

## Grants Awarded

### Critical Habitat Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program  
2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	45.4	<a href="#">22-1630 A</a>	Columbia Land Trust	Klickitat Oaks Phase 1	\$4,328,900	\$4,328,900	\$8,657,800	\$4,328,900
2	44.0	<a href="#">22-1274 A</a>	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Castle Rock Ridge Acquisition	\$660,000	\$674,000	\$1,334,000	\$660,000
3	43.6	<a href="#">22-1234 C</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	South Sound Prairies	\$3,345,000		\$3,345,000	\$3,345,000
4	41.8	<a href="#">22-1275 A</a>	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Kane Ranch Conservation Easement	\$298,500	\$1,100,000	\$1,398,500	\$298,500
5	41.4	<a href="#">22-1235 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hunter Mountain North	\$4,500,000		\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
6	41.2	<a href="#">22-1233 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	McLoughlin Falls West	\$2,220,000		\$2,220,000	Not Funded <sup>2</sup>
7	37.0	<a href="#">22-1232 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Maloney Mountain	\$550,000		\$550,000	Not Funded <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$15,902,400</b>	<b>\$6,102,900</b>	<b>\$22,005,300</b>	<b>\$13,132,400</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

<sup>2</sup>Withdrawn. Property bought by another organization.

<sup>3</sup>No legislative authority for funding

## Evaluation Scores

### Critical Habitat Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	22-1630 A	Klickitat Oaks Phase 1	18.10	8.80	12.60	3.80	2.10	45.40
2	22-1274 A	Castle Rock Ridge Acquisition	16.40	7.30	13.00	4.80	2.50	44.00
3	22-1234 C	South Sound Prairies	16.70	8.60	12.00	3.90	2.40	43.60
4	22-1275 A	Kane Ranch Conservation Easement	16.20	8.20	12.50	3.10	1.80	41.80
5	22-1235 A	Hunter Mountain North	16.00	7.30	12.90	2.90	2.30	41.40
6	22-1233 A	McLoughlin Falls West	15.90	7.50	12.30	3.60	1.90	41.20
7	22-1232 A	Maloney Mountain	13.40	6.60	11.80	2.90	2.30	37.00

<sup>1</sup>Project Type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

## Critical Habitat Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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### **Columbia Land Trust Conserving Klickitat Oaks**

**Grant Requested: \$4,328,900**

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 2,666 acres above the Klickitat River near Klickitat. This unique landscape includes priority oak woodland, savanna, and mixed oak and conifer forest. The conservation of this land will help protect priority plant communities associated with Oregon white oak and the birds and other wildlife they support. Priority species supported include Lewis's woodpecker, western gray squirrel, acorn woodpecker, and fisher. It also is a critical link in the Pacific Flyway and source of food for neotropical migratory birds in decline. Additionally, the project site will be available to members of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation for traditional uses. This is the first phase of a multiphase project to conserve 8,000 acres. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$4.3 million in federal and private grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1630)

### **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Conserving Castle Rock Ridge**

**Grant Requested: \$660,000**

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy 398 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in the Cascade Mountain foothills of Wenatchee. This land includes habitat for a diverse array of plants as well as species of state and federal concern, including mule deer and golden eagles. Additionally, this land provides hiking access between the Wenatchee's Lower Castle Rock Natural Area and U.S. Forest Service lands. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$674,000 in staff labor and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1274)

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving South Sound Prairies**

**Grant Requested: \$3,345,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 217 acres in the historic violet and rock prairie region of south Thurston County. The land includes four ecological systems of concern—Willamette Valley upland prairie, Willamette Valley wet prairie, north Pacific oak woodland, and temperate Pacific freshwater marsh—as well as critical habitat for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and Mazama pocket gopher. Additionally, this land will provide access to recreation activities including hiking, hunting, and horseback riding. This is the final phase of a multiphase project. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1234)

## Critical Habitat Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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#### **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Conserving Kane Ranch**

**Grant Requested: \$298,500**

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on the 3,040-acre Kane Ranch in the Badger Mountain area in East Wenatchee. The land includes critical habitat for sage-grouse and is an integral piece of the habitat protections and investments already in place on adjacent land. The 2020 Pearl Hill fire burned more than 50 percent of all known sage-grouse leks in Douglas County and more than 40 percent of all existing habitat. The Badger Mountain area now contains the state's largest known active lek. Sage-grouse rely on large intact landscapes of shrub-steppe habitat, largely tied to private lands and rural agriculture. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.1 million in federal and private grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1275)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Hunter Mountain North**

**Grant Requested: \$4,500,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 520 acres in Okanogan County to protect critical shrub-steppe habitat in the lower Methow Valley. Protecting the land will conserve sagebrush-steppe habitat for mule deer and other species, including the endangered gray wolf. It also improves the east-west wildlife corridor connecting state and federal lands for wildlife travel and makes the land easier to manage. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1235)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving McLoughlin Falls West**

**Grant Requested: \$2,220,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 730 acres in north-central Okanogan County. Protecting this unique land will benefit several important sagebrush-steppe species such as mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, and various migratory bird species. It also helps protect threatened summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, the land contains a number of cultural resources, unique low-elevation ponderosa pine stands, and expansive talus and cliff habitat used by golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and other species. There also will be access to recreational activities such as bird hunting, hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching and the potential for several two-track roads for trail access by non-motorized users. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1233)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Maloney Mountain**

