and forested habitats in Snohomish County. These habitats are threatened by a proposed housing development. They are important because they are rare: It is uncommon to find four distinct plant communities in such an area. Rare plants such as *Utricularia intermedia* (Bladderwort) and *Hippuri vulgaris* in such numbers is not commonly seen. Different pine species and a variety of trees thrive here. There is a rich herbaceous layer that provides food and shelter for many wildlife species. Animals sited include bobcat, red legged frogs, kingfisher, vireo, thrushes, garter snakes, and many more. The land will provide a research and educational tool. In addition, Hooven Bog is identified by the Washington Natural Heritage Program and the Department of Natural Resources as high quality, undisturbed wetlands that support state threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species mentioned above. Snohomish County will contribute \$492,750. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Search](#). (14-1441)