

Critical Habitat Projects

Grants Awarded

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	41.90	16-1343A	South Fork Manastash	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
2	39.60	16-1333A	Mid Columbia Grand Coulee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
3	38.10	16-1915A	Mount Adams Klickitat Canyon Phase 2	Columbia Land Trust	\$2,440,525	\$2,440,525	\$4,881,050	\$2,440,525
4	36.20	16-1344A	Cowiche Watershed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
5	35.00	16-1346A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$2,140,350 ²
6	33.70	16-1699A	Lehman Uplands Conservation Easement	Methow Conservancy	\$1,134,050	\$1,570,450	\$2,704,500	Alternate
7	29.70	16-1325A	Hoffstadt Hills	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	Alternate
					\$18,074,575	\$4,010,975	\$22,085,550	\$12,080,875

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

²P=Partial funding

Critical Habitat Projects
Preliminary Ranking
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	41.90	16-1343A	South Fork Manastash	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
2	39.60	16-1333A	Mid Columbia Grand Coulee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
3	38.10	16-1915A	Mount Adams Klickitat Canyon Phase 2	Columbia Land Trust	\$2,440,525	\$2,440,525	\$4,881,050
4	36.20	16-1344A	Cowiche Watershed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
5	35.00	16-1346A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
6	33.70	16-1699A	Lehman Uplands Conservation Easement	Methow Conservancy	\$1,134,050	\$1,570,450	\$2,704,500
7	29.70	16-1325A	Hoffstadt Hills	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000
					\$18,074,575	\$4,010,975	\$22,085,550

*Project Type: A=Acquisition

Critical Habitat Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
		Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities with Special Status	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit and Support		
1	South Fork Manastash		16.90	8.80	12.30	3.90	41.90
2	Mid Columbia Grand Coulee		16.40	8.20	11.90	3.10	39.60
3	Mount Adams Klickitat Canyon Phase 2		16.30	7.60	11.40	2.80	38.10
4	Cowiche Watershed		14.70	7.80	10.60	3.10	36.20
5	Simcoe		14.50	7.80	10.00	2.70	35.00
6	Lehman Uplands Conservation Easement		14.00	7.00	9.60	3.10	33.70
7	Hoffstadt Hills		12.00	5.40	9.40	2.90	29.70

Evaluators score Questions 1-4

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$1,500,000** **Conserving Land along the South Fork Manastash River**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 1,600 acres of forest and Manastash River habitat on the east slope of the central Cascade Mountains in Kittitas County. The site is about 15 miles southwest of Ellensburg, between the LT Murray Wildlife Area to the east and the national forest to the west. The objective of this project is to conserve critical habitat in a biologically rich and high priority location, protect public access, and improve land management. The site provides breeding and foraging habitat for northern spotted owls, supports large ungulate herds, and contains headwater streams that support steelhead and salmon recovery efforts. Conservation here will implement key elements identified in state and federal management and recovery plans. Longstanding and popular access through these lands to public ownership is under threat, so public support for this project is strong. This grant will secure the remaining gap in the larger Heart of the Cascades project, which has conserved about 28 square miles of habitat along the mountain range. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1343)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$3,000,000** **Conserving Grouse Habitat in Grand Coulee**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 7,250 acres of shrub-steppe habitat 6 miles west of Grand Coulee for sharp-tailed grouse. This is the final phase of a three-phase project to buy more than 20,500 acres, with previous purchases making up the department's Big Bend Wildlife Area. The land is an important link between sharp-tailed grouse populations in Douglas, Okanogan, and Lincoln Counties and a strategic component in the department's ongoing efforts to maintain and recover sharp-tailed grouse in these counties. One of the largest active sharp-tailed grouse lek sites in the state is on the land, with other lek sites within 2.5 miles. Sharp-tailed grouse are a state threatened species and a federal species of concern. Located on the south shore of the Columbia River, the land has elevation ranges from 950 to 2,620 feet and a variety of plants, such as bunchgrass dominated expanses, aspen and Ponderosa pine, seasonal wetlands, and pot-hole lakes. Other habitat features include basalt cliffs, caves, talus, and snags. The land is used by a variety of priority species including Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, sage thrasher, golden eagle, and mule deer. Recreational use will provide an important regional community value. The size, location, quality, and diversity of habitats allow the department to address factors limiting growth of the sharp-tailed grouse population, such as lack of winter and breeding habitats and not enough habitat in general. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1333)

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Columbia Land Trust Conserving the Klickitat Canyon on Mount Adams

Grant Requested: \$2,440,525

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy about 3,200 acres on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. The land straddles the wild and scenic Klickitat River and includes 1.7 miles of two major tributaries – Summit and White Creeks. The land is a vital wildlife corridor and connects protected lands owned by tribes, state and federal agencies, and the land trust. Its unusual topographic and ecological diversity includes a mosaic of dry and moist mixed conifer forests, oak woodlands, aspen, freshwater wetlands, steep canyons, talus slopes, and shoreline and river habitats. The land is used by a diverse array of wildlife including at least 15 species listed by the federal government as a species of concern or under the Endangered Species Act and 21 species either listed or considered a candidate for listing by state government, such as western gray squirrel and northern spotted owl. It also supports numerous migratory game species, including mule deer, black-tailed deer, elk, mountain goat, and big-horned sheep. This is second phase of a larger project to conserve 5,600 acres that are threatened by development. The land trust will manage the land for wildlife habitat and public benefits. The project enjoys broad support including from the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Klickitat County commissioners, state agencies, neighboring forestry owners, and local community partners. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$2.4 million in a private grant, a grant from the salmon recovery program, and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1915)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land in the Cowiche Watershed

Grant Requested: \$3,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 3,200 acres of crucial upland wildlife habitat in the Cowiche watershed, which is 15 miles northwest of Yakima, in Yakima County. This is the final phase in the department's 14 year-long quest to knit together this ecosystem, which contains priority habitats and state species of concern, such as shrub-steppe, stream shorelines, wetlands, oak-pine forests, sage thrashers, loggerhead shrikes, sage sparrows, golden and bald eagles, Townsend ground squirrels, western gray squirrels, Townsend big-eared bats, white-headed woodpeckers, Lewis' woodpeckers, and pygmy nuthatches. The purchase links the department's Cowiche and Oak Creek Wildlife Area units with other public lands, connecting more 80,000 acres of protected land that extends for more than 26 miles, and builds on the department's efforts that already have protected 5,600 acres of upland habitat in the watershed. The project is critical because it: a) protects upland cold water inputs for Cowiche watershed habitat for steelhead, Bull Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Coho Salmon; b) secures critical winter range and movement corridors for up to 2,800 elk and other big game; c) provides the public with recreational opportunities, including hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, hiking, and mountain biking; and d) maintains stream shoreline and upland habitats that support state priority wildlife. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1344)

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$4,000,000** **Buying Land on Simcoe Mountain for Habitat and Recreation**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 6,700 acres on Simcoe Mountain, which is about 15 miles northeast of Goldendale, to protect wildlife habitat and open the land to hiking, fishing, and hunting. The land is gated and public access restricted.