**Grant Requested: \$550,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 145.8 acres of critical habitat in Columbia County. The land has a very high potential for future development due to its location

## Critical Habitat Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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and views, which would increase human disturbance in the area and fragment the important elk winter range. The land is prime Blue Mountain elk winter range and has been identified as a critical linkage parcel. It also is used by golden eagles, American badgers, gray wolves, pileated woodpeckers, black-backed woodpeckers, and bald eagles. Additionally, the land will provide hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1232)

## Grants Awarded

### Natural Areas Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total	Grant Awarded
1	42.6	<a href="#">22-1380 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	\$1,927,277	\$1,927,277	\$1,927,277
2	42.4	<a href="#">22-1294 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve	\$870,024	\$870,024	\$870,024
3	41.1	<a href="#">22-1290 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Kennedy Creek Natural Resources	\$3,595,349	\$3,595,349	\$3,595,349
4	39.7	<a href="#">22-1291 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	\$525,590	\$525,590	Not Funded <sup>2</sup>
5	39	<a href="#">22-1293 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve	\$1,729,255	\$1,729,255	\$1,729,255
6	38.6	<a href="#">22-1289 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Dabob Bay Natural Area	\$642,896	\$642,896	\$642,896
7	37.7	<a href="#">22-1379 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve	\$1,219,995	\$1,219,995	\$1,219,995
8	37.1	<a href="#">22-1292 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve	\$675,209	\$675,209	\$675,209
9	33.6	<a href="#">22-1376 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve	\$524,558	\$524,558	\$524,558
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$11,710,153</b>	<b>\$11,710,153</b>	<b>\$11,184,563</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project type: A=Acquisition

<sup>2</sup>No legislative authority for funding

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2023-22

## Evaluation Scores

### Natural Areas Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Project Name	0. Project Introduction	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-0	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	22-1380 A	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	0	16.90	9.00	12.70	2.90	1.10	42.60
2	22-1294 A	Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve	0	16.20	8.90	11.60	3.60	2.10	42.40
3	22-1290 A	Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area	0	15.30	7.20	11.80	4.40	2.40	41.10
4	22-1291 A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	0	15.20	7.90	11.30	3.40	1.90	39.70
5	22-1293 A	Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve	0	15.50	8.00	11.00	3.10	1.40	39.00
6	22-1289 A	Dabob Bay Natural Area	0	15.40	6.70	11.70	3.20	1.60	38.60
7	22-1379 A	Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve	0	15.00	6.80	12.20	2.60	1.10	37.70
8	22-1292 A	Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve	0	13.80	6.60	12.30	2.90	1.50	37.10
9	22-1376 A	Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve	0	12.80	6.50	10.60	2.50	1.20	33.60

<sup>1</sup>Project Type: A=Acquisition

## Natural Areas Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$1,927,277** **Protecting a Plant Found Nowhere Else in the World**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 1,513 acres to expand the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve, which is about 10 miles south of Wenatchee. The preserve was established in 1989 to protect a rare plant species, Whiteds milkvetch, which exists nowhere else in the world besides in the less than 9 square miles centered around the existing preserve. This is the second phase of acquisition, after which 95 percent of Whited's milkvetch will be protected in the preserve. The preserve provides exceptional opportunities for scientific research and environmental education for school groups and the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1380)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$870,024** **Protecting Frogs in the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy and manage 126 acres of private land within the Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve's approved boundary. The preserve contains high-quality freshwater wetlands and supports a large population of the Oregon spotted frog, which is a state endangered species and a species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The preserve also is a nesting and foraging area for the greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. In addition, several rare plants are found in the seasonally wet meadows and adjacent oak woodlands. This grant would protect permanently all the remaining privately-owned Oregon spotted frog breeding habitat in the Trout Lake watershed to protect the species from future habitat loss and ensure the ability of biologists to continue monitoring breeding populations. The preserve provides exceptional opportunities for scientific research and environmental education for school groups and the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1294)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$3,595,349** **Protecting a Salt Marsh and Salmon Runs in the Kennedy Creek Natural Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 173 acres in the 1,460-acre Kennedy Creek Natural Area, in Mason and Thurston Counties. Buying the land will help permanently protect one of the few remaining high-quality salt marshes and one of the most abundant fall chum salmon runs in southern Puget Sound, with average of 30,000 fish. Kennedy Creek also supports coho salmon and coastal and resident cutthroat trout and winter trout. After spawning, the salmon carcasses provide important nutrients and supplement the diets of 120 different wildlife species, including northern river otter, bobcat, and red-tailed hawk. The mudflats in the natural area provide critical feeding habitat for more than 150 species of birds. In a single day, 10,000 migratory shorebirds have been counted in the Kennedy estuary and



