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

Location Virtually: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nhi_oC2kQMkojloBB4gjQA

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 829 4776 1494

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

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order *Chair Willhite*

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

9:15 a.m. 1. Consent Agenda (Decision) *Chair Willhite*

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - January 25, 2023
- B. Time Extensions (74)
- C. Advisor Recognitions (3)

Resolution 2023-06

9:20 a.m. 2. Director's Report

- A. Director's Report
- B. Legislative and Policy Update
- C. Grant Management Report (*written only*)
- D. Grant Services Report (*written only*)
- E. Performance Report (*written only*)
- F. Fiscal Report (*written only*)

*Megan Duffy
Brock Milliern
Marguerite Austin
Kyle Guzlas
Bart Lynch
Mark Jarasitis*

9:50 a.m. BREAK

10:05 a.m. General Public Comment for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:10 a.m. 3. Grant Criteria Changes *Leah Dobey*

11:00 a.m. 4. Youth Athletic Facilities and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Changes *Brock Milliern and Ben Donatelle*

11:30 a.m. LUNCH

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

12:30 p.m. 5. Addressing Cost Increases Process Follow-up *Brock Milliern*

Resolution 2023-07

Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes

1:15 p.m.	6. Chelan County Wenatchee River Park Conversion Decision <u>Resolution 2023-08</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes	<i>Myra Barker</i>
1:40 p.m.	7. Additions to Exceptions to Conversion Policy Proposal <u>Resolution 2023-09</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes	<i>Myra Barker</i>
2:25 p.m.	8. Scope Change: City of Zillah, Zillah Splash Park, 20-1305 <u>Resolution 2023-10</u>	<i>Jesse Sims</i>
2:45 p.m.	9. Boating Facilities Program (BFP): Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists <u>Resolution 2023-11</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes	<i>Allison Dellwo</i>
3:05 p.m.	10. Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR): Approval of Preliminary Ranked List <u>Resolution 2023-12</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes	<i>Ashly Arambul</i>
3:20 p.m.	BREAK	
3:35 p.m.	11. Recreational Trails Program (RTP): Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists <u>Resolution 2023-13</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.	<i>Hayley Edmonston</i>
3:55 p.m.	12. Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program: Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists <u>Resolution 2023-14</u> Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.	<i>Brian Carpenter and Dan Haws</i>

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

4:20 p.m. 13.State Agency Partner Reports

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

Jon Snyder

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn

Peter Herzog

Amy Windrope

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – June 27-28, 2023 - Online and In-person in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE 98501

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: January 24, 2023

Place: Hybrid- Room 172, 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA, 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee
Kathryn Gardow	Seattle	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Trang Lam	Camas	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting. Please note that each memo is linked in the topic below.

Call to Order

Chair Ted Willhite opened the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting at 9:02 AM. He requested roll call, determining quorum, and approved of members Kathryn Gardow and Shiloh Burgess joining online.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Willhite called for introductions of all board members. He presented a resolution to recognize the service of Member Gardow, who completed her final formal term in December 2022.

Chair Willhite introduced the consent agenda, which included the October 25-26, 2022, meeting minutes, four time extensions, and three volunteer recognitions.

Motion: Approval of January 24, 2023, agenda

Moved By: Member Herzog

Seconded By: Member Shiosaki

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2023-01

Moved By: Member Herzog

Seconded By: Member Gardow

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2023-05

Moved By: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Seconded By: Member Shiosaki

Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Director's Report

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director **Megan Duffy** summarized key agency activities, including work on the No Child Left Inside Grant Program, which had over 175 applications requesting over \$12 million and the Washington State Trails Coalition annual trails conference, of which Outdoor Grants Manager, Jesse Sims played a significant role. For 2023, the agency continues focus on equity work both internally and externally and plans to co-host a boating access conference in August alongside the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks).

After commending Director Duffy for her work since joining the agency, **Chair Willhite** requested a brief update on technology and RCO's efforts in leveraging technology services and information.

Director Duffy updated the board with the changes to the PRISM database, including the new cultural resources module, but promised an additional staff overview at a future meeting.

Legislative and Policy Update

Policy Director, **Brock Milliern** updated the board on the current legislative session, noting it would wrap up on April 23. Bills of interest include the following.

- House Bill (HB) 1086: Increases limit a local government can direct contract with a community service organization from \$25,000 to \$75,000.
- Senate Bill (SB) 5095: Established a "Parks Prescription (Rx)" committee at the Department of Health and requires the Department to establish pilot programs.
- SB 5145: Amends the recreational immunity in relationship to water flow from dams,
- HB 1190: Establishes the "Outdoor Recreation Account" as part of the Climate Commitment Act.
- HB 1212: Eliminates the Discover Pass and daily permit fees to make outdoor recreational opportunities more accessible by eliminating the financial barrier of the pass.
- SB 5471/5314: Allows electric assist bikes on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and WDFW lands where bicycles are allowed.
- SB 5372: Establishes the Trust Land Transfer program at DNR.

During discussion, board members asked about the increase to the forecast for biennium, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) capital budget request, and the focus of the elimination of the Discover Pass bill. Mr. Milliern explained that budget forecast is at \$762 million for the 2023-2025 biennium; the Governor's Budget included \$120 million for WWRP; and noted that the Discover Pass can be a financial barrier to public access for some individuals.

Grants Cycle Overview

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, updated the board on the 2022-23 grants cycle. This includes the process that began in spring 2022, when the board approved ranked lists that were submitted to the Governor and Legislature and the fall cycle of programs, which are funded through dedicated accounts. The fall cycle applications are currently being evaluated and include the following programs: Boating Facilities (BFP), Firearms and Archery Range, Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles and Recreational Trails. RCO staff will bring the ranked lists back in April and request final funding at the June meeting.

Item 3: Equity Review Action Plan Overview

Leah Dobey, RCO policy specialist, reviewed six high level recommendations from the 2022 report on equitable grants administration. The first phase of work on these recommendations will begin this year and focus on existing efforts, community engagement, changes to evaluation criteria, the evaluation process, and partner-oriented topics.

Existing efforts include funding requests for a tribal liaison, a diversity, equity, and inclusion coordinator, and a data management position; testing some of the recommendations in the new Planning for Recreation Access grant program; implementing equity training; and improving representation in RCO's advisory committees.

Over the coming months, communications staff will work to broaden RCO's reach by developing a more wide-reaching outreach strategy and building relationships through social media with more diverse organizations. Policy staff will analyze specific criteria and potential changes identified in the Equity Review with plans to present decisions to the board in October. Grant services staff will work to improve applicant support while other agency staff will work with outside partners to identify funding opportunities and resources for sponsors.

Director Duffy asked for the total number of new applicants in the Planning for Recreational Access Program.

Ms. Dobey said 99 were new applicants and 77 had not received a grant from the RCO in the last 10 years.

During discussion, board members recognized the importance of the work, while also recognizing that the equity review is ongoing, and they were pleased that RCO has begun acting on recommendations.

Member Shiosaki asked for clarification regarding the Planning for Recreation Access grants, as to whether they are approved by the director and do not come to the board for review.

Director Duffy confirmed that they do not come before the board.

General Public Comment:

Marie Sciacqua commented regarding the City of Federal Way Steel Lake Park Annex. According to Ms. Sciacqua, this property was purchased in 1968 and passed to Federal Way in 1991. However, RCO grants had been utilized to improve this property. The city plans to build a maintenance facility on the property which would create a conversion. Ms. Sciacqua requested RCO advise her on what she and others can do to stop the city from using the annex to build a public works facility.

Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager, gave an update on the potential conversion of the Steel Lake Park Annex due to a proposal to construct an operations and maintenance facility. She has met with City staff and explained the conversion approval process. The city has not formally notified RCO of their intent to convert.

Ms. Sciacqua commented that the area is going to start growing by urban measures and the citizens really need the park.

Roxanne Miles, Washington Wildlife and Parks Association (WRPA) member, suggested increasing grant limits in over-subscribed WWRP categories and the Youth Athletic Facilities program as oftentimes applicants apply to each in hopes of getting funding from one of the programs, doubling work for RCO internally and the external applicants. She would like to join the agency in a discussion regarding increasing the Youth Athletic Facilities grant limits.

BREAK: 10:27 – 10:40

Item 4: Addressing Cost Increases Process

Policy Director **Brock Milliern** discussed possible options for addressing cost increases in both the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and WWRP grant programs. However, the board was not asked to make any policy decisions at the January meeting.

Mr. Milliern explained that ALEA is fairly straightforward like other RCO programs that allow for cost increases and is not guided by a funding formula, like WWRP which has complexities that possibly make cost increases more difficult.

RCO data indicates that there has been an average of five cost increases per year in the last seven years for RCO's recreation programs.

Members inquired if there was a difference in cost increase requests between land acquisition vs development projects? They also asked whether cost increases were not allowed in ALEA due to a prior board decision.

Marguerite Austin responded that project cost increases are associated with development projects. At times, applicants apply with a certain amount of match money and try to do a lot with a small budget, leading to necessary removal of nonessential items from their budget when the need for cost increase arises.

Mr. Milliern continued presenting the policy options for both programs.

ALEA includes:

- 1) allow the RCO director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project cost,
- 2) Leave existing approach in place.

Board members had several questions, including:

- Is ALEA is no longer oversubscribed, and if so, how come
- Is 10 percent sufficient for a cost increase allowance or should it be greater,
- If cost increase requests delay projects; and,
- If WWRP projects can amend the originally identified scopes of work.

Ms. Austin replied that undersubscription is associated with continued work on previous projects due to the pandemic, project permitting being lengthy, water-related project costs exceeding the maximum funding requests, and the requirement that ALEA applicants provide match when other agencies do not require match for similar programs.

Mr. Milliern also explained that it is difficult to predict if a 10 percent increase will be sufficient and that project cost increases can delay project progress. Additionally, project scope can be reduced if it does not cause significant change to project intent.

Chair Willhite asked board members if they thought the approach to cost increases should be standard across all programs.

Member Shiosaki asked that we consider different options for ALEA vs WWRP as ALEA does not have the same complexities as WWRP.

Mr. Milliern then presented options for WWRP:

- 1) Allow the RCO director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation accounts.
- 2) Modifies option 1 to include a clear priority for how funding would be distributed – first, partially funded projects would receive funding, second, projects asking for cost increases and then third, alternate projects would be funded. Mr. Milliern noted that one drawback of this approach is that it would not spread the board funding as far down the project list.
- 3) Hold back a small percentage of 2023-25 WWRP allocation to deal with potential cost increases.
- 4) Continue with no cost increases in this program.