Acquisition of the land would connect protected land from the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains and provide opportunities for recreation that are unavailable in the area. This is the fourth phase of a project to conserve about 22,000 acres of a unique large-scale landscape that has mixed conifer, Oregon white oak, white alder, shrub steppe, grasslands, cliffs, and 10 miles of shoreline habitat that includes upper Rock Creek and its tributaries. The land is used by steelhead, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; Chinook Salmon; western gray squirrel, which are on the state's list of species threatened with extinction; mule deer; burrowing owl; and western toad. This project is an opportunity for a partnership between the department and the East and Central Klickitat Conservation Districts to jointly buy the land for wildlife habitat, grazing, logging, and recreation. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1346)

Methow Conservancy **Grant Requested: \$1,134,050** **Conserving Land in the Methow Watershed**

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 1,028 acres of undeveloped land near Twisp in Okanogan County. The purchase will protect shrub-steppe, shoreline, and wetlands habitats; link existing protected land; conserve at-risk species; and maintain corridors for wildlife movement. The land is used by gray wolves, mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, peregrine falcons, and Brewer's sparrows, among other animals. Without protection, the landowner will sell the land for development. The Methow Conservancy will contribute more than \$1.5 million in staff labor, a federal grant, and donations of cash and land. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1699)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$3,000,000** **Conserving Hoffstadt Hills**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 1,300 acres of elk winter range habitat near Mount Saint Helens. This is the first phase of a larger project to ultimately conserve 4,100 acres about 15 miles east of Toutle Lake, between State Route 504 (Spirit Lake Highway) and the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area for the Mount Saint Helens elk herd. The land to be purchased is often closed to the public in late summer and early fall because of fire concerns, which in effect closes public access to the wildlife area as well. The project will allow year-round public access to the wildlife area, except from December through April to minimize disturbing the wintering elk. Most of the land is in the 1980 blast zone of Mount Saint Helens and is next to the National Volcanic Monument. Cliffs, talus slopes, and forested wetlands are some of the unique features present on the site. Acquisition of the land will protect habitat for

Critical Habitat Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Coho Salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1325)

Natural Area Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Awarded
1	40.78	16-1416A	Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,571,929	\$1,571,929
2	39.78	16-1419A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,601,715	\$2,601,715
3	37.33	16-1441A	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,338,073	\$1,338,073
4	36.78	16-1412A	Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,211,803	\$2,211,803
5	33.44	16-1417A	Cypress Island Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,552,271	\$905,680 ²
					\$10,275,791	\$8,629,200

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

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Natural Area Projects
Preliminary Ranking
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Total
1	40.7778	16-1416A	Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,571,929	\$1,571,929
2	39.7778	16-1419A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,601,715	\$2,601,715
3	37.3333	16-1441A	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$1,338,073	\$1,338,073
4	36.7778	16-1412A	Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,211,803	\$2,211,803
5	33.4444	16-1417A	Cypress Island Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,552,271	\$2,552,271
					\$10,275,791	\$10,275,791

*Project Type: A=Acquisition

Natural Area Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	Total
			Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities with Special Status	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit and Support	
1	Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve		17.56	8.00	11.56	3.67	40.78
2	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area		16.22	8.11	11.33	4.11	39.78
3	Washougal Oaks Natural Area		14.67	7.11	11.67	3.89	37.33
4	Bone River and Niawiakum River Natural Area Preserves		15.22	6.78	11.22	3.56	36.78
5	Cypress Island Natural Area		13.22	5.56	11.00	3.67	33.44

Evaluators score Questions 1-4.

Natural Areas Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources **Creating the Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve**

Grant Requested: \$1,571,929

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 325 acres to establish Crowberry Bog Natural Area Preserve in Jefferson County. This new natural area was recommended by the Washington State Natural Heritage Advisory Council and approved in January by the department following a public process. The preserve contains two significant bogs: Crowberry Bog and Hoh Bog. Crowberry Bog is the only known raised bog in the western conterminous United States and the southern-most in western North America. This project will protect this globally rare feature through acquisition for long-term conservation management. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1416)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Expanding the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area**

Grant Requested: \$2,601,715

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 167 acres of rare plant communities and species northeast of Vancouver. This includes about 17 acres of shoreline habitat, 11 acres of wetlands, and 139 acres of uplands. This Willamette Valley wet prairie represents the only example of its size and quality in Washington. These ecosystems, which are considered Priority 1 plant communities, are seriously threatened by habitat destruction and degradation in 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, federally-listed endangered plant species. It also contains habitat for five state sensitive plant species and one rare animal species, the slender-billed white breasted nuthatch. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1419)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Expanding the Washougal Oaks Natural Area**

Grant Requested: \$1,338,073

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 182 acres east of Washougal at the western edge of the Columbia River Gorge in Clark County for inclusion in Washougal Oaks Natural Area. The land is part of a larger area that encompasses the largest high-quality native oak woodland remaining in western Washington. In addition, a fish-bearing stream inside a steep forested ravine runs through the heart of the site. The land supports two state sensitive plant species and two rare or threatened animal species: slender-billed nuthatch, and lower Columbia River steelhead. This acquisitions are part of a multi-phased project with the long-term objective of protecting the oak woodland and associated species from future residential development, other incompatible uses, and exotic plant species. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1441)

Natural Areas Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,211,803**

Expanding the Bone and Niawiakum Rivers Natural Area Preserves

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 447 acres in two coastal natural area preserves that include the Bone and Niawiakum Rivers. These coastal wetland and estuary ecosystems are among the highest quality examples remaining of native coastal salt marsh communities in Washington. The superb wetlands of the two preserves are recognized as national priorities for protection. These two sites protect seven important wetland communities that were identified in the state Natural Heritage Plan as priorities for protection. The forests adjacent to the salt marshes protect a large portion of both rivers' watersheds and provide nesting habitat for bald eagles, marbled murrelets, great blue herons, and a range of other species. The upper reaches of the Niawiakum River sloughs support rare wetlands that transition from those dominated by tides and saltwater to those dominated by freshwater. The river, slough channels, and tidal mudflats provide habitat for Coastal Cutthroat Trout and salmon, invertebrates, waterfowl, and shorebirds. The remaining undeveloped lands are threatened with conversion to housing developments. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1412)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,552,271**

Conserving Cypress Island

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 112 acres of privately owned waterfront on Cypress Island, in Skagit County. The department owns nearly 95 percent of the island and manages it as the Cypress Island Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area. The natural area is unique because of its large size, ecological diversity, and level of existing protection. The island has no infrastructure or ferry service and limited development, all of which help increase protection. The natural area provides opportunities for directed public use and environmental education, while protecting critical habitat and rare plant communities. The threat of conversion is high due to continuously rising property values in the San Juan Islands and the attractiveness of Cypress Island for vacation homes and resorts. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1417)