## Natural Areas Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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2,000-5,000 dunlin winter there each year—the largest concentration in central and southern Puget Sound. Each November, more than 5,000 people, including 3,500 students, visit the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, which is in the Natural Area and between the land to be purchased. The trail offers the best salmon education option for school children in southern Puget Sound. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1290)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$525,590** **Buying Land for the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 28 acres of rare plant communities and species in Lacamas Prairie Natural Area, northeast of Vancouver. This Willamette Valley wet prairie represents the only example of its size and quality in Washington, and it is threatened by its closeness to one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in the state. The land supports the second largest of 20 known populations of Bradshaw's Lomatium, a globally critically imperiled, state endangered plant species. It also contains habitat for five state sensitive plant species and the rare slender-billed white breasted nuthatch. The land will be open to the public for environmental education and low-impact use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1291)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$1,729,255** **Buying Shrub-Steppe in the Two Steppe Natural Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy and manage 1,380 acres in Two Steppe Natural Area Preserve in Douglas County. The preserve was established in 1997 to protect three, high-quality plant communities and to provide habitat for species listed on both federal and state endangered species lists, including sage grouse, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, and golden eagle. Shrub-steppe has been fragmented by conversion to farms, altered by invasive species, and degraded by incompatible land management practices. The preserve is in the Moses Coulee National Sage Grouse Priority Area for Conservation and in the breeding area of the Douglas-Grant County greater sage-grouse population. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1293)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$642,896** **Expanding the Dabob Bay Natural Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly 8 acres, including saltwater shoreline, mature forest, and streams in the Dabob Bay Natural Area, in Jefferson County. The purchase will protect permanently the natural processes that occur on a shoreline, such as moving sediment and woody materials, to aid the bay's high-quality coastal spits. The land has 5.7 acres of uplands and 809 feet of shoreline, including 652 feet of streams. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1289)

## Natural Areas Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$1,219,995** **Expanding the Onion Ridge Natural Area to Conserve Important Landscapes**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 300 acres to protect three priority landscapes as the initial acquisition to create the Onion Ridge Natural Area, 16 miles north of Colville in Stevens County. The purchase will target Idaho fescue/parsnip-flowered buckwheat grassland, which is found on ridgetops or around rock outcrops. It is extremely rare to find high-quality examples of this grassland type, which is being protected in only two other areas. The purchase also will target ponderosa pine-Douglas fir/bluebunch wheatgrass woodland, which occurs around balds and on shallow soils. It is not known whether this dry forest community type is protected elsewhere. Finally the purchase will target western redcedar/wild sarsaparilla forest. Protecting this priority land will ensure that the best examples of these bald and forest communities are protected from logging planned for forests immediately outside the approved preserve boundary. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1379)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$675,209** **Expanding the Skookum Inlet Natural Areas to Conserve Rare Salt Marshes**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 11 acres in the Skookum Inlet Natural Area Preserve to protect rare salt marshes in Little Skookum Inlet, 6 miles from Shelton in Mason County. The preserve protects two salt marsh types along with their associated plant communities, which are important, high-quality examples of wetlands in southern Puget Sound. The site also protects tideflats, second-growth forest buffer, chum and coho salmon, and resident cutthroat trout. Winter steelhead, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, is found in Skookum Creek, the major tributary to the inlet. The preserve provides opportunities for environmental education and research. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1292)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$524,558** **Protecting a Forested Bog by Expanding Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 2.6 acres of forested wetland buffer for inclusion in the Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve in Mason County. The land is next to a protected wetland and will protect the wetland's water quality from stormwater runoff and wastewater leaching. The preserve protects a rare example of Puget lowland wetland and forested bog, along with the southern headwaters of fish-bearing Schumacher Creek. In addition, the preserve conserves three rare plant communities. One of the those—Sitka alder/skunk cabbage-water parsley community—is only found in the Puget lowlands and is critically imperiled globally. The second community, the shore pine/bog Labrador tea/Sphagnum community, is ranked as globally vulnerable. The third community is the red

## Natural Areas Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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alder/salmonberry/slough sedge/skunk cabbage community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1376)

## Grants Awarded

### Riparian Protection Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	60	<a href="#">22-1623 A</a>	Columbia Land Trust	West Fork Washougal Conservation	\$1,500,000	\$3,861,000	\$5,361,000	\$1,500,000
2	57.1	<a href="#">22-1295 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$3,884,685		\$3,884,685	\$3,884,685
3	54.9	<a href="#">22-1279 A</a>	Whatcom Land Trust	Stewart Mountain Riparian Reserve	\$665,402	\$1,790,000	\$2,455,402	\$665,402
4	54.7	<a href="#">22-1241 A</a>	Capitol Land Trust	Hudson Cove Riparian Habitat Protection	\$2,122,000	\$2,124,000	\$4,246,000	\$2,122,000
5	54.3	<a href="#">22-1240 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	\$1,095,250		\$1,095,250	\$1,095,250
6	54.2	<a href="#">22-1416 C</a>	Jefferson Land Trust	Salmon Creek Ruck Acquisition	\$250,000	\$478,690	\$728,690	\$250,000
7	54.1	<a href="#">22-1600 A</a>	Forterra	Woods Lake Acquisition	\$297,425	\$297,425	\$594,850	\$297,425
8	54	<a href="#">22-1239 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline	\$3,950,000		\$3,950,000	\$1,922,000 <sup>2</sup>
9	52.7	<a href="#">22-1238 A</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	North Okanogan County Inholdings	\$295,000		\$295,000	Alternate
10	52.6	<a href="#">22-1245 A</a>	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Thorp Reach Acquisition	\$1,245,089	\$1,245,089	\$2,490,178	Alternate
11	51.8	<a href="#">22-1369 A</a>	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Tahuya River Protection	\$1,113,600	\$1,221,200	\$2,334,800	Alternate
12	49.2	<a href="#">22-1598 A</a>	Seattle Public Utilities	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Reach Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,317,500	\$2,317,500	Alternate
13	45.9	<a href="#">22-1683 A</a>	Forterra	Clover Creek Protection Tacoma Water Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$5,212,000	\$6,212,000	Alternate
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$18,418,451</b>	<b>\$17,546,904</b>	<b>\$35,965,355</b>	<b>\$11,736,762</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