Members suggested that unused funds should cascade to the next projects and that further exploration of option three be explored with a time constraint consideration.

Christine Mahler from Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition explained her concern with legislative response to Option 3, as withholding 1-2.5 percent could change the funding cutoff on that list. She asked to know what that 1-2.5 percent would look like in the different categories to ensure it would not affect the project positions.

Board members asked additional clarifying questions, but overall agreed that option one should be removed from consideration and directed additional RCO research into the remaining options.

Item 5: Cultural Resources Overview

Sarah Thirtyacre, Cultural Resources Unit Manager and **Sarah Johnson Humphries**, Archaeologist provided the annual overview of the RCO's cultural resources work. This included an overview of the regulatory framework, agency consultation methods, and highlighted recent process improvements.

The regulatory framework included Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996, the Governor's Executive Order 21-02, and Revised Codes of Washington (RCWs), like 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055.

Executive Order 21-02 requires agencies to consult with the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and affected tribes on the potential effects that state funded projects may have on cultural resources. A "Federal Nexus" is created by any federal agency issuing a federal permit or license or providing federal funds, and the agency must comply with Section 106. The goal of RCO's Cultural Resource program is to facilitate a comprehensive consultation process that provides a thorough review of projects proposed for funding.

Process improvements included PRISM database enhancements such as mapping GIS integration, an internal review module, grant agreement integrations, reports, and automated letters to sponsors.

During discussion, board members inquired about the data sharing agreement with DAHP and shared data between state agencies.

The cultural resource team explained that there is a signed interagency agreement with DAHP, and it is very specific and protects the data, which is only accessible to archaeological consultants and tribes in the state.

LUNCH 11:51-12:46

Item 6: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP): Approval of 2023 Plan

Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist summarized the final 2023 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or SCORP. Mr. Donatelle described the process and timeline of developing the SCORP, including incorporating public comments and suggestions into the final draft, which had been made available on RCO's public website. The comments from the public and the board were used to help clarify and distinguish between goals, which lead to the following results:

1. Developed general sequencing plan for Strategies 1-7,
2. Clarified that programs in Chapter 5 collectively implement the priorities discussed in Chapter 4,
3. Revised Resiliency and Connection to emphasize on the ground outcomes and practical application,
4. Revised Goal 1.1 to address safety, inclusion, and belonging. Revised Goal 1.3 to address availability of a spectrum of opportunities in urban and rural settings,
5. Revised Goal 2.1 to emphasize an "expanding" base of public and private lands,
6. Revised Goal 2.2 by clarifying goal to "provide opportunities",
7. Revised Goal 4.1 by clarifying goal to "adopt and respond to emerging changes

Mr. Donatelle reviewed the Outdoor Action Compass and some changes that aligned with those priorities, including language surrounding tribal involvement in project development. He detailed the Unified Strategy Implementation schedule for the next five years, which will start with Strategy One being the highest priority across the first year.

Overall, these changes did not alter the direction of the SCORP but clarified the statewide priorities and reduced the overlap between goals and strategies. Mr. Donatelle explained the next steps in finalizing and publishing the plan, including retaining a graphic designer to produce the final plan publication. Subject to the board's decision, RCO staff will prepare the final plan report for publication and submit it to the Governor's Office and then the National Park Service for final approval. RCO will publish the final plan online and notify stakeholders. Further details on the changes made can be found in the board memo for the 2023 SCORP linked in the item title above.

Overall, the board agreed that this document is a helpful guide as its data has use to other land-owning agencies, addresses the needs of both Western and Eastern Washington, and aligns with other state agencies recreational priorities.

Public comment

Roxanne Miles, WRPA representative, expressed three key elements 1) The Association appreciates the way the SCORP collates and formalizes information and makes connections and gaps visible moving forward 2) information in the plan reflects that citizens want opportunities close to home and the strategy might not address this enough and 3) there is a large discrepancy in per capita access. There is a challenge in making sure that the denser areas have access to parks. The concept of density per capita did not feel like it was as strongly represented in the plan as WRPA would like to see.

Motion:	<u>Approval of Resolution 2023-02</u>
Moved By:	Member Windrope
Seconded By:	Member Herzog
Decision:	Approved

Item 7: Farmland Preservation: Buy-Protect-Sell

Kim Sellers, Temporary Senior Outdoor Grants Manager updated the board on a recent clarification from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) that makes it easier for applicants to implement a Buy-Protect-Sell (BPS) option within the Farmland Preservation Category of the Farm and Forest Preservation Account. This involves the Doctrine of Merger of Title. The Merger Doctrine does not apply to easements purchased under the Farmland Preservation category due to two conditions: 1) The Recreation and Conservation Office is a third party to the easements and, 2) Easements include a no-merger clause specifically stating that there shall be no merger of title should the same party own both the underlying land and the easement. BPS is a process that allows an applicant to purchase farmland prior to placing an easement on the property and hold the land until an appropriate farmer is identified and able to purchase the property. The AGO interpretation that the merger Doctrine does not apply means that the rules of the Farmland Preservation category are protected in that grant funds are to be used to purchase an easement on the property that will be retained through the life of the easement. RCO staff will update manuals and application materials for the 2024 grant cycle to reflect this and will work with sponsors to begin implementation of the changes immediately.

Chair Willhite appreciated the presentation. No comment from the board.

Item 8: Farmland Cost Increases

Kim Sellers and **Andrea Hood**, Outdoor Grants Managers presented projected cost increases proposed by The Columbia Land Trust and the Methow Conservancy that seek approval from the board for three projects funded through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Farmland Preservation Category. The cost increases are needed due to an unforeseen and significant rise in land costs, incidental cost increases, reduced capacity to secure donations and federal match challenges. At their April 2022 meeting, the board approved a resolution that allowed cost increases for the Farmland and Forestland Preservation Category-until 2024.

Member Gardow commented that these are two areas of the state with extremely valuable farmland and a lot of people would love to have homes there. The pressure on these areas is phenomenal and the cost increases are not surprising.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2023-03

Moved By: Member Gardow
Seconded By: Member Shiosaki
Decision: **Approved**

Public comment

None

Item 9: Department of Fish and Wildlife Policy Waiver Request: Boating Facilities Program Multi-Site Cost Limits Increase

Ashly Arambul, Outdoor Grants Manager presented a request by WDFW that asked the board to waive the maximum per site cost for a multi-site Boating Facilities Program (BFP) project because of escalating construction costs. (Current policy caps costs at \$50,000 per site.) All four projects are in Pierce County and include ADA access to new restrooms. WDFW asked the board to allow them to spend up to \$100,000 per site. Staff considered three options; 1) Asking the board to waive the grant limit for each worksite and allow the project to move forward as proposed, 2) require WDFW to break the proposal into separate grant applications for each worksite and 3) require WDFW to break the proposal into separate applications for each work type. Staff are recommending approval of option one. The intent of the multi-site development policy is to allow for upgrades to these sites that are cost effective.

Member Gardow suggests that the policy be updated in general for these types of facilities. The policy has not been updated in 20 years and she supports increased funding for these types of projects.

Chair Willhite expressed concern over whose burden it is to increase cost capacity for restroom facilities throughout the state and suggested it may be a topic for future discussion.

Motion: Approval of Resolution 2023-04
Moved By: Member Windrope
Seconded By: Member Gardow
Decision: **Approved**

Public comment

None

BREAK 2:20-2:35

Item 10: Compliance Report

Myra Barker, and **Chris Popek**, Compliance Specialists provided an update on the agency's compliance program and a briefing on proposed additions to the Exception to Conversion policy. Staff are asking the board to comment on the proposed additions to the policy before seeking public comment.

Ms. Barker explained that the RCO's compliance program helps to ensure that sponsors and funded projects remain in compliance with their grant agreements. The long-term obligation or compliance period applies to acquisition, development or renovation, and restoration project types. The compliance period varies by grant program and ranges from 10 years to perpetuity. Most of the board's funded projects have a perpetual compliance period.

Staff reported in 2022 there were 345 compliance inspections completed and 29 compliance issues were resolved and closed. In addition, seven allowable use requests and five exceptions to conversion requests, and six conversions were approved.

Chris Popek gave an overview of how staff prepare for a compliance inspection. He shared information on a few of the 2022 site inspections. Mr. Popek explained the number of grants and total board investment at each site and displayed the boundary maps that he created for each project. The boundary map is sent with each inspection report to remind the sponsor of the grant obligation.

Staff briefed the board on a proposed revision and on additions to the Exception to Conversion policy. Those are:

Revise the "Relocation of an Easement" Exception to include related infrastructure.

Add new exceptions to conversion for:

a new easement and/or right-of-way and related infrastructure,

a new easement and/or right-of-way for a culvert replacement or improving fish passage that has minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area,

changes to an existing easement, right-of-way, or encumbrance (and related infrastructure) that would have minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area; and

telecommunications and related infrastructure (such as tower, fencing, equipment, access and related lease or easement) that has minimal impact on the intended purpose and use of the project area and enhances safety for the public.

Staff will seek public comment on the additions to the Exception to Conversion policy and bring a final proposal to the board for approval in April 2022.

Director Duffy commented on Mr. Popek's dedication and hard work in creating grant boundary maps for the sites inspected that identify the area subject to compliance.

Chair Willhite expressed concern with the number of inspections occurring and projects out of compliance. Ms. Barker explained project inspections prior to 2017 have limited data, drawing out the process. She also explained that sponsors can be reluctant to self-report compliance issues, often leaving this up to RCO staff during site visits.

On several occasions, Mr. Willhite suggested annual notifications to project sponsors of their obligations.

Director Duffy asked to put the compliance "problem" into perspective, as 1) over 80 percent of projects are in compliance 2) notices are not always effective and 3) staff has limited capacity as a team of two. She also indicated that she could consult with the agency's PRISM experts to see if automatic notices are a possible function of the system.

Member Shiosaki recognized that agencies have universally struggled to maintain that all their projects are in compliance, simply because they do not have the information from the past to do so. He states that all that data is not readily available to agencies.

Member Gardow asked about project inspective prioritization.