Riparian Protection Projects

Grants Awarded

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	106.22	16-1871A	Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Protection	Chelan Douglas Land Trust	\$319,600	\$330,400	\$650,000	\$319,600
2	99.56	16-1957A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	The Nature Conservancy	\$877,000	\$879,300	\$1,756,300	\$877,000
3	99.11	16-1413A	Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,321,124		\$2,321,124	\$2,321,124
4	96.89	16-1418A	Kennedy Creek	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$4,312,549		\$4,312,549	\$2,111,476 ²
5	96.56	16-1342A	Teanaway Valley Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	Not Funded ³
6	94.78	16-1878A	Nisqually Shoreline Wilcox Reach Protection	Nisqually Land Trust	\$705,000	\$711,000	\$1,416,000	Alternate
7	93.67	16-1348A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,300,000		\$2,300,000	Alternate
8	86.89	16-1654A	Wayne Sammamish Riverfront Community	King County	\$1,000,000	\$4,057,000	\$5,057,000	Alternate
9	85.00	16-1816A	Skookum Riparian Protection Phase 2	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$660,055	\$660,320	\$1,320,375	Alternate
10	72.56	16-2003A	Graylands Acquisition	Ducks Unlimited Vancouver	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	Alternate
11	70.78	16-1379C	Upper Sweetwater Creek Riparian Protection	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$438,547	\$453,547	\$892,094	Alternate
					\$16,433,875	\$10,091,567	\$26,525,442	\$5,629,200

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

²P=Partial funding

³Grant applicant completed this project using other resources.

Riparian Protection Projects
Preliminary Ranking
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Number and	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	106.22	16-1871A	Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Protection	Chelan Douglas Land Trust	\$319,600	\$330,400	\$650,000
2	99.56	16-1957A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	The Nature Conservancy	\$877,000	\$879,300	\$1,756,300
3	99.11	16-1413A	Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$2,321,124		\$2,321,124
4	96.89	16-1418A	Kennedy Creek	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$4,312,549		\$4,312,549
5	96.56	16-1342A	Teaway Valley Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000
6	94.78	16-1878A	Nisqually Shoreline Wilcox Reach Protection	Nisqually Land Trust	\$705,000	\$711,000	\$1,416,000
7	93.67	16-1348A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,300,000		\$2,300,000
8	86.89	16-1654A	Wayne Sammamish Riverfront Community	King County	\$1,000,000	\$4,057,000	\$5,057,000
9	85.00	16-1816A	Skookum Riparian Protection Phase 2	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$660,055	\$660,320	\$1,320,375
10	72.56	16-2003A	Graylands Acquisition	Ducks Unlimited Vancouver	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000
11	70.78	16-1379C	Upper Sweetwater Creek Riparian Protection	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$438,547	\$453,547	\$892,094
					\$16,433,875	\$10,091,567	\$26,525,442

Project Types: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

Riparian Protection Projects Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Rank	Project Name	Riparian Habitat Benefits	Planning Priority	Site Suitability and Project Design	Threats to the Habitat	Project Support	Public Access Opportunities	Ongoing Stewardship and Management	Matching Share	Growth Management Act Preference	Total
1	Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Protection	18.44	17.00	18.22	14.78	13.89	14.00	8.89	0.00	0.00	105.22
2	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 3	18.22	17.56	17.56	10.11	13.89	11.89	9.33	1.00	0.00	99.56
3	Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve	18.56	18.00	17.89	8.78	12.89	14.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	99.11
4	Kennedy Creek	18.11	18.11	17.56	8.44	12.56	13.33	8.78	0.00	0.00	96.89
5	Teanaway Valley Riparian	16.33	17.56	17.00	10.67	13.67	13.00	8.33	0.00	0.00	96.56
6	Nisqually Shoreline Wilcox Reach Protection	17.00	17.22	16.89	11.44	12.78	9.89	8.56	0.00	0.00	93.78
7	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	16.89	14.78	17.00	11.67	12.33	12.44	8.56	0.00	0.00	93.67
8	Wayne Sammamish Riverfront Community	10.56	15.44	11.89	11.89	13.44	13.56	8.11	2.00	0.00	86.89
9	Skookum Riparian Protection	14.22	14.89	15.33	9.22	11.67	10.56	8.11	1.00	0.00	85.00
10	Graylands Acquisition	17.11	10.22	12.56	7.78	6.00	10.89	5.00	4.00	0.00	73.56
11	Upper Sweetwater Creek Riparian Protection	8.67	8.67	11.11	7.33	12.67	14.11	7.22	1.00	0.00	70.78

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

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Conserving Wenatchee Floodplain

Grant Requested: \$319,600

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy 37 acres of floodplain along the Wenatchee River, preventing development of a six-unit cluster subdivision already approved by Chelan County. The land trust would allow the river to rework the floodplain unimpeded, which it substantially modified during floods in the 1990s. The land trust also would remove a barn. The area is the largest undeveloped floodplain along the lower Wenatchee River. The area also is identified as a high priority for preservation in its undeveloped state. Acquisition will protect intact and functioning floodplain, primarily forested, and the inlets of two large seasonal side channels. The river is used by Chinook Salmon, which is endangered, and steelhead and Bull Trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as by Coho and Sockeye salmon. It also is important habitat for mule deer, passerines, raptors, waterfowl, and beavers. The land trust will allow the public access from a nearby county road for non-motorized recreation such as hiking, bird watching, fishing, and floating. The lower Wenatchee River has no public access from land between parks at Monitor (3 miles upstream) and the mouth (3 miles downstream). The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$330,400 from a local grant, a grant from the Washington State salmon recovery program, and donations of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1871)

The Nature Conservancy Protecting Land along the Clearwater River

Grant Requested: \$877,000

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to buy 640 acres, the third phase of a project that is creating a corridor of protected shoreline forest habitat from the headwaters of the Clearwater River to its confluence with the Queets River. The land in this purchase mostly is along the Clearwater River and its important tributaries – Shale, Miller, and Christmas Creeks. The Queets and Clearwater Rivers of the Olympic Peninsula support some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making these rivers an essential anchor for the 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, steelhead, and Cutthroat and Bull Trout. The rivers and associated shoreline forests also support numerous other important species, such as the Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and marbled murrelet. The project will address the two most significant habitat threats to these river systems: ongoing logging and rural development. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$879,300 in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1957)