<sup>2</sup>Partial Funding

## Evaluation Scores

### Riparian Protection Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Project Name	1. Acquisition Benefits	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Stewardship	4. Restoration	5. Threats to the Habitat	6. Community Benefit and Public Access	7. Matching Share	8. Matching Share Bonus	9. Growth Management Act	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-16	0-8	0-5	0-10	0-3	0-1	-1-0	
1	22-1623 A	West Fork Washougal Conservation	18.20	12.40	13.30		4.30	7.80	3.00	1.00	0.00	60.00
2	22-1295 A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	17.50	13.30	13.90		4.50	7.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.10
3	22-1279 A	Stewart Mountain Riparian Reserve	16.00	12.20	11.80		3.60	7.30	3.00	1.00	0.00	54.90
4	22-1241 A	Hudson Cove Riparian Habitat Protection	16.60	12.80	12.40		4.60	7.30	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.70
5	22-1240 A	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	17.10	12.40	12.40		4.00	8.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.30
6	22-1416 C	Salmon Creek Ruck Acquisition	16.20	11.90	6.20	6.60	4.20	8.10	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.20
7	22-1600 A	Woods Lake Acquisition	16.60	11.70	13.00		3.80	8.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	54.10
8	22-1239 A	North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline	17.20	12.00	13.30		3.70	7.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00
9	22-1238 A	North Okanogan County Inholdings	17.30	12.50	12.60		2.90	7.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.70
10	22-1245 A	Thorp Reach Acquisition	16.70	11.70	12.00		4.10	7.10	0.00	1.00	0.00	52.60
11	22-1369 A	Tahuya River Protection	16.30	11.40	12.40		4.20	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.80
12	22-1598 A	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Reach Acquisition	14.50	10.80	12.00		3.40	7.50	0.00	1.00	0.00	49.20
13	22-1683 A	Clover Creek Protection Tacoma Water Acquisition	12.20	10.10	10.20		4.40	6.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	45.90

<sup>1</sup>Project Type: A=Acquisition, C=Combination

## Riparian Protection Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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#### **Columbia Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$1,500,000**

#### **Conserving the Oldest Private Forest on the West Fork Washougal River**

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 307 acres in Skamania County to preserve one of the oldest and largest remaining private forests in the Washougal River watershed. The purchase also will conserve more than 3 miles of shoreline habitat on the West Fork Washougal River and perennial tributary Jackson Creek for salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The land has steeply sloped forests of mature Douglas-fir, cedar, and hemlock. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$3.8 million in federal and private grants and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1623)

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

**Grant Requested: \$3,884,685**

#### **Buying Hood Canal Shoreline in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 169 acres along Hood Canal in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, near Seabeck in Kitsap County. The purchase will add to the conservation area and the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, which combined provide high-quality and regionally diminishing wildlife habitat and are a crucial part of a larger landscape of forestlands on the western Kitsap Peninsula. Acquisition will support wildlife in an urbanizing area and protect Puget Sound shoreline habitat, mature forests, and critical wetlands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1295)

#### **Whatcom Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$665,402**

#### **Conserving Sensitive Land in the Stewart Mountain Community Forest**

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 550 acres of salmon-bearing tributaries, forest, and floodplain in the South Fork Nooksack River valley as the first phase of building the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The community forest is a collaborative effort to convert 5,500 acres of forestland into local ownership to be managed as a working forest that supports a range of uses and community benefits. The land to be purchased contains nearly 2 miles of stream bank on the South Fork Nooksack River and more than 1 mile of fish-bearing tributaries in steep inner gorges. In 2021, severe weather led to deaths of 2,500 Chinook salmon, debris flow, and a stream leaving its channel, all showing a pressing need to conserve the land and protect both wildlife and people in the Nooksack River valley. The Whatcom Land Trust will

## Riparian Protection Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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contribute more than \$1.7 million in Conservation Futures<sup>1</sup> and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1279)

#### **Capitol Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$2,122,000**

#### **Conserving Hudson Cove Habitat**

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement<sup>2</sup> on nearly 228 acres of mostly undeveloped shoreline, pocket estuary, salt marsh, and forest on Totten Inlet in Olympia. Known as Hudson Cove, this is the largest property on the inlet under private ownership. The cove provides sheltered habitat for juvenile salmon species migrating to the Pacific Ocean, spawning areas for the fish salmon eat, and important nesting and foraging habitat in the salt marsh and mud flat for shorebirds. Fifteen species listed on state and federal endangered species lists rely on the land's important habitat at some point in their lives. The land hosts more than 1.5 miles of largely undeveloped, forested, marine shoreline, a 7.8-acre pocket estuary, and 0.8 mile of streams. The land is zoned for houses and faces a high likelihood of development. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute more than \$2.1 million in federal and local grants and a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1241)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Grant Requested: \$1,095,250**