Ms. Barker explained that RCO focuses on acquisitions because they have a perpetual obligation, and they inspect LWCF sites because it can affect the federal funds that are allocated to our state. Additionally, they make special effort to get to a site if there are compliance concerns.

Member Burges asked if RCO partners with the WA Association of Counties for elected officials, who likely do not know about RCO's requirements.

Myra said that this is an area that the agency can look into.

Member Herzog asked if there were things from a policy standpoint that the compliance team has identified that could be eliminated to ease the compliance burden.

Ms. Barker said we are always looking for pathways to compliance and there are different approaches we are discussing with executive management. One of those is a potential corrective action policy. This is in the early stage of internal discussion.

Chair Willhite expressed that compliance will be one of the challenges moving forward in serving underserved communities. It will be our responsibility to inform them of their obligations.

Chair Willhite asked how the compliance team plans to tackle so many site visits in 2023.

Ms. Barker said she and Mr. Popek do not have any extra staff to help yet, but will be looking at strategy, targeting places they have not been and filtering options available to them.

Item 11: State Agency Partner Reports

Governor's Office

John Snyder began by discussing the two bills currently in the legislature concerning electric-assist bike use in places where bicycles are currently allowed. There is concern over bicycle-pedestrian safety, which will be addressed at an upcoming press conference along with other policies in the legislature. Mr. Snyder went on to share that this week the governor visited Hawthorne Elementary School in Seattle to participate in a strider giveaway, followed by a visit to Maritime High School and observed the students' making boats and learning about fish health. The San Juan Islands National Monument, which will be ten years old in March, has finally finished its Resource Management Plan, which includes some changes that the Governor's Office suggested regarding dispersed camping and discharge of firearms that will help protect habitat and cultural resources. Most of the action for RCO items in the legislature moving forward is in the budget. Mr. Snyder's office is working to strike a balance between funding new ideas of the legislature and upholding priorities in the Governor's budget.

Chair Willhite informed Mr. Snyder that the SCORP will be passing the governor's desk soon.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Ohlson-Kiehn summarized the capital, operating, and policy requests made by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during the legislative session. The capital asks included \$5.8 million for Safe and Sustainable Recreation to improve recreational opportunities on DNR-managed lands (\$2.4 million is funded in the Governor's budget) and \$5 million for Safe and Responsible Use of Natural Areas, to maintain 36 Natural Areas statewide (\$4 million is funded in the Governor's budget).

DNR's operation funds requests include:

- 1) \$9.9 million for the conservation Corps Partnership (funded in Governor's budget at \$4.98 million),
- 2) \$7.8 million to increase DNR's law enforcement, to work with Washington State Parks Commission and WDFW to understand recreation activity impacts on natural resources in response to tribes' requests, to conduct statewide planning, and fund a "First Foods" program (fully funded in Governor's budget),
- 3) \$3.35 million to create a statewide conservation priority map and add staffing support for the Natural Areas program (fully funded in Governor's budget), and
- 4) \$10 million for the 2023-2025 biennium to address deferred maintenance for recreational infrastructure (fully funded in Governor's budget).

Finally, she touched on the Trust Land Transfer policy bill. The Legislature established the Trust Land Transfer Program in 1989 to transfer underperforming trust lands with high ecological value and/or public benefits to other public agencies. The program was never codified. In 2021 the legislature directed the DNR to strengthen and improve transparency of the program. DNR convened work groups and developed a set of recommendations, including using the RCO's evaluation criteria process, to rank a set of parcels proposed for transfer from DNR to other public agencies. DNR submitted this ranked list of parcels to the Legislature with a request legislation bill to codify the program and to fund the transfer of the parcels. More information on these requests can be found on the please visit the [DNR's legislative webpage](#).

Chair Willhite and **Member Ohlson-Kiehn** discussed whether the level of use of DNR land has been sustained post-Covid. The level is higher than before Covid but not at the same level as the spike in use seen during Covid.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Member Herzog said State Parks found that 25 percent of state parks land came from DNR through initial transfers, and 12 percent of that came through trust land transfers. They have been a huge beneficiary of the Trust Land Transfer process just mentioned by **Member Ohlson-Kiehn**.

Member Herzog went on to say that State Parks is tracking many of the same bills as RCO, including E-bikes and budget. For their operating budget they asked for \$27 million for new programs and in the Governor's budget they received about \$12 million for maintaining park lands, trails, DEI, climate change adaptation, capital planning around tribal relations and cultural resources. These funds will also go towards new park funding for Miller Peninsula and No Child Left Inside (NCLI). On the capital side they asked for \$140 million in new projects. The Governor's budget included \$98 million in new appropriations, including about \$36 million for park development at Nisqually State Park in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

He spoke about how State Parks would soon be approving their priorities for the upcoming year, including adding more overnight accommodations, and placing an emphasis on employee development, education, and training. **Member Herzog** announced State Park's recent hires including a new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Janette Chenn, a new Tribal Affairs Director, Jenna Bowman from the Tulalip Tribe, and their new Human Resources Director, Amber Erdahl from Department of Health.

Member Herzog presented data of the State Parks total attendance between 2018-22, mentioning that camping only represents about five percent of state parks use but half of their revenue. State Parks use has declined but not back to where it was prior to the pandemic. He noted that the figures shown on the graphs did not include December 2022. He made note that 2020 saw a drop due to facilities needing to be closed, while 2021 was the banner year and the height of the usage, and 2022 has seen a drop in attendance, but not as far as pre-pandemic levels. **Member Herzog** finished by sharing the State Park's new logo.

Chair Willhite and **Member Herzog** discussed State Parks continuing to learn about the use impacts across state lands and the need to take a more intentional approach to managing these lands and cooperating with Washington Tribes.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Windrope addressed what WDFW learned from 2020. She acknowledged that state agencies are much more effective when collaborating. WDFW has learned that its lands are being used more by different kinds of users and that more infrastructure is needed in order to maintain them. Additionally, they have learned that how people are using state lands is changing, and the importance of people being able to access lands close to where they live.

WDFW is working with the Governor's Office regarding riparian conservation and is looking at pushing forward the department's number one request which is improving biodiversity in the state. They are continuing to educate legislators about the need to invest in living with wildlife.

Regarding e-bikes, DFW collectively feels that individual wildlife areas need a more tailored approach for how e-bikes would be used given the specifics of place/community/natural resources. The bill was one-size-fits-all and they recommend more conversation to bring in a more tailored approach.

The Lands 2020 Approval Process was approved to pursue funding for 14 potential projects. They completed the 350-acre second phase of the Violet Prairie acquisition in Thurston County and are moving into the final piece which is a total of 1600 acres of prairie in the South Sound.

They received \$15 million for recreation lands maintenance in the last supplemental budget and are putting that to use with more than 20 new full-time employees doing various work.

Chair Willhite and **Member Windrope** discussed the pattern of land use shifting from "regular" use to "non-consumptive" use, and how WDFW is continuing to adapt to the needs of their users and the unique impacts they have on the land.

Chair Willhite confirmed with the three agencies represented that they are working with the tribes as sovereign nations and listening to their input. He then adjourned the meeting by expressing his gratitude to the board for their work in making a difference. The next meeting will be April 25-26, 2023, in person at the Natural Resource Building.

Adjourn

Chair Willhite adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm

Approved by:

Ted Willhite

DRAFT



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Time Extension Requests

Prepared By: Recreation and Conservation Outdoor Grants Managers

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-06 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the requested time extensions.

Background

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

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

General considerations for approving time extension requests include:

- Receipt of a written request for the time extension,
- Reimbursements requested and approved,
- Date the board granted funding approval,
- Conditions surrounding the delay,

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

There are two other crucial considerations for these requested extensions:

1. Delayed approval of funding for the 2016 projects.

The Washington State Legislature typically approves a state capital budget during odd-numbered years. After the regular legislative session and extensions for three special sessions in 2017, the legislature approved an operating budget but failed to agree upon a capital budget before adjourning. When legislators reconvened in 2018, they approved the capital budget with the approval retroactive to July 1, 2017.

Except for eligible pre-agreement activities, Washington Administrative Code 286-13-060 prohibits applicants from starting work on a funded project before execution of the project agreement. Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.140 states that the board may not enter into an agreement until funds are available. Because of the budget delay and the time needed for RCO to issue agreements following budget approval, 2016 sponsors essentially lost seven to eleven months of the biennium for project implementation.

2. The impact of COVID-19.

When the pandemic caused the State of Washington to become a federally approved [major disaster area](#) on March 22, 2020, it was difficult to foresee the tremendous effect to all governmental jurisdictions and the people of the state. The Governor issued the [Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation](#) on March 23, 2020, to begin mitigating the impact of COVID-19. This proclamation and its subsequent extensions delayed the ability of most sponsors to implement board-funded projects as the entire state adjusted to a virtual work environment. The [Safe Start Plan](#) released in October 2022, eased restrictions and paved the way for organizations to begin working on board-funded projects. Unfortunately, the delay had a profound impact on the project progress.

While sponsors are now successfully implementing funded projects, they have had to face a myriad of challenges that include:

- Escalating construction costs

- Labor shortages
- Satisfying cultural resources requirements
- Securing permits, especially U.S. Army Corp of Engineers permits
- Significantly reduced revenue streams that impact required match
- Supply chain issues
- Unprecedented inflation in the cost of building supplies, and
- Weather conditions.