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,321,124**

Buying Land in the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 1,346 acres of important shoreline areas in the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve, in Grays Harbor. The preserve protects a diverse complex of estuarine and riverine wetlands and represents a unique opportunity to protect of a large intact ecosystem with natural hydrologic functions. The land proposed for acquisition includes critical parts of Preacher's and Blue Sloughs, sinuous tidally-influenced waterways that wind through the heart of the surge plain. Sloughs such as this provide important off-channel habitat for juvenile salmon species during their adjustment to saltwater. Habitat for other fish, including the Olympic mud minnow, is protected in the wetland. Most of the site is Sitka spruce-dominated forested wetland. Within the surge plain, nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat is protected for eagles, osprey, great blue heron, waterfowl, shorebirds, and Neotropical migrant species. Animals that live there include bears, river otters, raccoons, beavers, and muskrats. Purchase of this land will be a significant contribution toward completion of the preserve, which has been recognized as a national priority for protection. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1413)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$4,312,549**

Buying Land along Kennedy Creek

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 830 acres in a proposed Natural Resources Conservation Area along Kennedy Creek that connects to the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve. The purchase would increase protection for one of the few remaining high-quality salt marsh communities in Puget Sound, including vital habitat for migrating shorebirds. The site also provides recreation and environmental education opportunities for one of the fastest growing counties in southern Puget Sound. The acquisition area is known for its robust fall run of Chum Salmon, which has an average of 20,000 fish returning annually to spawn in Kennedy Creek. The project area also provides habitat for Coastal Cutthroat Trout, steelhead, and Coho Salmon. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1418)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$2,500,000**

Conserving the Teanaway River Valley

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 215 acres along the Teanaway River, northeast of Cle Elum in Kittitas County. The river is critical habitat for steelhead and Bull Trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and is a major focal watershed for Chinook Salmon recovery efforts in the upper Yakima River basin. The land contains more than a half-mile of the Teanaway River and nearly 1.5 miles of four tributary streams, two of which are fish-bearing. This biologically diverse and wild place is bisected by the Teanaway River and contains about 117 acres of intact, functioning shoreline, wetland, floodplain, and wet meadow habitats. The land is used by beavers, Columbia

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



spotted frogs, Neotropical songbirds, deer, elk, northern spotted owls, bears, cougars, and gray wolves. The department wants to protect this intact habitat to preserve critical watershed functions and connect the wildlife habitat of the Teanaway River and Teanaway Community Forest. The department will remove some buildings and provide recreational access to the river and uplands by building a small parking lot where the buildings were. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1342)

Nisqually Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$705,000

Conserving the Wilcox Reach of the Nisqually Shoreline

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 184 acres that includes 1 mile of shoreline and 34 acres of forest at the Wilcox reach of the Nisqually River, near Eatonville. The Wilcox reach provides spawning and rearing habitat for all five Nisqually Pacific salmon species. The land, which is one of the last large undeveloped Nisqually shoreline properties, is forested, with steep slopes leading to the floodplain, and zoned for development of 40 homes. Acquisition would prevent habitat degradation from logging, development, livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use, and loss of shoreline vegetation. It also would connect two substantial blocks of conserved Nisqually shoreline totaling 22.8 shoreline miles and 1,385 acres. The Nisqually Land Trust will contribute \$711,000 in cash 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 Snapshot](#). (16-1878)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Requested: \$2,300,000

Conserving Merrill Lake Shoreline

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 282.5 acres of habitat along the Kalama River and the Merrill Lake shoreline in Cowlitz County. The land is between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River and has many unique habitat features including lava beds with tree casts, high volume springs feeding the Kalama River, small old-growth stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities. This site also supports large old-growth cedar or fir and includes riverfront at the 40-foot waterfall on the Kalama River. The department's objectives include long-term protection of this unique habitat and provision of public access, particularly along the shorelines of the lake and river. The site connects with a national forest to the north and a Department of Natural Resources' Natural Resource Conservation Area to the south. A diverse suite of species will benefit from the overall project including steelhead, Coho and Chinook salmon, elk, martins, western toads, spotted owls, and osprey. Impending threats to these sites include subdivision for recreational lots or resort-type development and commercial logging. This is the last phase of a larger effort to conserve 1,431 acres. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1348)

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



King County

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Conserving the Wayne Golf Course

King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for about 34 acres associated with the Wayne golf course. King County is partnering with the City of Bothell to permanently protect the entire 89-acre golf course because it is one of the largest undeveloped sites remaining along the Sammamish River. The agreement will prevent future development and impervious surfaces, while allowing passive recreation and restoration to improve the area, especially for salmon and other aquatic life and wildlife. King County will contribute more than \$4 million in a local grant and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1654)

Squaxin Island Tribe

Grant Requested: \$660,055

Protecting Skookum Creek Shorelines

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to buy 108.5 acres in the Skookum Creek watershed in Mason County to protect and enhance wildlife populations. The land lies in an ancient lakebed and includes remnant wetlands and streams as well as Skookum Creek. The land is a farm and the owners will be allowed to stay but the cattle will be removed from the shorelines within 3 years of acquisition. The Skookum Creek watershed is not highly developed but has portions that were modified heavily by historical farming practices and railroads. Skookum Creek supports healthy stocks of Chum Salmon, a declining stock of Coho Salmon, and the most productive Cutthroat Trout population in south Puget Sound. The Squaxin Island Tribe will contribute \$660,320. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1816)

Ducks Unlimited-Vancouver

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Conserving Land along the Washington Coast

Ducks Unlimited-Vancouver will use this grant to buy about 1,750 acres, 2 miles south of Westport, in Grays Harbor County. The land is in the lower Chehalis River watershed within the Grays Harbor estuary, and is positioned south of State Highway 105 along South Bay. Ducks Unlimited wants to protect this unique area on the Washington coast, restore the diverse habitats, and create public use opportunities. The land contains more than 1,100 acres of fresh and estuarine wetlands, as well as tidal mudflats, old-growth forested uplands, interdunal wet/swale complexes, commercial timberlands, and grasslands. It is surrounded by protected lands with the Elk River Natural Resources Conservation Area to the east and Twin Harbors State Park to the west. It also is near other state and federal lands including Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, Johns River Wildlife Area, and Grayland Beach State Park. The land supports a diverse array of wildlife including waterfowl, shorebirds, elk, deer, marbled murrelets, bald eagles, black bears, and river otters. Ducks Unlimited will contribute \$3 million. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-2003)

Riparian Protection Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Conserving Upper Sweetwater Creek Shorelines

Grant Requested: \$438,547

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to buy nearly 1 acre and develop and restore 5 acres of salmon habitat in the upper reaches of Sweetwater Creek, just east of State Route 3 near Belfair in Mason County. The salmon group will create a roughened stream channel to restore fish passage to .79 mile of the creek, bypassing a historic water wheel and its eight-foot spillway and an 8-foot-tall weir further upstream. The creek is used by fall Chum and Coho salmon. The near acre of land will connect more than 150 acres of public land and is next to 5 acres of protected North Mason School District property that will be redeveloped into a park. The revitalized park will feature the water wheel, a loop trail, a fishing dock, solar and hydropower learning stations, a natural area for playing, native plantings, parking, a restroom, and maintenance facility. The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will contribute \$453,547 in equipment, federal and local grants, and donations of labor, land, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1379)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects Grants Awarded