#### **Conserving Twin River**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 216 acres of habitat along West Twin River directly adjacent to the Salish Sea. The site includes some of the most complex and diverse shorelines of the Salish Sea. The land includes shoreline, river, coastal wetland, and forest habitat on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Acquisition will protect and enhance the natural processes in one of the remaining functional ecological systems in western Washington. Many fish use the shoreline, including Chinook, coho and chum salmon; cutthroat, steelhead, and bull trout; and forage fish. In addition, it has intact eelgrass and kelp beds and provides rich shorebird and migratory bird habitat, including a flight corridor for federally listed marbled murrelet. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1240)

#### **Jefferson Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$250,000**

#### **Conserving Salmon Creek**

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 155 acres, including nearly 1 mile of Salmon Creek, to protect permanently this important habitat at the head of Discovery Bay. The Salmon

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<sup>1</sup>Conservation 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.

<sup>2</sup>This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

## Riparian Protection Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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and Snow Creek Estuary is the most intact of its type on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and is the unquestioned stronghold of the Strait of Juan De Fuca summer chum salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Salmon Creek is the spawning grounds for chum and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. This land is next to already conserved lands and expands the successful protection and restoration efforts conducted by Chumsortium partners since 2001. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$478,690 in Conservation Futures<sup>3</sup> and a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1416)

#### **Forterra Northwest Conserving Woods Lake Habitat**

**Grant Requested: \$297,425**

Forterra, in partnership with the Tulalip Tribes, will use this grant to buy 40 acres, including part of Woods Lake, near Monroe. Woods Lake is a pristine, 21-acre freshwater lake surrounded by a forested wetland featuring bog-related species. Freshwater bogs are considered imperiled by the Washington Natural Heritage Program and many have been eliminated by development. The land supports many plants unique to freshwater bogs including healthy, dense stands of bog labrador tea, western bog laurel, bog cranberry, and round-leaf sundew. The land is next to state forestlands and its purchase would protect nearly all the lake's shoreline. The Tulalip Tribes will own the land and use it for cultural access and traditional uses and will allow some limited public and educational access. Forterra will contribute \$297,425 funded by Snohomish County Conservation Futures.<sup>4</sup> Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1600)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving North Willapa Bay Estuaries and Shoreline**

**Grant Requested: \$3,950,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy up to 1,500 acres of forest and wetlands along the northern shore of Willapa Bay, between the mouths of the Willapa and North Rivers. The purchase will help provide nearly uninterrupted connectivity over a fragmented 10 miles of department-owned shoreline and riverbanks. The land is used by wildlife designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need such as marbled murrelet, dusky Canada goose, band-tailed pigeon, and game species such as Roosevelt elk and Columbia black-tailed deer, and a variety of waterfowl. The land overlaps the mouths of ten, fish-bearing, freshwater streams used by chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, the land includes tidally influenced areas of Willapa Bay that are identified as critical habitat for green sturgeon,

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<sup>3</sup>Conservation 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.

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



## Riparian Protection Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1239)

#### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** **Grant Requested: \$295,000** **Buying Habitat Inholdings in North Okanogan County**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy nearly 54 acres to protect important wildlife species. The department will buy 37 acres next to the Similkameen-Chopaka Unit of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area that is surrounded on all sides by department land and the last non-department owned 16.5 acres on Eyhott Island, which is in the Driscoll-Eyhott Island Unit of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. Buying the land will allow the department to protect critical habitat along water bodies; the state imperiled, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe and ponderosa pine woodland; and savanna ecological systems. These habitats support a diverse array of birds including wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and woodpeckers, in addition to Columbia River steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, kokanee salmon, and freshwater mussels. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1238)

#### **Kittitas Conservation Trust** **Grant Requested: \$1,245,089** **Conserving a Yakima River Reach in Thorp**

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to buy 235 acres of floodplain including 1 mile along the Yakima River in Thorp. This project will better protect multiple habitats and migration corridors for steelhead, rainbow, cutthroat and bull trout, and Chinook and coho salmon as well as many native fish and aquatic species. The Kittitas Conservation Trust will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the salmon recovery program, a private grant, and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1245)

#### **Great Peninsula Conservancy** **Grant Requested: \$1,113,600** **Conserving the Tahuya River**

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy the lower 4 miles of the Tahuya River in Mason County. The Tahuya is the largest river flowing into the east side of Hood Canal and the lower 4 miles are privately owned, mostly in unsubdivided large parcels. They are important as the watershed's only spawning and rearing habitat for Hood Canal summer chum and Chinook salmon, both of which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The project represents a rare opportunity to conserve the entire lower part of a large, undeveloped river system in Puget Sound. The conservancy will buy 145 acres and conservation easements<sup>5</sup> on another 27 acres, covering 172 acres and 1.5 miles of riverfront and tributaries. The Great

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<sup>5</sup>This is a voluntary agreement to sell the right to develop the land and permanently prevent future development and subdivision by placing a restriction on the property title.