Staff believes the combination of the delayed capital budget and the pandemic require the board to give special consideration to the time extensions requested for the 76 projects included in Attachment A.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Attachments

A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1945	Acquisition & Development	California Creek Estuary Park Development	Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$209,321	25%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1988	Development	104th Ave SE Green River Park Property Development	City of Auburn	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$454,603	91%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-2567	Development	Kitsap Lake Boat Launch Replacement	City of Bremerton	Boating Facilities Program: Local	\$468,424	84%	6/30/2023	3/31/2026
18-1646	Development	Kitsap Lake Dock and Park Renovation	City of Bremerton	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$362,639	83%	6/30/2023	3/31/2026
18-2479	Development	Al Helenberg Boat Launch Safety Improvements	City of Castle Rock	Boating Facilities Program: Local	\$708,000	100%	4/30/2023	4/30/2024
16-2411	Planning	Al Helenberg Boat Launch Safety Improvements Plan	City of Castle Rock	Boating Facilities Program: Local	\$12,300	10%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-2256	Development	Redondo Boarding Float Upgrades	City of Des Moines	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$175,923	83%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2396	Planning	Luther Burbank Park Dock Reconfiguration Design	City of Mercer Island	Boating Facilities Program: Local	\$31,278	18%	6/30/2023	4/30/2024
18-1274 ¹	Development	Green Lake Community Boathouse	City of Seattle	Land and Water Conservation	\$482,491	96%	4/30/2023	9/30/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1272	Development	Green Lake Dock Replacement and Restrooms	City of Seattle	WWRP Water Access	\$517,127	99%	6/30/2023	9/30/2024
18-2033	Development	Chinook Wind Public Access	City of Tukwila	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$131,000	83%	6/30/2023	4/30/2024
19-1539	Acquisition	Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement	Columbia Land Trust	WWRP Farmland Preservation	\$693,235	98%	10/31/2023	10/31/2024
18-1610	Development	2018 Lake Tahuya Public Access Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Development	\$214,252	69%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-1900	Restoration	Black Rock Lake Shrub-Steppe Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$153,434	72%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-2423	Development	Boston Harbor Access Redevelopment	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$782,102	84%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
14-2333	Acquisition	Chapman Lake Access Acquisition	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$480,596	96%	6/30/2023	9/30/2024
16-2313	Planning	Chapman Lake Access Plan	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$320,974	87%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
16-1344	Acquisition	Cowiche Watershed 2016	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Critical Habitat	\$2,087,103	70%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1334	Acquisition	Cowiche Watershed 2018	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Critical Habitat	\$166,758	13%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1951	Development	Ebey Island Recreation Access Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Land Development	\$108,644	47%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2349	Development	Lake Cavanaugh Access Redevelopment	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$92,064	14%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2350	Development	Lake Whatcom Access Redevelopment	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$391,153	78%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-1979	Restoration	LT Murray Teanaway Valley Unit Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$125,628	61%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
16-1333	Acquisition	Mid-Columbia Grand Coulee 2016	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Critical Habitat	\$396,786	13%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1344	Acquisition	Nemah Tidelands	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Water Access	\$375,806	38%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1457	Development	Nisqually River Water Access Redevelopment	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Development	\$212,979	73%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-1358	Acquisition	Oregon Spotted Frog Conservation	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Critical Habitat	\$36,880	3%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
16-2308	Development	Point Whitney Access Redevelopment	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$303,054	56%	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
18-1774	Restoration	Rock Creek-Cleman Ridge Forest Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$249,144	84%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1847	Restoration	Scotch Creek Riparian Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$21,164	23%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2259	Acquisition	Sekiu Boating Access	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$954,593	95%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1937	Restoration	Sherman Creek Forest Restoration Rx Burning	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$254,032	55%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1333	Acquisition	South Sound Prairies 2018	Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Critical Habitat and WWRP Urban Wildlife	\$578,088	11%	6/30/2023	9/30/2024
18-1894	Restoration	Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration II	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$96,548	82%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1669	Restoration	Columbia Hills Grassland Restoration	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$59,627	65%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1517	Acquisition	Dabob Bay Natural Area 2018	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP Natural Areas	\$1,864,054	96%	6/30/2023	12/31/2023
18-1221	Restoration	Damon Point Restoration Phase II	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$138,330	81%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1447	Development	Green Mountain State Forest Phase 1 Trail System Expansion	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Development	\$138,574	43%	5/31/2023	5/31/2024
18-2426	Development	Green Mountain State Forest Summit Vista Renovation	Department of Natural Resources	NOVA Nonhighway Road	\$148,544	75%	5/31/2023	11/30/2023

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1862	Restoration	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve: Prairie and Oak Restoration	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$62,070	39%	6/30/2023	11/30/2023
18-1521	Acquisition	Merrill Lake Natural Resources Conservation Area 2018	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP Riparian Protection	\$672,627	88%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1456	Development	Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Access Development Phase I	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP Water Access	\$446,956	70%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1523	Acquisition	Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve 2018	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP Natural Areas	\$1,610,383	60%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1860	Development	Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area Boulder, Greider Bridges	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Development	\$157,706	55%	5/31/2023	11/30/2023
18-1446	Development	Raging River State Forest Phase 3 Trail System Expansion	Department of Natural Resources	NOVA Nonmotorized	\$298,794	62%	5/31/2023	5/31/2024
18-1893	Restoration	San Juan Islands Prairie and Bald Restoration	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$78,495	65%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1733	Development	Tiger Mountain State Forest View Shelter and Trail Connections	Department of Natural Resources	WWRP State Lands Development	\$116,756	36%	5/31/2023	5/31/2024
18-1899	Acquisition & Restoration	Saltese Flats Wetland Protection and Restoration	Ducks Unlimited	WWRP Riparian Protection	\$23,650	5%	6/30/2023	3/31/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-1959	Development	Ferry County Rail Trail, Phase 5	Ferry County	WWRP Trails	\$260,574	69%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1666	Development	Hesse Recreation Park, Phase 1	Ferry County	WWRP Local Parks	\$104,062	96%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1503	Acquisition	Kaukiki Farmland Preservation	Great Peninsula Conservancy	WWRP Farmland Preservation	\$9,657	6%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-1691	Development	Lake to Sound Trail Segment C Gap Development	King County	WWRP Trails	\$600,000	100%	6/30/2023	7/31/2024
18-2434	Development	Taylor Mtn Trail Bridge Construction, Phase I	King County	NOVA Nonmotorized	\$171,122	86%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-1791	Acquisition	Twisp Uplands Conservation Easement	Methow Conservancy	WWRP Critical Habitat	\$1,520,153	74%	6/30/2023	8/31/2024
14-1588	Development	Point Hudson Jetty Replacement	Port of Port Townsend	Boating Infrastructure Grant	\$666,953	63%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-2571	Development	New Floating Breakwater	Port of Poulsbo	Boating Facilities Program: Local	\$336,719	34%	4/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2541	Development	Skookum Archers Range Improvements	Skookum Archers	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	\$65,124	66%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-1249	Acquisition	Hoh River Recreation and Conservation Area	The Nature Conservancy	WWRP Riparian Protection	\$1,487,600	100%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
12-1122	Acquisition & Development	Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2	Town of Winthrop	WWRP Trails	\$121,972	33%	6/30/2023	6/30/2025
18-2371	Development	Hart's Pass Trailhead Development	USFS Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District	NOVA Nonhighway Road	\$198,140	100%	6/30/2023	10/31/2024
19-1350	Acquisition	Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm	Washington Farmland Trust	WWRP Farmland Preservation	\$548,125	99%	10/31/2023	10/31/2024
18-1420	Acquisition	French Slough Farm, Snohomish County	Washington Farmland Trust	WWRP Farmland Preservation	\$952,400	100%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
16-1975	Development	Lake Sammamish Picnic Area and Sunset Beach Phase 7	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$2,266,453	83%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
18-2558	Planning	Lake Wenatchee Launch Improvements	Washington State Parks and Recreation	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$195,922	79%	6/30/2023	12/31/2024
14-1555	Development	Larrabee - Clayton Beach Railway Overpass	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$700,209	30%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024
18-2450	Development	Olallie State Park Trail System Expansion	Washington State Parks and Recreation	NOVA Nonmotorized	\$126,606	99%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1843	Development	Palouse to Cascades, Tekoa Trestle Deck and Rails	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$391,508	24%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Grant Program and Category	Grant Funds Remaining	Percent of Funds Remaining	Current End Date	Extension Requested
18-2555	Development	Penrose Point Boating Improvements	Washington State Parks and Recreation	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$1,969,000	100%	6/30/2023	6/30/2025
18-1987	Restoration	Ragged Ridge Restoration	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Lands Restoration	\$139,564	67%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
16-2602	Planning	Stuart Island Moorage Replacement	Washington State Parks and Recreation	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$60,236	30%	6/30/2023	6/30/2025
16-2605	Planning	Sucia Island Moorage Replacement	Washington State Parks and Recreation	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$60,863	30%	9/30/2023	6/30/2025
16-1887	Development	The Klickitat Trail Bridging the Final Gap	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$1,521,992	100%	6/30/2023	12/31/2025
18-1760	Development	Willapa Hills Trail Development, Raymond to Menlo	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$514,496	55%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
18-1510	Development	Dosewaillips River Campsite Relocation	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$161,140	11%	6/30/2023	6/30/2024
16-1926	Acquisition	Willapa Hills Trail, Marwood Farms	Washington State Parks and Recreation	WWRP State Parks	\$640,452	97%	6/30/2023	1/31/2024

¹Pending approval of a federal time extension.

NOVA = Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities

WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Recognition of Advisor Service

Prepared By: Tessa Cencula, Volunteer and Grants Process Coordinator

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-06

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the proposed recognitions.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office relies on advisors to help administer its grant programs. Advisors provide a strategic balance and perspective on program issues. Their activities, experience, and knowledge help shape program policies that guide us in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants. The following individuals have completed their terms of service or have otherwise bid farewell after providing valuable analysis and excellent program advice. Outdoor recreationists in Washington will enjoy the results of these advisors' hard work and vision for years to come. Staff applauds their exceptional service and recommends approval of the attached resolutions via Resolution 2023-06 (consent).

Boating Programs Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Susan Patterson	Local Agency Representative	3

No Child Left Inside Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Scott VanderWey	Educator Representative	7

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Peter Guillozet	Local Agency Representative	3

Attachment A

Individual Service Recognitions



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Susan Patterson

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Susan Patterson served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Boating Programs Advisory Committee; and

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on April 25, 2023

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

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Scott VanderWey

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

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2023, Scott VanderWey served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Advisory Committee; and

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on April 25, 2023

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

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Peter Guillozet

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

WHEREAS, from 2020 to 2022, Peter Guillozet served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation (WWRP) Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee; and

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on April 25, 2023

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

Ted Willhite, Chair

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2023-06
April 25, 2023 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following April 25, 2023 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2023-06

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - January 25, 2023
- B. Time Extensions as seen in Item 1B Attachment A
- C. Advisor Recognitions as seen in Item 1C

Resolution moved by: Member Ohlson-Kiehn

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline*

one) Approved Date: April 25, 2023

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

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

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, Marguerite Austin, Kyle Guzlas, Mark Jarasitis, Bart Lynch, and Susan Zemek

Summary

This memo summarizes...