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Total	Grant Awarded
1	49.00	16-1859R	South Puget Sound Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$390,750	\$390,750	\$390,750
2	48.70	16-1949R	Big Bend Shrub Steppe Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$165,695	\$165,695	\$165,695
3	48.60	16-1636R	Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$113,000	\$113,000	\$113,000
4	47.10	16-1674R	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$80,300	\$80,300	\$80,300
5	46.70	16-1611R	Rock Creek Tieton Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$354,750	\$354,750	\$354,750
6	46.30	16-1461R	Methow Forest Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$603,875	\$603,875	\$603,875
7	46.10	16-1811R	Skagit River Delta Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
7	46.10	16-2011R	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Rare Native Prairies Expansion	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
7	46.10	16-2072R	Phantom Butte Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
10	45.80	16-1678R	Post Fire Shrub Steppe Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$98,100	\$98,100	\$98,100
11	45.00	16-1715R	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Habitat Restoration South	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
12	44.70	16-1586R	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Nearshore Wetland Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$316,200	\$316,200	\$316,200
13	43.30	16-1585R	Pincroft Natural Area Aridland Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$83,000	\$83,000	\$83,000
14	42.60	16-1580R	Dabob Bay Natural Area Lowland Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$99,150	\$99,150	\$99,150
15	42.30	16-1953R	Coastal Forest Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$176,000	\$176,000	\$176,000
16	40.90	16-1881R	Colockum Forest Health	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$254,000	\$254,000	\$24,180 ²
					\$3,229,820	\$3,229,820	\$3,000,000

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Type: R=Restoration

²P=Partial funding

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects
Preliminary Ranking
 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
 2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Types*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Total
1	49.00	16-1859R	South Puget Sound Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$390,750	\$390,750
2	48.70	16-1949R	Big Bend Shrub Steppe Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$165,695	\$165,695
3	48.60	16-1636R	Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$113,000	\$113,000
4	47.10	16-1674R	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$80,300	\$80,300
5	46.70	16-1611R	Rock Creek Tieton Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$354,750	\$354,750
6	46.30	16-1461R	Methow Forest Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$603,875	\$603,875
7	46.10	16-1811R	Skagit River Delta Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$250,000	\$250,000
7	46.10	16-2011R	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Rare Native Prairies Expansion	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$55,000	\$55,000
7	46.10	16-2072R	Phantom Butte Grassland Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$65,000	\$65,000
10	45.80	16-1678R	Post Fire Shrub Steppe Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$98,100	\$98,100
11	45.00	16-1715R	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Habitat Restoration South	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$125,000	\$125,000
12	44.70	16-1586R	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Nearshore Wetland Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$316,200	\$316,200

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects
Preliminary Ranking
 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
 2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Types*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Total
13	43.30	16-1585R	Pinecroft Natural Area Aridland Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$83,000	\$83,000
14	42.60	16-1580R	Dabob Bay Natural Area Lowland Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$99,150	\$99,150
15	42.30	16-1953R	Coastal Forest Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$176,000	\$176,000
16	40.90	16-1881R	Colockum Forest Health	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$254,000	\$254,000
					\$3,229,820	\$3,229,820

Project Types: R=Restoration

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Projects
Evaluation Scores
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	Total
		Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Restoration and Enhancement	Project Design	Planning	Public Benefit	
1	South Puget Sound Grassland Restoration	14.10	12.90	13.40	4.50	4.10	49.00
2	Big Bend Shrub Steppe Restoration	13.00	14.40	13.60	4.00	3.70	48.70
3	Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration	14.10	13.00	13.20	4.20	4.10	48.60
4	Trout Lake Meadow Restoration Phase 3	13.40	12.60	13.00	4.10	4.00	47.10
5	Rock Creek Tieton Forest Restoration	12.60	12.20	13.40	4.20	4.30	46.70
6	Methow Forest Restoration Phase 2	12.50	12.40	12.80	4.20	4.40	46.30
7	Skagit River Delta Restoration	12.70	13.00	12.90	3.70	3.80	46.10
7	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Rare Native Prairies Expansion	13.40	11.70	12.80	4.20	4.00	46.10
7	Phantom Butte Grassland Restoration	11.90	12.90	13.10	4.20	4.00	46.10
10	Post Fire Shrub Steppe Habitat Restoration	12.50	13.20	12.50	4.10	3.50	45.80
11	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Habitat Restoration South	12.50	12.20	12.40	4.10	3.80	45.00
12	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Nearshore Wetland Restoration	12.40	11.60	11.90	4.40	4.40	44.70
13	Pincroft Natural Area Aridland Forest Restoration	12.00	11.80	12.00	3.40	4.10	43.30
14	Dabob Bay Natural Area Lowland Forest Restoration	11.50	11.20	12.00	4.20	3.70	42.60
15	Coastal Forest Restoration Phase 2	12.10	11.30	11.50	3.40	4.00	42.30
16	Colockum Forest Health	11.60	11.20	10.90	3.60	3.60	40.90

Evaluators score Questions 1-5

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



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring South Puget Sound Grassland

Grant Requested: \$390,750

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore rare grasslands and woodlands in the Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, West Rocky Prairie, Rocky Prairie, and Bald Hill areas. These sites have been degraded by invasive species and other issues. The department will acquire native seeds and transplants, prepare areas for seeding by burning them or controlling invasive plants, and then replant the areas. The department also will work on removing the Scot's broom, enhance habitat for the Oregon spotted frog in the West Rocky Prairie area, and remove trees that shade oak trees in the Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve. The shade actually results in dead and dying limbs, and eventually the whole oak tree. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will team up with the Washington Department of Natural Resources because they have identical restoration needs and can save time and money by avoiding redundancies in staffing, contracting, and seed source development. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1859)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Big Bend Shrub-Steppe

Grant Requested: \$165,695

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 260 acres of abandoned farmland to a diverse community of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs in the Big Bend Wildlife Area in northeast Douglas County. The land will benefit Columbian sharp-tailed grouse as well as a host of wildlife species dependent on shrub-steppe. Much of the land is heavily infested with Rush skeletonweed, a Class B noxious weed, meaning seed production must be stopped. Without intervention, the land gradually will be invaded by noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation. Collectively, these fields have no habitat value and are in fact, a threat to the health of the surrounding landscape. This project will replace what is now non-habitat with quality native habitat thereby removing that threat. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1949)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Camas Meadows' Forest and Rare Plants