## Riparian Protection Category

### Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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Peninsula Conservancy will contribute more than \$1.2 million in a grant from the salmon recovery program and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1369)

#### **Seattle Public Utilities Expanding Upper Royal Arch Reach**

**Grant Requested: \$1,000,000**

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to buy 20 acres of floodplain on the Upper Royal Arch Reach of the Cedar River, west of Maple Valley, to improve resting and rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmon and trout species. This includes 720 feet of riverfront to be restored in the future. Seattle will contribute more than \$1.3 million in Conservation Futures<sup>6</sup> and a grant from the state Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1598)

#### **Forterra Northwest Protecting Clover Creek**

**Grant Requested: \$1,000,000**

Forterra will use this grant to buy 113 acres of forest and wetlands near the headwaters of Clover Creek to preserve this critical habitat for salmon and other species. Protecting this land, which is in a commercial-only zoned area of Frederickson, is extremely important to maintain clean and cold water in the creek system. Forterra is partnering with the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club Land Conservation Foundation to protect this land, which has seen immense growth in the past decade. The land is predominantly along Clover Creek and forestland with healthy, functioning wetland complexes. The infrastructure on site, including several shooting ranges, will continue to be used recreationally. Forterra will contribute more than \$5.2 million funded by Pierce County's Conservation Futures,<sup>7</sup> a state appropriation, and grants from the salmon recovery program and local, state, and private organizations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1683)

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<sup>6</sup>Conservation 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.

<sup>7</sup>Conservation 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.

## Grants Awarded

### State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total	Grant Awarded
1	52.9	<a href="#">22-1554 R</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration	\$502,500	\$502,500	\$502,500
2	50	<a href="#">22-1589 R</a>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration Phase 2	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
3	47.8	<a href="#">22-1405 R</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Klickitat Canyon Deer Creek Wetland Restoration	\$111,500	\$111,500	\$111,500
3	47.8	<a href="#">22-1585 R</a>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Restoration of Hope Island Natural Area Preserve	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
5	47.6	<a href="#">22-1690 R</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	West Foster Creek and China Creek Riparian Restoration	\$229,700	\$229,700	\$229,700
6	46.5	<a href="#">22-1626 R</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Taneum River Mile 5 Floodplain Restoration	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000
7	42.8	<a href="#">22-1689 R</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Toutle River Riparian Restoration	\$533,000	\$533,000	\$533,000
8	40.8	<a href="#">22-1517 R</a>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Little Walla Walla River Restoration	\$242,900	\$242,900	\$242,900
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$2,289,600</b>	<b>\$2,289,600</b>	<b>\$2,289,600</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project type: R=Restoration

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2023-22

## Evaluation Scores

### State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Project Name	0. Project Introduction	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	3. Project Design	4. Planning	5. Public Benefit and Support	Total
		<b>Point Range</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-15</b>	<b>0-15</b>	<b>0-15</b>	<b>0-5</b>	<b>0-5</b>	
1	22-1554 R	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration	0	14.90	14.70	13.90	4.70	4.70	52.90
2	22-1589 R	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration Phase 2	0	14.20	13.70	13.40	4.50	4.20	50.00
3	22-1405 R	Klickitat Canyon Deer Creek Wetland Restoration	0	13.60	13.60	12.20	4.30	4.10	47.80
3	22-1585 R	Restoration of Hope Island Natural Area Preserve	0	14.00	13.20	12.60	4.00	4.00	47.80
5	22-1690 R	West Foster Creek and China Creek Riparian Restoration	0	13.20	12.70	12.80	4.30	4.60	47.60
6	22-1626 R	Taneum River Mile 5 Floodplain Restoration	0	12.90	12.40	13.20	4.30	3.70	46.50
7	22-1689 R	Toutle River Riparian Restoration	0	11.60	11.50	11.60	3.90	4.20	42.80
8	22-1517 R	Little Walla Walla River Restoration	0	10.00	11.90	11.50	3.40	4.00	40.80

<sup>1</sup>Project Type: R=Restoration

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

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### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$502,500** **Restoring Grassland and Oak Woodlands in South Sound**

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore more than 700 acres of outwash prairie, grassland bald, oak woodland, and wetland habitat at five of the most significant conservation sites in the south Puget Sound region: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area, Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and Bald Hill Natural Area Preserve. The agencies will acquire native seeds and transplants; prepare restoration areas for seeding through burning, mowing, and controlling invasive plants; and then seed and replant these areas. These sites harbor some of the last remaining populations of federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered plants and animals and Department of Fish and Wildlife's Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the region. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1554)

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission** **Grant Requested: \$130,000** **Completing Restoration of Leadbetter Point Coastal Dunes**

State Parks will use this grant to complete restoration of 55 acres of native coastal dune habitat in Leadbetter Point State Park. State Parks will control invasive plants to restore the native dune topography, processes, plants, and habitat for four species of concern and an imperiled ecosystem. The dunes are home to the western snowy plover and the streaked horned lark, two species that are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and the pink sand verbena and bear's-foot sanicle, both of which are on the state endangered species list. The work also will benefit the critically imperiled dune ecosystem, the North Pacific Maritime Coastal Sand Dune and Strand. This work builds on extensive restoration by State Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of more than 850 acres of herb- and shrub-dominated dunes at the north end of the Long Beach peninsula. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1589)