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Agency Updates

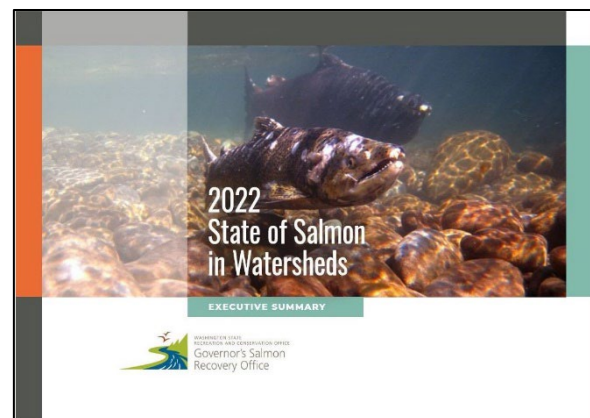
RCO Wins ESRI Award

RCO's won the Special Achievement in GIS award from ESRI for its ArcGIS Hub project. The project was one of more than 100,000 projects considered for this international honor. The team, headed by Ben Donatelle, with assists from Greg Tudor and Bob Euliss, will receive the award at the ESRI conference in San Diego in July. The Hub project was created as an ESRI product and was used to collect survey data, engage the public, and map trails and other recreation facilities for the update to the state's recreation and conservation plan.



State of Salmon in Watersheds Report Released

RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office released the 2022 edition of the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* [Executive Summary](#) and [Web site](#) in February and the news is not good



for salmon. While the report includes bright spots, such as robust numbers of returning Hood Canal summer chum and Snake River fall Chinook salmon, most populations in the state listed as threatened or endangered by the federal government continue to struggle, with ten of fourteen listed population groups either in crisis or not keeping pace with recovery goals. The report provides an overview of salmon recovery efforts and progress statewide, and the website displays data, story maps, and key messages from our partners in salmon recovery. The report also highlights innovative projects and organizations across the state that are improving salmon habitat and survival.

Washington to Host Boating Symposium

Planning continues for the 2023 States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) Training Symposium. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and RCO will host this national event at the Tacoma Convention Center in August. The training sessions at the symposium are for individuals and organizations engaged in improving and expanding recreational boating facilities for public access. Check out this [marketing video](#) that features Washington's host directors, including Director Duffy, inviting participants to the event.



Recreation and Conservation Grant Evaluations Wrap Up

Four advisory committees have completed evaluating grant proposals submitted for the Boating Facilities Program, Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, and the Recreation Trails Program. These teams evaluated 173 projects requesting more than \$41 million in grants for motorized boating access, shooting ranges, and backcountry trails and support amenities. The preliminary ranked lists are included in Items 9-12 of the board's briefing materials. Staff is asking for the board's review and approval of the lists. The board will award grants at its June meeting following legislative approval of the 2023-25 state capital budget.



Planning for Recreation Access Grants Awarded

At the end of January, RCO announced the recipients of the new Planning for Recreation Access grants, a program that will fund recreation planning projects with specific focus on diverse urban communities, small rural communities, and new applicants. Twenty-one projects will be awarded a combined \$2.2 million to fund design work, master planning, alternatives assessments, and comprehensive parks planning across the state. In some communities, these will be their inaugural comprehensive plans, creating a forward-thinking vision for recreation and establishing their eligibility for other RCO grants. And for some, this was their first introduction to RCO. Three quarters of applicants hadn't received a recreation grant in at least 10 years! Almost half of applicants never even applied during that time. The Governor included \$5 million in the proposed 2023-2025 capital budget for the program so now eyes are on the Legislature's upcoming budget negotiations for any additional investment.



RCO Staff Share Success of Farmland Preservation Programs

Tessa Cencula, Marguerite Austin, and Kim Sellers met with staff from Oregon who wanted to know more about Washington's success with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Farmland Preservation Category. The Oregon Legislature approved \$5 million in 2022 for the newly created Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. RCO staff shared information about recruitment and selection of farmers and others involved in the farm industry who volunteer to score and rank projects; the agricultural easement template used to ensure long-term protections; and the challenges, lessons learned, and continuing changes made to ensure the program meets the needs of farmers, ranchers, and project sponsors committed to preserving agricultural lands. As a follow-up, Kim used Project Search on RCO's Web site to showcase the transparency of RCO's database that allows anyone interested to access grant proposals in the application, implementation, and completed phases. The Oregon staff plan further meetings with RCO to learn about our farmland easement template and planned revisions.



Federal Grants Submitted to the National Park Service

DeAnn Beck, Allison Dellwo, and Henry Smith are celebrating timely submissions of the first 2022 Land and Water Conservation Fund projects to the National Park Service for funding. Director Duffy approved \$1.4 million for Spokane's Riverfront Park South Suspension Bridge Renovation and \$2 million for Lynnwood's Scriber Lake Park Boardwalk Trail. Staff and project sponsors put significant effort into getting these projects across the finish line, making it possible to forward these "actionable" projects just weeks after the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved the final ranked list. The team, which also includes Myra Barker and Sarah Thirtyacre, spent countless hours getting these projects ready for the earliest federal funding opportunity, which closed February 3. In addition to completing the application and documenting control and tenure over the project area, the park service requires applicants to secure all required federal permits and environmental and cultural resources clearances to be deemed "actionable." RCO anticipates receiving federal contracts for these awards in March.



Build America, Buy America Act

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, any infrastructure project receiving federal money after May 14, 2022, must buy U.S. iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials. The Build America, Buy America Act impacts several RCO grant programs: Land and Water Conservation Fund, Boating Infrastructure Grant, Recreational Trails Program, and some salmon grants. RCO revised its grant agreements to incorporate these new requirements. This and similar legislation have had a significant impact. In the Recreational Trails Program, sponsors say it has been next to impossible for them to buy snow-groomers for winter recreation projects. In addition, this Act could make it difficult for boating projects that involve installation of steel pilings for moorage and for projects to install steel bridges and other structures.



Employee News

Monica Atkins joined RCO as an administrative assistant for the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section on February 16. Monica was previously an administrative coordinator for Kitsap Community Resources. She earned her bachelor of science degree in multidisciplinary anthropology and nonprofit management from Appalachian State University in her home state, North Carolina. After graduating she worked as an employment specialist for Cape Fear Vocational Services, a barista for Starbucks, and a verification associate for Mediant Communications, before moving across the country to settle in the Pacific Northwest. In her spare time Monica enjoys biking (both mountain and cycling), hiking, and reading.



Doran Lower joined RCO February 1 as a fiscal analyst and will be processing PRISM reimbursements. Doran comes to us after leaving the education field, where he taught in high schools for 26 years. He graduated from the College of Business Administration at the University of Oregon in 1988. Doran is married and loves traveling, going to the Coast and the tropics, and all kinds of sports.



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** cancelled its February meeting and will reconvene August 30.

The **Invasive Species Council** met in Olympia and online March 23. The council discussed new state decontamination and prevention protocols, the language of invasive species, and approval of amended council bylaws.

The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** met March 8. The board heard briefings on updates to the Targeted Investment staff review, completed board-funded projects, the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* Report, and monitoring. The board also discussed its match policy.

Legislative and Policy Updates

Legislative session is expected to conclude on April 23. Staff will provide a summary of recreation and conservation related bills that passed this session, and a final budget.

Here is a comparison of the current budgets:

Capital Budget:

Program	Agency	Governor	House	Senate
Bond Funds				
Youth Athletic Facilities*	\$10,900,000	\$10,788,000	\$10,801,000	\$10,440,000
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	\$135,000,000	\$120,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$120,000,000
Springwood Ranch	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$2,200,000	\$2,216,000	\$307,000	\$2,358,000
Planning Grants	-	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Community Forest	\$13,600,000	\$7,794,000	\$7,807,000	\$7,807,000
Dedicated Accounts				
Boating Facilities Program	\$13,800,000	\$13,800,000	\$13,800,000	\$13,800,000
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities	\$11,249,000	\$11,249,000	\$12,063,000	\$12,063,000
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation	\$840,000	\$840,000	\$840,000	\$840,000
Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities	\$42,600,000	\$42,600,000	\$31,800,000	\$6,600,000
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
Federal Funds				
Boating Infrastructure Grant	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
Recreation Trails Program	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

*Funds from the Community Athletic Facilities Account were used to fund Youth Athletic Facilities in the House and Senate budgets.

Operating Budget:

Program	Agency	Governor	House	Senate
Salmon Recovery Organizations	\$4,472,000	\$4,472,000	\$3,428,000	\$4,472,000
Recreation Data	\$372,000	\$372,000	-	\$372,000
DEI Coordinator	\$312,000	\$312,000	\$312,000	\$312,000
Tribal Liaison	\$312,000	\$312,000	\$312,000	\$312,000
Local Parks Maintenance	-	-	-	\$5,000,000

Grant Management Section

Andrea Hood and Kim Sellers met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) staff, a conservation district easement liaison, and the Washington Association of Land Trusts director to look at options that would better align all their farmland preservation programs.

Since January, Andrea and Kim have been working with sponsors of WWRP Farmland Preservation and Forestland Preservation projects to assist them with preparing the required documents needed to purchase seven farmland and forestland easements in April and May. Sponsors have submitted several more easements and are working through the complexities of negotiating with landowners since they hope to close on those transactions later this year. RCO staff is managing 26 active farm and forest projects.



Project Administration

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

Program	Active Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	28	1	29
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	59	1	60
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)	10	0	10
Community Forests Program (CFP)	6	0	6
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	7	0	7
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	24	7	31
No Child Left Inside (NCLI)	64	0	64

Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	85	2	87
Outdoor Learning Grants (OLG)	17	0	17
Planning for Recreation Access (PRA)	0	21	21
Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	5	1	6
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	33	2	35
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	225	4	229
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	43	4	47
Total	606	43	649

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between January 1 and March 31, 2023. This quarter the team closed 26 projects! Click on the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, photos, maps, reports, etc.

Grant Services Section

Implementation of New Cultural Resources PRISM Module

The PRISM team launched the first phase of a new cultural resource module in early March. The internal cultural resources review is now embedded in the grant database and integrated with our previously developed Area of Potential Effect Mapping and GIS data. The review process was previously administered on a series of spreadsheets outside of PRISM. RCO archaeologists will now insert their review and conditions directly into the grant database, which creates several efficiencies in the consultation process and provides increased transparency for grant managers and project sponsors. This phase also allows for an easier transfer of data to our State Agency partners. The next phase of development, which include external consultation tools will begin in May.