Grant Requested: \$113,000

The Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program will use this grant to restore 130 acres of forest and wet meadow habitats by thinning and burning, controlling invasive plants, and planting native vegetation in the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve, in Chelan County. The work will enhance habitat for three rare plant species, including the federally-endangered Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow, and forest wildlife. The preserve contains the world's largest population of the Wenatchee Mountains checkermallow and is critical to the species' long-term survival. The preserve also supports more than 1,000 acres of dry forest habitat used by diverse populations of songbirds and raptors, and shoreline areas and openings in the forest, which provide habitat for the rare plant species. Past forest management and fire suppression have resulted in a dense forest with altered species composition, which is degrading

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



habitat quality for wildlife, impacting rare plant habitat, and putting the forest at risk for a high-intensity wildfire. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1636)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Continuing Restoration of Trout Lake Meadow

Grant Requested: \$80,300

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to continue restoration of 35 acres of wetlands in the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve, which is in the northwest corner of Klickitat County. The department will control weeds, plant native plants, and improve the flow of water – all with the goal of improving habitat for four rare plants and animals. The preserve is home to a large population of the Oregon spotted frog, which the state has listed as endangered and the federal government has listed threatened with extinction. The preserve also is a nesting and foraging area for the greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. In addition, two rare plants are found in these seasonally wet meadows – pale blue-eyed grass, a state threatened and federal species of concern, and rosy owl clover, a state endangered species. While the area provides good habitat for some animals, there are several old irrigation ditches that need to be blocked so more water remains in the meadows and follow-up work is needed following the removal of an old road to improve water flow in the western portion of the site to the drier meadows to improve winter habitat for migratory birds. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1674)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Rock Creek-Tieton Forest

Grant Requested: \$354,750

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about 1,500 acres of in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area, west of Naches in Klickitat and Yakima Counties. The department will restore the land by thinning the forest and burning some of it. Because the land is former timber company land, there is a deficit of large trees that could provide durable habitat for wildlife, such as many of the state's species of greatest conservation need as well as several species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, including the northern spotted owl, the white-headed woodpecker, Lewis's woodpecker, northern goshawk, and the Townsend's big-eared bat. The restoration will improve the ecological processes and functions so the land can better support wildlife and be more resilient to catastrophic fire in the face of climate change. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1611)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Methow Forest

Grant Requested: \$603,875

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to burn 1,114 acres in the Methow Wildlife Area and thin 593 acres of forest 4 miles north of Twisp of State Highway 20 to restore the forest. Historically the wildlife area had frequent, low intensity fires, which burned the lower plants and shrubs and kept the forest open. Decades of fire suppression have transformed the open ponderosa pine stands to dense forests. This unnatural state is both unhealthy,

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



contributing to a loss of understory plants and trees, and a contributor to the severe fires of the past 2 years in the county. By reintroducing controlled fire to the landscape, some of the build-up is burned and the risk of high severity fires is reduced, improving overall forest health and structure, wildlife habitat, and forest resiliency. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1461)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Removing Cattails in the Skagit River Delta

Grant Requested: \$250,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to remove invasive cattail from 200 acres in the Island Unit, which is on the South Fork Skagit River, between Steamboat and Freshwater Sloughs, in the Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County. Unlike native cattail, invasive cattail can colonize brackish waters and tolerate deeper water. Invasive cattail represents a threat to Bull Trout, juvenile Chinook Salmon, and other salmon species by changing natural processes, water flow, and plant diversity in the Skagit River estuary. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1811)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve's Rare Native Prairies

Grant Requested: \$55,000

The Department of Natural Resources, partnering with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, will use this grant to restore rare coastal prairie and endangered plant habitat on the 79-acre Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve. The preserve is 2.5 miles south of Coupeville in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. This project will increase restoration significantly of two rare native prairies that have 2 of the only 12 naturally-occurring populations of golden paintbrush, which the State has listed as endangered and the federal government has listed as threatened with extinction. The project will restore another 2.2 acres of native prairie and golden paintbrush habitat in the preserve by removing invasive and non-native species, and planting native prairie species, including golden paintbrush. Seeding with native dominant prairie species also will be done. These activities will support the efforts of the department and land trust to establish self-sustaining populations of golden paintbrush as called for in the federal *Golden Paintbrush Species Recovery Plan* and help preserve and perpetuate the last native prairies in north Puget Sound, including one that is extraordinarily rare. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-2011)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Phantom Butte Grassland

Grant Requested: \$65,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about 150 acres of a 250-acre field on Phantom Butte in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area. The department will remove the non-native grass and invasive weeds from this former wheat field and replant it using a native grassland-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 a recently augmented population of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and a recently reintroduced population of greater

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



sage grouse, both listed by the state as threatened with extinction. The sage grouse is also a candidate for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Both sharp-tailed and sage grouse have returned to similar restored fields, and this restoration project is expected to produce similar results. The department allows hunting for mule deer, hiking, and bird watching on the land. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-2072)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Fire-Ravaged Shrub Steppe Habitat

Grant Requested: \$98,100

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 65 acres of shrub-steppe habitat damaged by wildfires in four Natural Area Preserves in Okanogan and Douglas Counties. Following the fires, the department had done a limited amount of weed control and seeding, but more work needs to be done to fully restore these native plant communities in north central Washington. The department will control nonnative plants and replant with native plants. To enhance sage grouse habitat, the department will thin the sagebrush and plant native bunchgrass on 10 acres of previously disturbed areas at Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve. Work will be done at the following Natural Area Preserves: Two Steppe, located 20 miles east of Waterville, lies within the identified breeding area of a greater sage-grouse population; Riverside Breaks, north of Omak, contains a population of the rare Snake River Cryptantha; Davis Canyon, located north of Brewster, was established as a National Natural Landmark because of the high quality plant communities present there; and Methow Rapids, south of Pateros, includes unique plant communities not protected in other areas. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1678)

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

Grant Requested: \$125,000

The Washington Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program will use this grant to restore about 150 acres of meadow and dry forest habitat in the 2,350-acre Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area, 5 miles north of the town of Glenwood in Klickitat and Yakima Counties. The department will thin about 100 acres of forest, burn another 50 acres, plant native plants on 5 acres, control invasive plants on 10 acres, and restore the water flow on 2 acres by removing ruts from old roads on the site. This work will restore ponderosa pine dry forest and seasonally wet meadow habitat that supports greater sandhill cranes, long-bearded sego lily, rosy owl-clover, dwarf rush, Pulsifer's monkey-flower, and Kellogg's rush. Along with benefits to these species, this work also will reduce fuels on the land and lessen the threat of fire. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1715)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoration Woodard Bay Shorelines and Wetlands

Grant Requested: \$316,200

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to control invasive plants and replant 100 acres in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, which is an 870-acre natural area north of Olympia on Henderson Inlet in Thurston County. The conservation area contains shorelines and estuaries, freshwater wetlands and streams, a small lake, and habitat for many wildlife species. The goal of this project is to restore saltwater shoreline habitat and enhance degraded and poorly buffered wetlands and shorelines. Animals that will benefit from the project include bats, migratory waterfowl, and Neotropical migratory birds. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1586)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Pinecroft Natural Area's Aridland Forest