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Requested: \$111,500** **Restoring the Deer Creek Wetland**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the 122-acre Deer Creek wetland in the Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area, 3 miles northeast of Glenwood. The wetland is used by the greater sandhill crane, a state endangered species. One of only five sandhill crane nesting areas in Washington is near the project site. The site provides important foraging habitat during the nesting season. The Deer Creek wetland has been seriously damaged by ditching, roads, livestock grazing, and invasion by non-native species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1405)

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

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### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**      **Grant Requested: \$160,000** **Restoring the Hope Island Natural Area Preserve**

State Parks will use this grant to restore imperiled grassland balds and rare and high-quality forests on Hope Island Natural Area Preserve, in Skagit County. State Parks will remove invasive annual grasses and encroaching trees and then seed and plant native forbs and grasses. This project builds on past restoration efforts, with a goal of increasing the cover and resilience of native plant communities to a point where only spot treatments of invasives will be needed. The grassland balds support more than 50 native plant species, including Washington's largest population of Indian Valley brodiaea, a species thought to extirpated from the state until re-discovered in 2021. The majority of Hope Island is dominated by two Douglas-fir-western hemlock forests and a rare Pacific madrone forest, in a mosaic of old-growth and maturing second-growth trees arising from past fires and wind events. These forests have been recognized as some of the best examples of lowland, old-growth forest in the Puget Trough ecoregion. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1585)

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**      **Grant Requested: \$229,700** **Restoring the Banks of West Foster and China Creeks**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 0.35 mile of West Foster Creek in the Wells Wildlife Area and 0.4 mile of China Creek in the Big Bend Wildlife Area. Floods and wildfires have damaged these creeks and creek-side plants, especially water birch. Water birch is the preferred winter forage habitat for the endangered Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Fires destroyed many water birch stands, forcing the grouse elsewhere in search of food. The department will install beaver dam replicas and post structures to slow water flow, reduce erosion, and allow the water to reconnect with adjacent plant communities. In addition, the department will remove invasive vegetation and plant native trees, shrubs, and forbs along the creek banks. Planting the creek banks will help reduce erosion because the plant roots hold back sediment. Long-term, the project will allow the creeks to meander, improve water quality, increase groundwater recharge, expand creek bank buffer areas, and reestablish habitat preferred by the endangered grouse. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1690)

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**      **Grant Requested: \$380,000** **Restoring the Taneum River Floodplain**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, will use this grant to place logjams in Taneum Creek, remove old road materials from the floodplain, and realign a private road to reduce the amount of road fill in the historic floodplain. The work is in a reach of the creek that has been straightened by humans

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

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and become steeper. As a result, the water leaves the area quickly instead of being stored and released as cold water late in the summer when young salmon are trying to grow before heading to the ocean. The work will change the channel bed, reconnect the floodplain with the creek more frequently, and restore former wet meadow habitat, providing resting and growing areas for salmon. The department also will plant 3,000-5,000 plants in the floodplain. Planting trees and bushes along the creek bank shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for Chinook and coho salmon, westslope cutthroat and resident rainbow trout, and lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1626)

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Banks of the Toutle River**

**Grant Requested: \$533,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to install log structures in a 3-mile stretch of the North Fork Toutle River, in the Mudflow Unit of the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area. The department will place lateral log wall structures in the river to move the water away from eroding banks and small logjams in the river to slow the water and create a more stable river channel. This work will slow bank erosion and allow recovery of the forest along the riverbank, ultimately improving habitat for salmon species and wintering elk. Logjams create places for salmon to rest, feed, and hide from predators. They also slow the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom to create spawning areas. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The department also will plant trees along the banks, which shades the water, keeping it cool for salmon. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother spawning gravel. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1689)

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Little Walla Walla River**

**Grant Requested: \$242,900**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Tri-State Steelheaders and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, will use this grant to restore about a quarter-mile of the West Little Walla Walla River and surrounding uplands in the Swegle Unit of the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area, in Walla Walla County. The department will place wood structures in the river, remove reed canary grass and poison hemlock from the riverbank, and plant trees and shrubs along the riverbank and in the surrounding upland to improve habitat for pollinators and other wildlife species. Planting the banks will help restore the degraded

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

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Columbia Basin Foothill Riparian Woodland and Shrubland habitat type found in the area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1517)



## Grants Awarded

### Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	99.9	<a href="#">22-1464 A</a>	Spokane County	Rimrock to Riverside Acquisition	\$731,744	\$781,456	\$1,513,200	\$731,744
2	99.4	<a href="#">22-1378 A</a>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Mount Si, Middle Fork, and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas	\$5,474,856		\$5,474,856	\$4,042,562 <sup>2</sup>
3	90.9	<a href="#">22-1518 A</a>	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,070	\$3,700,070	\$1,850,000
4	89.7	<a href="#">22-1613 A</a>	Kitsap County	Illehee Preserve Phase 2	\$655,000	\$655,000	\$1,310,000	\$655,000
5	86.4	<a href="#">22-1415 A</a>	Jefferson Land Trust	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions Phase 2	\$984,717	\$1,482,343	\$2,467,060	\$490,214 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$9,696,317</b>	<b>\$4,768,869</b>	<b>\$14,465,186</b>	<b>\$7,769,520</b>

<sup>1</sup>Project type: A=Acquisition

<sup>2</sup>Partial funding

<sup>3</sup>Awarded a 2020 grant; this amount covers cost increases.