Youth Outdoor Learning and Recreation Programs

The [No Child Left Inside grant](#) evaluations wrapped up in mid-March and the [Preliminary Ranked List of Projects](#) are now posted on the RCO webpage (Attachment B). Final grant awards will be made by the Washington State Parks director in June, pending approval of the state's operating budget.

The grant application funding request for the 2023-25 biennium is the largest in the history of NCLI with 174 applications requesting a total of \$12,381,785 in grant assistance. This included more than double the amount of Tier 3 applications than in previous grant cycles. Tier 3 applicants submit a full written application responding to the evaluation criteria and present the project to the advisory committee



during a virtual online meeting. Considering the increased number of applications, State Parks and RCO made the decision to modify the presentation process cutting the amount of time it would have taken to conduct the evaluation presentations from five days to two days. This change allowed for the full Tier 3 evaluation panel ([NCLI Advisory Committee](#)) to participate in the review and scoring process. Staff are conducting post evaluation surveys on this procedural change for the advisory committee and applicants and will provide an update to the board at the June meeting. Procedural changes have been considered for other programs and this new process can be used a pilot in that effort.

Staff are coordinating with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in preparing for the next round of [Outdoor Learning Grants](#) for the 2023-25 biennium. Grants are available for federally recognized tribes and outdoor education providers to support existing capacity and to increase future capacity for outdoor learning experiences partnering with Washington public schools. The program prioritizes students who have been historically underserved in science and outdoor learning opportunities and strives to expand opportunities for students with disabilities. Applications for the next round of grants are planned to open in May/June 2023.

Advisory Committee Stipend Update

RCO strives to maintain diverse and inclusive advisory committees to ensure that policy development and grant reviews and evaluations are effectively implemented for the benefit of all. Advisory committee service involves a significant time investment that poses a potential barrier to participation. In late 2021, RCO developed a stipend policy prior to the 2022-23 grant cycle. A total of 46 advisors participated in RCO's stipend program during the 2022-23 grant round (roughly 25% of all committee members). Advisors on nearly every committee, including the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Land and Water Conservation Fund, No Child Left Inside, Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities, Outdoor Learning Grant, Recreation Trails Program, WWRP Farmland,

Forestland, State Lands Development, Habitat Acquisition, Habitat Restoration, Local Parks, State Parks, Trails, Water Access, and Youth Athletic Facilities advisory committees, received stipends. RCO looks forward to expanding and updating the stipend program after this first round to help make participation in this process more accessible to community members throughout the state. Next steps include updating RCO's policy based on the community compensation guidelines developed by the Office of Equity and increasing communication around our stipend program so more potential advisors are aware of it when they are making decisions about participating.

Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through February 28, 2023 (Fiscal Month 20). Percentage of biennium reported: 83.3 percent. The "Budget" column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Grant Program	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	Includes Re-appropriations 2021-2023	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Grant Programs							
ALEA	\$19,570,000	\$17,130,710	88%	\$2,439,290	12%	\$5,871,214	34%
BFP	\$35,395,000	\$32,112,447	91%	\$3,282,553	9%	\$8,543,547	27%
BIG	\$4,894,722	\$4,894,722	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,679,718	34%
FARR	\$1,742,000	\$1,125,804	65%	\$616,196	35%	\$549,642	49%
LWCF	\$5,876,000	\$5,876,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,354,497	74%
NOVA	\$19,270,000	\$17,339,489	90%	\$1,930,511	10%	\$6,102,351	35%
RTP	\$5,012,157	\$4,480,641	89%	\$531,516	11%	\$3,018,174	67%
WWRP	\$208,928,000	\$186,526,886	89%	\$22,401,114	11%	\$45,828,599	25%
RRG	\$5,991,000	\$5,199,436	87%	\$791,564	13%	\$1,993,591	38%
YAF	\$21,422,000	\$19,055,022	89%	\$2,366,978	11%	\$6,620,483	35%
Subtotal	\$328,100,879	\$293,741,157	90%	\$34,359,722	10%	\$84,561,816	29%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	\$9,804,831	\$9,804,831	100%	\$0	0%	\$7,689,336	78%
Grand Total	\$337,905,710	\$303,545,988	90%	\$34,359,722	10%	\$92,251,152	30%
Acronym	Grant Program						
ALEA	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account						
BFP	Boating Facilities Program						

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

Board Revenue Report:

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through January 31, 2023 (Fiscal Month 19).

Percentage of biennium reported: 79.2 percent

Program	Biennial Forecast		Collections
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$18,751,290	\$14,714,595	78.5%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$13,841,328	\$10,792,959	78.0%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$678,854	\$533,306	78.6%
Total	\$33,271,472	\$26,040,860	78.3%

Revenue Notes:

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







WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	\$354,970,234	\$322,037,805	91%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$233,576,576	\$208,966,107	89%
Department of Natural Resources	\$197,519,266	\$158,796,411	80%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$167,704,106	\$141,178,099	84%
Nonprofits	\$52,398,155	\$37,368,627	71%
Conservation Commission	\$5,440,924	\$2,984,387	55%
Tribes	\$2,807,431	\$1,742,117	62%
Other			
Special Projects	\$735,011	\$735,011	100%
Total	\$1,015,151,703	\$873,808,564	86%

Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2023

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

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding	90%	84%		21 of 25 agreements have been mailed on time this fiscal year.
Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding	95%	89%		17 of 19 projects were under agreement within 180 days.
Progress reports responded to within 15 days	90%	92%		RCFB staff received 643 progress reports and responded to them in an average of 7 days.
Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date	85%	81%		62 of 77 projects have closed on time.
Projects in Backlog	5	19		There are 19 RCFB projects in the backlog needing to be closed out.
Compliance inspections done	125	20		12 inspections have inspected 20 worksites.

Attachments

Attachment A: Table of Closed Projects from January 1 – March 31, 2023

Attachment B: No Child Left Inside Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25

Projects Completed and Closed from January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2023

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
18-2126	Operations	Washington State Trails Coalition	Washington State Trails Support 2018	Administration Recreation	3/20/2023
20-1758	Development	Kirkland	David Brink Park Shoreline Renovation	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	3/24/2023
18-1963	Restoration	Seattle	Lowman Beach Park Restoration	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	2/2/2023
18-2524	Development	Port of Everett	Jetty Landing Restroom Development	Boating Facilities - Local	3/17/2023
18-2516	Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Burke Lake Redevelopment	Boating Facilities - State	3/30/2023
20-2144	Education	Boy Scouts of America Troop 90 Irrevocable Trust	Putting Outing In Scouting for Inner City Kids	No Child Left Inside Tier 1	3/7/2023
20-2143	Education	Wa-Ya Outdoor Institute	Waya Outdoor School	No Child Left Inside Tier 1	2/24/2023
20-2415	Education	Sound Experience	Everett at Sea	No Child Left Inside Tier 2	3/13/2023
20-2298	Education	The Salish Sea School	Outdoor Marine Conservation Leadership Programs	No Child Left Inside Tier 2	3/3/2023
20-2286	Education	CultureSeed	Year-Round Outdoor Immersion and Outdoor Mentorship	No Child Left Inside Tier 3	2/28/2023

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
18-2290	Education	US Forest Service Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Methow Valley Ranger District	Methow Valley Climbing Rangers 2020-2021	NOVA Education and Enforcement	3/21/2023
20-1476	Development	Kirkland	Cross Kirkland Corridor Trail Lighting	RCO Recreation Grants Trails	3/15/2023
21-1454	Education	US Forest Service Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Naches Ranger District	Naches Wilderness Education Rangers 2022	Recreational Trails Program - Education	2/7/2023
20-1991	Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	Statewide Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Recreational Trails Program - General	3/21/2023
19-1537	Acquisition	Whatcom County	Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement	WWRP - Farmland Preservation	2/13/2023
20-1585	Acquisition	Whatcom County	Moors Forestry Conservation Easement	WWRP - Forestland Preservation	3/27/2023
18-1519	Acquisition	Department of Natural Resources	Kennedy Creek Natural Area 2018	WWRP - Natural Areas	3/13/2023
16-1441	Acquisition	Department of Natural Resources	Washougal Oaks Natural Area 2016	WWRP - Natural Areas	3/17/2023
20-1528	Acquisition	State Parks	Riverside Little Spokane River Robinson Property	WWRP - State Parks	3/10/2023
18-1960	Development	Spokane	Don Kardong Bridge Rehabilitation	WWRP - Trails	3/8/2023

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
18-1282	Acquisition	Dishman Hills Conservancy	The Wild Heart of Spokane 2018 Urban Wildlife Habitat	WWRP - Urban Wildlife Habitat	2/9/2023
16-1440	Acquisition	Department of Natural Resources	Stavis NRCA and Kitsap Forest NAP 2016	WWRP - Urban Wildlife Habitat	2/15/2023
20-1259	Acquisition	Department of Natural Resources	North Fork Nooksack River Access	WWRP - Water Access	3/17/2023
20-1211	Development	Boys and Girls Clubs Lewis-Clark	Clarkston Club Athletic Field Renovation	Youth Athletic Facilities - Large	2/17/2023
18-1906	Development	King's Way Christian Schools	East Field Turf Conversion	Youth Athletic Facilities - Large	3/29/2023
16-1850	Development	Seattle	Smith Cove Youth Playfield Renovation	Youth Athletic Facilities - Renovation	3/27/2023

WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program



Preliminary Ranking No Child Left Inside, Tier 1 Projects 2023-25

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
1	50.33	22-2138 E	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Salmon Camp	\$24,978	\$24,978
2	50	22-1940 E	Republic School District 309	Republic Outdoor Adventure Rangers	\$25,000	\$25,000
2	50	22-2331 E	Vamos Outdoors Project	Vamos a las Montañas	\$21,737	\$21,737
2	50	22-2410 E	Rainier Prep	Pathfinders Outdoors Experiences and Enrichments	\$19,000	\$19,000
5	49.44	22-2231 E	Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County	Wellpinit Native Traditions Outdoor Education Project	\$25,000	\$25,000
6	49.11	22-2236 E	Second Chance Outreach	Hoods In the Woods: At-Risk Youth in Nature	\$24,800	\$24,800
7	48.89	22-2258 E	Interim Community Development Association	Wilderness Inner-City Leadership Development Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
8	48.78	22-2341 E	Peshastin Dryden and Alpine Lakes Parent Teacher Organization	Cascade Youth Mountain Biking Project	\$24,990	\$24,990
9	48.56	22-2247 E	Braided Seeds	Braided Seeds Reclamation Trips	\$25,000	\$25,000
10	47.89	22-2235 E	Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki	Counselor-in-Training Program Washougal	\$25,000	\$25,000
11	47.33	22-2250 E	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wild Washington Outdoor Classrooms	\$24,002	\$24,002
12	46.44	22-2303 E	Adult and Youth Learning Center	Summer Youth Outdoor Learning Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
13	46.33	22-2086 E	The ReCyclery of Jefferson County	Bike Safety and Education	\$25,000	\$25,000
14	45.67	22-2347 E	Blue Mountain Community Foundation	Leadership Academy Camp Wooten	\$25,000	\$25,000
15	45.44	22-2213 E	Pasco	Outdoor Adventure Series	\$25,000	\$25,000
16	45	22-2031 E	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Youth Horse Camp	\$24,960	\$24,960
17	44.67	22-2259 E	Foster Creek Conservation District	Camp Sagebrush	\$25,000	\$25,000
18	44.44	22-2128 E	Recreation Northwest	Parkscriptions at Options High School	\$21,480	\$21,480
18	44.44	22-2248 E	Stevenson-Carson School District	Forest Youth Success	\$12,830	\$12,830
20	44.22	22-2174 E	Washington Student Cycling League	Urban Girls on Mountain Bikes	\$25,000	\$25,000

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
21	43.89	22-2012 E	Orondo School District	After School Outdoor Education Camp	\$22,900	\$22,900
21	43.89	22-2290 E	Friends of North Creek Forest	Summer Camp Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
23	43.78	22-2361 E	Anacortes Waterfront Alliance	Introduction to Water Activities	\$24,945	\$24,945
24	42.89	22-2205 E	Iglesia Del Valle	Royal Rangers Toppenish Outpost	\$25,000	\$25,000
24	42.89	22-2411 E	Journeymen Institute	One Village Initiative	\$25,000	\$25,000
26	42.78	22-2374 E	Friends of Stonerose Fossils	Fossils: Then and Now	\$24,485	\$24,485
27	42.67	22-2041 E	Clallam County	Camp David Junior Aquatics Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
28	42.56	22-2143 E	YWCA Clark County	Nature as a Source of Healing: Y's Care Therapeutic	\$22,992	\$22,992
28	42.56	22-2376 E	Explorations Academy	Environmental Education for Middle and High Schoolers	\$25,000	\$25,000
28	42.56	22-2382 E	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Land Labs Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
31	42.33	22-2214 E	Win With Warriors	Environmental Leadership Camp	\$23,000	\$23,000
32	42.22	22-2296 E	Sound Salmon Solutions	Implementing Nature's Values Empowers Stewards of Tomorrow: Salish Scientists Summer Camp	\$24,358	\$24,358
33	42.11	22-2373 E	Highline School District	Highline Big Picture Outside	\$25,000	\$25,000
34	41.89	22-1895 E	Friends of Lake Spokane Parks	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Research in the Park	\$10,700	\$10,700
34	41.89	22-2351 E	George Pocock Rowing Foundation	Camp Lucy	\$10,000	\$10,000
36	41.78	22-2328 E	Spokane Valley	Together Engaging and Exploring Nature Camp	\$25,000	\$25,000
37	41.44	22-2343 E	Center for Rest and Restoration	Wilderness Wisdom on Whidbey	\$16,000	\$16,000
37	41.44	22-2380 E	Museum of Northwest Art	Art and Science Camp at Padilla Bay Reserve	\$15,000	\$15,000
39	41.33	22-2263 E	Olympia	Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Outdoor Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
40	41.22	22-1909 E	Tenino	Tenino Youth Recreation Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
41	41	22-2215 E	Tukwila	Tukwila Outdoor Recreation Academy	\$24,674	\$24,674

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
42	40.78	22-2322 E	The Airow Project	Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation of Whatcom County Project	\$25,000	\$25,000
43	40.56	22-1830 E	Northwest Natural Horsemanship Center Family Fund	Family Fund Horse Camp for Kids of Color	\$15,725	\$15,725
43	40.56	22-2402 E	Monkey Fist Facilitation	Treasure Hunter School of Western Washington	\$7,050	\$7,050
45	39.89	22-1890 E	First Hunt Foundation	First Hunt Mentorship Camps	\$24,400	\$24,400
46	39.11	22-2264 E	Sahale Outdoors	Wilderness Youth Leadership Course	\$25,000	\$25,000
47	37.67	22-2313 E	Orting	Youth Outdoor Adventure Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
48	37.22	22-2403 E	Central Valley School District	Valley, Mountain, and Stream	\$25,000	\$25,000
49	36.89	22-2168 E	Everett	Roaming Rangers	\$25,000	\$25,000
49	36.89	22-2369 E	North Whidbey Park and Recreation District	Lean to Kayak	\$20,384	\$20,384
51	36.78	22-2267 E	Sahale Outdoors	Tiny Trails and Pinecones	\$24,470	\$24,470
51	36.78	22-2281 E	TreeSong Nature Awareness	Circle Keepers Expansion Project	\$23,300	\$23,300
53	36.11	22-2011 E	Sequoia's Treehouse	Outdoors Environmental-Based Reggio-Inspired Early Childhood Education	\$23,137	\$23,137
54	33.44	22-2344 E	Greater Gig Harbor Foundation Curious by Nature School	Curious by Nature School Campus Number 2	\$24,960	\$24,960
55	32.33	22-2189 E	True Self Yoga	Outdoor Family Yoga and Hiking	\$22,800	\$22,800
56	31.22	22-2330 E	Roots Outdoor Education	Outdoor Preschool North Bend	\$17,885	\$17,885
57	30.78	22-2255 E	Boy Scouts of America Chief Seattle Council	Outdoor Science Camp	\$25,000	\$25,000
58	30.44	22-2372 E	Point Roberts Park and Recreation District	Point Roberts Outdoor Education Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
59	30.22	22-2419 E	Chrysalis Forest School	Expansion of Services to Under-Served Youth	\$21,738	\$21,738
60	29.44	22-2385 E	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Free Student Admission to the Northwest Stream Center Nature Trail	\$25,000	\$25,000
61	26.44	22-2230 E	Beacon Food Forest	Beacon Food Forest Summer Camp	\$5,820	\$5,820
Total					\$1,374,500	\$1,374,500

Preliminary Ranking
No Child Left Inside, Tier 2 Projects
2023-25



Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	54.5	22-2336 E	Nisqually River Foundation	Nisqually Tribal Youth: Explore and Connect 3	\$74,916	\$51,682	\$126,598
2	54.3	22-2349 E	Tumwater School District	Farm-Rooted Education for Sustainability and Health: Outdoor Learning and Growing	\$75,000	\$324,000	\$399,000
3	54	22-2275 E	Camp Beausite Northwest	The Camp Experience for Youth With Disabilities	\$75,000	\$174,000	\$249,000
4	53.7	22-2069 E	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Cowlitz Education Outdoors	\$74,775	\$52,108	\$126,883
5	53.5	22-2391 E	Northwest Watershed Institute	Headwater to Bay Youth Environmental Education	\$73,590	\$24,610	\$98,200
6	53	22-1839 E	Wild Grief	Youth and Families Healing in Nature	\$66,000	\$46,600	\$112,600
6	53	22-2089 E	Naturebridge	Olympic Youth Environmental Education	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
6	53	22-2312 E	Chief Leschi Schools	Traditional Canoe Journey	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
9	52.7	22-1993 E	Post 84	Scholarships for Student-Led Outdoor Education	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
9	52.7	22-2234 E	San Juan Islands Conservation District	Youth Stewardship in the San Juan Islands	\$69,500	\$25,000	\$94,500
11	52.3	22-1908 E	STIX Diabetes Programs	Camp STIX	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$125,000
12	52	22-2221 E	The Seattle PlayGarden	Seattle PlayGarden Inclusive Summer Programs	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
13	51.5	22-1917 E	Spokane County	Doris Morrison Learning Center Outdoor Education	\$75,000	\$62,500	\$137,500
13	51.5	22-2268 E	Sahale Outdoors	Belong Outside	\$59,545	\$21,956	\$81,501
15	51.2	22-2110 E	Mount Saint Helens Institute	Mount Saint Helens Volcano Outdoor School for All	\$74,000	\$74,000	\$148,000
15	51.2	22-2297 E	Bellevue Boys and Girls Club	Eastside Outdoor Teen Explores Camp Washington Wildlands	\$75,000	\$27,251	\$102,251
17	51	22-2102 E	Foss Waterway Seaport	Eco-Kayaking on the Foss Waterway	\$73,232	\$193,835	\$267,067
17	51	22-2253 E	Puget Sound Estuarium	K-12 Environmental Education Experiences	\$75,000	\$27,366	\$102,366
17	51	22-2315 E	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Greenway Education Program	\$64,920	\$27,140	\$92,060
17	51	22-2365 E	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Youth Paddle Program	\$53,000	\$32,492	\$85,492
17	51	22-2387 E	Lopez Island Family Resource	Lopez Island Youth Outdoor Education Program	\$54,655	\$18,219	\$72,874