Grant Requested: \$83,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 80 acres of imperiled ponderosa pine forest and 20 acres of adjacent bunchgrass meadows in the Pinecroft Natural Area Preserve near Spokane. The preserve is the largest remaining ponderosa pine-grassland ecosystem that once was prevalent throughout the Spokane Valley. The department will thin high-density stands of young trees to match densities that occurred when fires were frequent, remove downed wood to reduce the unnaturally high amounts of fuel for fires, remove invasive plants from the understory, and plant native vegetation. In addition, the department will restore two areas of the preserve that were historically bunchgrass meadows but now are dominated by invasive grasses and forbs, by controlling invasive plants, seeding, and planting. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1585)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Lowland Forest in the Dabob Bay Natural Area

Grant Requested: \$99,150

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 115 acres of young commercial timber and another 4 acres of old homestead at Dabob Bay Natural Area, east of Quilcene, on Hood Canal and the Olympic Peninsula. Under current conditions, the homestead site is not developing into forest and the former commercial timber stand provides little habitat for plants and animals. The homestead also is not representative of a natural coastal forest ecosystem and is unlikely to develop either habitat values or a natural configuration. The department will control weeds, thin the Douglas-fir trees, and plant native trees and shrubs to increase diversity, improve wildlife habitat, and expand coastal lowland forest habitat. The department also will remove an old logging road with culverts. The department plans to develop a multiple layer overstory with native understory and ground cover. The natural area protects high quality coastal sand spits, estuary habitats, and upland shoreline forests, which are used by pileated woodpeckers, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, bald eagles, and great blue herons. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1580)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources **Restoring a Coastal Forest**

Grant Requested: \$176,000

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore about 895 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, in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. These natural areas include rare salt marsh habitats and extensive forested uplands, including significant pockets of mature and old-growth forest. They represent a large portion of a quickly disappearing mature/old-growth forest landscape in southwest Washington. Restoration will focus primarily on the thinning of densely planted commercial forest stands in the 35- to 50-year-old age range. In their current condition, these forests provide lower quality habitat for diverse plant and animal communities and are not representative of a natural northwest coastal forest ecosystem. Goals for the restoration include reducing stand density, increasing understory vegetation and plant diversity, increasing the amount of large woody debris on the forest floor, and creating wildlife snags. Doing so, will dramatically improve the quality of habitat for a variety of plants and animals, including the marbled murrelet, spotted owl, cavity dwelling birds, amphibians, and the resident herds of Roosevelt elk. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1953)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Removing Fire Fuel from the Colockum Forest**

Grant Requested: \$254,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant for a 2-year project to remove small trees and brush to open up a ponderosa pine forest in the Colockum Wildlife Area, south of Wenatchee in Chelan and Kittitas Counties. In 2006, the department started a project to reduce the density of Douglas fir and grand fir in the pine forest by removing trees that had established there because of past logging practices and wild fire suppression. The resulting slash was not piled, but instead left fairly evenly distributed throughout the forest. The department will use manual labor and fire to remove the woody debris and stimulate fire-dependent plants eaten by deer and elk. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1881)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects
Grants Awarded
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	63.50	16-1442A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,232,991		\$3,232,991	\$3,232,991
2	59.50	16-1440A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,569,499		\$3,569,499	\$553,784 ²
3	59.30	16-1439A	Mount Si and Middle Fork Natural Resources Conservation Areas Rattlesnake Mountain	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,431,186		\$3,431,186	Alternate
4	57.90	16-1916A	Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Protection	Capitol Land Trust	\$610,000	\$610,000	\$1,220,000	\$610,000
5	55.80	16-1350A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000	Alternate
6	53.70	16-1352A	Scatter Creek Addition	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000	Alternate
7	53.30	16-1920C	Middle Ohop Protection Phase 3	Nisqually Land Trust	\$215,818	\$215,819	\$431,637	\$215,818
8	52.10	16-1380A	Castle Rock Acquisition Phase 2	Chelan Douglas Land Trust	\$400,000	\$418,250	\$818,250	\$400,000
9	47.20	16-1620A	West Bay Woods Acquisition	Olympia	\$164,927	\$164,928	\$329,855	\$164,927
					\$14,824,421	\$1,408,997	\$16,233,418	\$5,177,520

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

²P=Partial funding

Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects
Preliminary Ranking
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	63.50	16-1442A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,232,991		\$3,232,991
2	59.50	16-1440A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,569,499		\$3,569,499
3	59.30	16-1439A	Mount Si and Middle Fork Natural Resources Conservation Areas Rattlesnake Mountain	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,431,186		\$3,431,186
4	57.90	16-1916A	Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Protection	Capitol Land Trust	\$610,000	\$610,000	\$1,220,000
5	55.80	16-1350A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000		\$2,200,000
6	53.70	16-1352A	Scatter Creek Addition	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
7	53.30	16-1920C	Middle Ohop Protection Phase 3	Nisqually Land Trust	\$215,818	\$215,819	\$431,637
8	52.10	16-1380A	Castle Rock Acquisition Phase 2	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	\$400,000	\$418,250	\$818,250
9	47.20	16-1620A	West Bay Woods Acquisition	Olympia	\$164,927	\$164,928	\$329,855
					\$14,824,421	\$1,408,997	\$16,233,418

*Project Types: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

**Urban Wildlife Habitat Projects
Evaluation Scores**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

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 Compliance	Population Proximity	
1	Woodard Bay Natural Resource Conservation Area	16.50	7.50	12.60	8.80	4.50	8.60	0.00	5.00	63.50
2	Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area and Kitsap Forests Natural Area	16.00	7.50	12.10	8.40	3.70	6.80	0.00	5.00	59.50
3	Mount Si and Middle Fork Natural Resource Conservation Areas	15.10	7.00	11.60	8.00	3.00	7.60	0.00	7.00	59.30
4	Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Protection	16.00	7.10	11.20	7.60	4.20	6.80	0.00	5.00	57.90
5	West Rocky Prairie	14.70	7.80	11.70	8.20	4.10	7.30	0.00	2.00	55.80
6	Scatter Creek Addition	14.50	7.60	10.30	7.10	3.40	6.80	0.00	4.00	53.70
7	Middle Ohop Protection Phase 3	14.40	6.30	10.60	7.70	3.80	6.50	0.00	4.00	53.30
8	Castle Rock Acquisition Phase 2	12.80	5.90	10.40	8.20	4.00	7.80	0.00	3.00	52.10
9	West Bay Woods Acquisition	10.20	4.50	8.20	8.10	3.70	7.50	0.00	5.00	47.20

Evaluators score Questions 1-6; RCO staff scores Question 7 -8.