## Evaluation Scores

### Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type <sup>1</sup>	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Community Benefits and Public Access	4. Management and Stewardship	5. Growth Management Act	6. Population of Urban Area	7. Proximity to Urban Area	Total
		Point Range	0-40	0-15	0-35	0-15	-1-0	0-5	0-5	
1	22-1464 A	Rimrock to Riverside Acquisition	32.80	13.90	30.70	12.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	99.90
2	22-1378 A	Mount Si, Middle Fork, and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas	35.10	12.80	29.00	12.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	99.40
3	22-1518 A	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	30.00	12.00	27.40	11.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	90.90
4	22-1613 A	Illahee Preserve Phase 2	31.00	11.70	26.60	11.40	0.00	4.00	5.00	89.70
5	22-1415 A	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions Phase 2	27.80	13.20	28.20	11.20	0.00	1.00	5.00	86.40

<sup>1</sup>Project type: A=Acquisition

## Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

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### **Spokane**

**Grant Requested: \$731,744**

#### **Connecting Rimrock to Riverside**

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to buy 118 acres to expand and connect Palisades Park to Riverside State Park, preserving an extensive wildlife corridor. The land contains forest, shrub-steppe, wetland, and cliff habitat and is a corridor for moose, elk, and white-tailed deer. In addition, the purchase will allow the County to expand trail opportunities, such as hiking and mountain biking, just one-third mile from Spokane. Spokane County will contribute \$781,456 in Conservation Futures.<sup>1</sup> Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1464)

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

**Grant Requested: \$5,474,856**

#### **Expanding Natural Resources Conservation Areas in King County**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 38 acres at Mount Si, 330 acres at Middle Fork Snoqualmie, and 114 acres at West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas in east King County. The goal is to conserve land in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that provides crucial habitat and is highly threatened by residential development. The greenway is a 100-mile landscape of forests, wildlife habitat, and open areas along Interstate 90, a National Scenic Byway. The conservation areas' distinctive features include talus, high-elevation lakes, streams, wetlands, old-growth and mature forests, cliffs, and landscape connections for wildlife. Large mammals known to use the conservation areas include cougars, bobcats, mountain goats, black bears, coyotes, and elk. Red-tailed hawks, ospreys, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers also have been observed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1378)

### **Bainbridge Island Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$1,850,000**

#### **Conserving Rockaway Bluff**

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use this grant to buy the 45-acre Rockaway Bluff Preserve, an exceptional forest lying upland of Rockaway Beach on Bainbridge Island. The preserve forms the core of an extraordinary forest with wetland habitat and provides a stunning visual impression of the island from the ferry. It serves as a refuge for many species, particularly birds, displaced by development. The preserve is in the long plateau between two already conserved public parks—Pritchard Park and Blakely Harbor Park—and its purchase will conserve habitat connectivity permanently. This project protects one of the last eight parcels larger than 20 acres, permanently protects key parts of a complex habitat network, supports watershed functions and bluff stability, and ensures an enjoyable pedestrian trail network into the future. The Bainbridge

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<sup>1</sup>Conservation 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)

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Island Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.8 million in Conservation Futures<sup>2</sup> and donations of services and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1518)

### **Kitsap County**

**Grant Requested: \$655,000**

#### **Expanding Illahee Preserve Heritage Park**

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy up to 30 acres bordering Bremerton to expand the 618-acre Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. Located in the heart of the most densely populated area of Kitsap County, the preserve is a mature forest with unique natural features, such as deeply incised canyons and areas so pristine and wild it has been called "The Lost Continent." The land to be purchased is prime wildlife habitat and includes 0.4 mile of stream and stream bank and wildlife corridors connecting the preserve with Illahee State Park. The purchase will bring the preserve within 98 percent of its ultimate size. Public access is provided by a trail system. Kitsap County will contribute \$655,000 in a state appropriation and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1613)

### **Jefferson Land Trust**

**Grant Requested: \$984,717**

#### **Expanding the Quimper Wildlife Corridor**

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy nearly 50 acres to expand the 245-acre Quimper Wildlife Corridor, in Port Townsend. Jefferson County, Port Townsend, and the land trust have worked since the mid-1990s to conserve a 3.5-mile corridor of forest and wetlands that follows the city's largest drainage basin across the north Quimper Peninsula. The corridor provides habitat for more than 130 bird species, including state priority species Vaux's swift and golden eagle, as well as amphibians, mountain beaver, bobcat, cougar, deer, elk, and other wildlife. An extensive network of trails through the corridor provide access to the public for hiking, horse riding, biking, bird watching, school nature programs, and educational activities. The land trust also will use the grant to update a management plan and inventory the rare, old-growth trees scattered in the forest. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.4 million in Conservation Futures,<sup>3</sup> a private grant, and donations of land or property interest and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1415)

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<sup>2</sup>Conservation 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.

<sup>3</sup>Conservation 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.