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$3,232,991**

Conserving Land in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 74 acres in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, located within minutes of downtown Olympia and the city of Lacey, in Thurston County. The land includes more than 28 acres of shoreline and wetland habitats and includes the shoreline of Henderson Inlet, portions of Woodard Creek, and other small tributaries. The purchase will protect important habitat for wildlife, including nesting bald eagles, a significant heron rookery, and the largest harbor seal nursery in south Puget Sound. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1442)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$3,569,499**

Conserving Kitsap County Forests

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 192 acres in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, in Kitsap County. The purchase will protect rare forests in one of most important corridors for biodiversity conservation in the Puget trough. The Stavis conservation area and the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, which is within the conservation boundary of Stavis, provide high quality and rare wildlife habitat making up a crucial part of a larger landscape of forests on the western Kitsap Peninsula. This project supports wildlife near urban areas and protect forests along Stavis and Harding Creeks, which provide spawning and rearing habitat for fall Chum and Coho salmon. The purchase also will conserve a pocket estuary on Hood Canal, a forest near Stavis Bay, and more than a quarter-mile of Hood Canal shoreline. The land would be open to the public for low-impact recreation, environmental education, and scientific research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1440)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$3,431,186**

Conserving Land in East King County

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 891 acres in east King County – 632 acres in the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area, 179 acres in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area, and 80 acres in the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. The land includes key areas in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that are threatened by residential development and provide crucial wildlife habitat in an urban area. The greenway is a 100-mile corridor of forests, wildlife habitat, and open areas along Interstate 90, a National Scenic Byway. Distinctive features include talus, high and low elevation lakes, numerous streams, wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, cliffs, and landscape connections for wildlife. Wildlife at these sites include a variety of animals, including cougars, bobcats, mountain goats, black bears, coyotes, elk, red-tailed hawks, osprey, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers. The department will allow low-impact public use and outdoor environmental

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



education on the land. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1439)

Capitol Land Trust Protecting Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat

Grant Requested: \$610,000

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy 106 acres and more than a mile of Puget Sound shoreline on the eastern shore of lower Henderson Inlet, in Thurston County, for an outdoor education preserve. The land, which is made up of the 51-acre Stillman Tree Farm and the 55-acre Harmony Farm, includes nearshore, estuarine, tributary, wetland, and upland habitat. It is used by many priority species including Chinook, Coho, and Chum salmon, steelhead, forage fish, shellfish, and numerous bird species. The land trust also will demolish structures on the land, control noxious weeds, install fencing and signs, and remove garbage. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute \$610,000 in Conservation Futures,¹ a federal grant, and a grant from the salmon recovery program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1916)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Expanding the West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area

Grant Requested: \$2,200,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 160 acres in Thurston County, expanding the West Rocky Prairie Unit in the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area and protecting one of the last native outwash prairies remaining in Washington. This project will create a 3,632-acre conservation network between Millersylvania State Park, the McIntosh Tree Farm, the Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and the West Rocky Prairie Unit. Habitat would be protected for dozens of plant and animal species at risk of extinction, including golden paintbrush, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and the Mazama pocket gopher and the Oregon spotted frog, both of which are on state and federal lists, as well as 15 species of butterfly of state and federal concern. Rocky prairie is one of only two remaining sites in the Puget trough that once contained all of the prairie specialist butterflies. The public will be able to use the area for walking, hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting on the expanded wildlife area. West Rocky Prairie was recommended for protection by the Interagency Prairie Landscape Working Group. Mima mounds found onsite are considered an ecological wonder. Friends of West Rocky Prairie formed in 2007 to conserve this land and obtained 2,000 signatures requesting the site be protected from industrial use. The local Black Hills Audubon also strongly supports site conservation. As with the attached wildlife area, Evergreen State College and University of Washington would use the site for prairie research. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1350)

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 Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Preserving a Scatter Creek Prairie

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 147.5 acres of the highest quality privately-owned prairie in Thurston County. Located near Grand Mound, the land is a priority area for protecting the Mazama pocket gopher, which is listed as at-risk of extinction by both the state and federal governments. Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, the mardon skipper butterfly, and five additional species of greatest conservation need also use the prairie. The land is next to department's Scatter Creek Unit and would increase the wildlife area unit to 1,063 acres. The property contains the unique south Puget Sound prairie ecosystem including highly sought prairie soils, a significant oak woodland, wetlands, and more than a half-mile of Scatter Creek. The public can use the land for walking, hiking, dog training, wildlife watching, and bird hunting. The expanded wildlife area would provide one of the largest horseback riding opportunities in the south Puget Sound via a series of trails that meander thru restored prairie and upland forests. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1352)

Nisqually Land Trust Conserving the Middle Ohop Creek

Grant Requested: \$215,818

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy and start restoration of 32 acres along Ohop Creek, one of the two main tributaries to the Nisqually River. The land is near Eatonville, in Pierce County, and includes nearly a quarter-mile of Ohop Creek. The land will extend, enhance, and buffer habitat for 196 species and includes priority spawning habitat for five species of native Pacific salmon, including Chinook Salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The land includes 6.5 acres north of the creek, predominantly fallow pasture, and south of the creek – 16.5 acres of fallow pasture in the floodplain and 9 acres of forested bluff. The land trust will demolish four structures in poor condition on the land. The Nisqually Land Trust will contribute \$215,819 in cash, a grant from the salmon recovery program, and donations of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1920)

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Buying Land in the Wenatchee Foothills at Castle Rock

Grant Requested: \$400,000

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy 398 acres in the Wenatchee foothills to protect high value shrub-steppe habitat. The land has habitat for a diverse array of plants as well as species of state and federal concern such as mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, golden and bald eagles, western rattlesnakes, yellow-bellied marmots, wrens, swifts, and grouse. The area is under high pressure for view homes encroaching from the north and south. The land will provide access for hikers from Castle Rock to public lands, which in turn connect to Wenatchee's Saddlerock Natural Area to the south and the land trust's Horse Lake Reserve to the north. Conserving this property will reduce risks to lower elevation homes from mudslides and

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



flooding. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$418,250 in donations of cash and labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1380)

Olympia

Grant Requested: \$164,927

Buying Land in the West Bay Woods

The Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 2.8 acres of natural open space in the West Bay woods area, in west Olympia between West Bay Drive and Rogers Street. The purchase will conserve an important buffer next to an active Pacific great blue heron rookery as well as habitat for Cooper's hawks, falcons, owls, bats, deer, mountain beavers, coyotes, red foxes, and other smaller animals. The land also will provide a pedestrian trail connection between the neighborhood and West Bay. West Bay woods is part of an undeveloped, contiguous wildlife corridor that includes the Schneider Creek basin. This acquisition was identified as a priority by the community and is contained in the *Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan*. Olympia will contribute \$164,928 in voter-approved bonds. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1620)