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
22	50.8	22-2006 E	Wa-Ya Outdoor Institute	Youth Camp Intertwining Native Culture and Outdoor	\$74,873	\$25,297	\$100,170
22	50.8	22-2188 E	Camp Fire Inland Northwest Council	Year-Round Outdoor Learning Expansion	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
24	50.7	22-2388 E	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Nature Discovery School and Rainshadow Outdoor Adventure	\$22,500	\$7,500	\$30,000
25	50.5	22-1835 E	Northwest Outward Bound School	North Central Washington Youth Outdoor Learning Program	\$75,000	\$144,585	\$219,585
25	50.5	22-2167 E	The Salish Sea School	Outdoor Marine Conservation Leadership Programs	\$75,000	\$466,600	\$541,600
25	50.5	22-2354 E	Lifeline Connections	Camp Mariposa Blazing Trails	\$74,000	\$30,625	\$104,625
28	50.3	22-1873 E	Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers	Summer, Excitement, Exploring, and Discovery	\$48,000	\$16,000	\$64,000
28	50.3	22-2148 E	Outdoors for All Foundation	Summer Camps for Youth with Disabilities	\$69,000	\$23,000	\$92,000
30	50	22-2359 E	Sound Experience	Everett at Sea San Juan Islands Discovery	\$69,660	\$23,220	\$92,880
31	49.8	22-2364 E	Child and Family Hope Center	Tacoma Outdoor Learning Opportunities	\$56,137	\$18,713	\$74,850
32	49.5	22-2000 E	Cascadia Conservation District	Creating Connections to Conservation	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
32	49.5	22-2151 E	SheJumps	Wild Skills Outdoor Activities for Girls	\$74,939	\$25,792	\$100,731
32	49.5	22-2295 E	Unbridled Spirit 7	Youth Empowered by Animals and Nature	\$75,000	\$36,440	\$111,440
35	49.3	22-2123 E	Jefferson Land Trust	Learn2Steward	\$74,250	\$51,259	\$125,509
35	49.3	22-2260 E	Environmental Science Center	Beach Heroes of South King County	\$30,000	\$125,971	\$155,971
35	49.3	22-2276 E	La Conner School District	La Conner Outdoor Opportunities	\$40,200	\$28,000	\$68,200
35	49.3	22-2415 E	Camp Fire USA North Central Washington Council	Expansion for Low-Income and At-Risk Youth	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
39	49.2	22-2127 E	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Seeds to Salmon: Outdoor Education in Southwest Washington	\$55,896	\$18,646	\$74,542
39	49.2	22-2197 E	Big City Mountaineers	Providing Transformative Experiences in Nature	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$50,000
39	49.2	22-2377 E	Kaleidoscope	Kaleidoscope Forest	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
42	48.8	22-2320 E	Vashon Wilderness Program	Outdoor Tuesdays	\$75,000	\$43,214	\$118,214
43	48.3	22-2099 E	Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association	Keystone Fishing Camp	\$51,700	\$17,500	\$69,200
44	48.2	22-2291 E	Trout Unlimited Incorporated	Salmon SEEson Family Tours	\$37,060	\$12,398	\$49,458
44	48.2	22-2353 E	Washington Native Plant Society	Youth Ecology Education Through Restoration	\$36,370	\$21,800	\$58,170

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
46	47.7	22-2060 E	Northwest Avalanche Center	Mount Baker SnowSchool	\$69,850	\$23,950	\$93,800
47	47.5	22-2413 E	Parkour Visions	Movement for All	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$50,000
48	47	22-2400 E	North Counties Family Services	Building Resilience through Opportunities, Service, and Support Summer Camp Darrington Youth Outdoors	\$36,758	\$19,460	\$56,218
49	46.7	22-2392 E	I'm Hooked Incorporated	Fishing and Great Outdoor Experiences in Washington	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$75,000
50	46.5	22-2332 E	North Whidbey Park and Recreation District	Camp Trail Blaze	\$75,000	\$30,000	\$105,000
50	46.5	22-2340 E	Covington	Camp Adventure	\$73,593	\$24,532	\$98,125
52	46.3	22-2224 E	Wenatchee River Institute	Traveling Naturalist in the Classroom	\$59,945	\$64,909	\$124,854
53	45.5	22-1958 E	Walla Walla County Conservation District	Conservation Connections	\$39,583	\$14,000	\$53,583
53	45.5	22-2097 E	Sahale Outdoors	Youth Backpacking	\$59,354	\$19,871	\$79,225
53	45.5	22-2356 E	Children's Home Society of Washington	North Seattle Family Resource Center Outdoor Experience	\$50,000	\$17,000	\$67,000
56	45	22-2370 E	Olympic Nature Experience	Get More Kids Outside	\$50,789	\$38,336	\$89,125
57	44.7	22-1887 E	Garden-Raised Bounty	Introducing Youth to the Land	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000
57	44.7	22-2186 E	Wild Whatcom	Increase Access to Multi-Year Outdoor Programs	\$52,000	\$18,000	\$70,000
59	44	22-1902 E	Spokane Conservation District	Outdoor Explorer Packs and Programming	\$10,100	\$3,367	\$13,467
Total					\$3,654,690	\$3,092,744	\$6,747,434

Preliminary Ranking
No Child Left Inside, Tier 3 Projects
2023-25



Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	52.11	22-2414 E	Unleash the Brilliance	Unleash the Brilliance Youth Outside Experience	\$150,000	\$64,500	\$214,500
2	51.44	22-2010 E	Lummi Nation	Lummi Youth Living and Protecting Shelangen	\$119,825	\$49,953	\$169,778
3	50.56	22-2163 E	Camp Korey	Recreational Camp Programs for Children	\$150,000	\$324,468	\$474,468
4	50.44	22-2142 E	CultureSeed	Year-Round Outdoor Immersion and Outdoor Mentorship	\$150,000	\$138,719	\$288,719
4	50.44	22-2406 E	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	Swinomish Between Two Worlds Indigenous Science	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
6	50	22-2198 E	Squaxin Island Tribe	Stepping Stones Outdoor Education	\$149,842	\$62,620	\$212,462
7	49.89	22-2379 E	Young Women Empowered	Nature Connections	\$150,000	\$495,485	\$645,485
8	48.11	22-2158 E	African Community Housing and Development	African Diaspora Outdoor Explorers	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
9	47.89	22-2171 E	Hood Canal School District	Hood Canal School Bringing Outdoor and Occupational Technologies to Students and Riparian Enhancement	\$139,790	\$48,462	\$188,252
10	47.44	22-2155 E	Mentoring Urban Students and Teens	Mentoring Urban Students and Teens Outdoor Experiences for Youth	\$101,250	\$33,750	\$135,000
11	47.22	22-1900 E	Confluence Project	Camp Confluence	\$123,375	\$43,770	\$167,145
12	47	22-2383 E	Youth Experiential Training	South King County All Youth in Nature Project	\$150,000	\$259,496	\$409,496
13	46.89	22-2265 E	Pierce County	Pierce Outdoor Leadership Instruction and Field Experiences Youth Outdoor Recreation and Education	\$147,600	\$105,670	\$253,270
14	46.78	22-2257 E	Bike Works	Cycling, Mechanics, and Leadership Pipeline	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$600,000
15	46.67	22-2057 E	Yakima Valley Farm Workers	Outdoor Adventure Program	\$150,000	\$66,480	\$216,480
16	46.44	22-2326 E	Explore Your Wild	Explore Your Wild Youth Programs	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
17	45.56	22-2266 E	Blue Mountain Community Foundation	Big Balooza Experience	\$105,771	\$35,258	\$141,029
17	45.56	22-2378 E	Glacier Peak Institute	Propagating Resiliency Through Outside Momentum with Science, Technology, Recreation, Engineering, Art, and Math Skills Education	\$150,000	\$247,195	\$397,195
19	45.44	22-2273 E	Communities for a Healthy Bay	Environmental Justice Camps in Tacoma	\$150,000	\$241,488	\$391,488
20	45	22-2058 E	Girl Scouts of Western Washington	Girl Scouts Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Others Affinity Camp	\$150,000	\$50,010	\$200,010
21	44.67	22-2036 E	Wenatchee Valley YMCA	Outdoor Experiences Program at Lake Wenatchee	\$150,000	\$65,985	\$215,985
22	44.56	22-1869 E	Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center	Get Outside Nature-Based Programs for Long Beach Peninsula Youth	\$96,750	\$32,250	\$129,000
22	44.56	22-2342 E	Summer Search	Wilderness Exploration Program	\$150,000	\$368,827	\$518,827
24	44.44	22-2254 E	Burien	Outdoor Explorers Summer Camp at Seahurst Park	\$150,000	\$58,324	\$208,324
25	44.22	22-2180 E	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Nature Kids	\$118,430	\$47,356	\$165,786
26	43.67	22-2212 E	Pacific Education Institute	Youth Engaged in Sustainable Education Crew	\$141,680	\$238,900	\$380,580
27	43.56	22-1973 E	YMCA of Greater Seattle	Boys and Girls Outdoor Leadership Development: Pathways to Parks	\$150,000	\$850,000	\$1,000,000
27	43.56	22-2124 E	Asia Pacific Cultural Center	Outdoor Cultural Connection for At-Risk Asian American and Pacific Islander Youth	\$104,348	\$35,000	\$139,348
29	43.11	22-1857 E	Compass Health	Camp Mariposa	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
29	43.11	22-1858 E	Oasis Youth Center	Outdoor Inspiration and Recreation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth	\$107,100	\$40,000	\$147,100
31	42.78	22-1999 E	The Mountaineers	Mountain Workshops Puget Sound	\$150,000	\$179,900	\$329,900
32	41.89	22-2294 E	Mid-Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Viewing and Stewardship Legacy Projects	\$115,105	\$38,395	\$153,500
33	41.78	22-2325 E	Kittitas Environmental Education Network	Windy City Park Rangers	\$139,410	\$46,500	\$185,910
33	41.78	22-2329 E	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Real Learning Real Work Restoration Engineering	\$139,616	\$50,720	\$190,336
35	41.67	22-2269 E	Columbia Springs	Connecting Youth to the Columbia River Watershed	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$310,000

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
36	41.56	22-2126 E	Longview	Access Adventure Outdoor Recreation for Youth	\$150,000	\$317,123	\$467,123
37	41.33	22-2218 E	Inland Northwest Nature Connection	Project Passion Ecology Teaching and Learning	\$91,250	\$38,000	\$129,250
38	40.89	22-1838 E	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Hood Canal Environmental Education Programs	\$150,000	\$60,028	\$210,028
39	40.78	22-2091 E	Northwest Maritime Center	All Aboard Duwamish Valley Expansion	\$142,175	\$47,392	\$189,567
40	40.67	22-2338 E	YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County	Camp Seymour Outdoor Education Program	\$100,000	\$141,000	\$241,000
41	40.44	22-2035 E	North Cascades Institute	Mountain School	\$150,000	\$625,000	\$775,000
41	40.44	22-2078 E	Seattle Aquarium	Seattle Aquarium: Connections Program	\$150,000	\$304,250	\$454,250
43	40.33	22-1983 E	Washington Outdoor School	Kittitas County Outdoor Education for All	\$150,000	\$50,500	\$200,500
44	39.78	22-2399 E	Peak 7 Adventures	Peak 7 Basecamp	\$103,597	\$45,466	\$149,063
45	39.44	22-2280 E	Washington State University Clallam County Extension	Agricultural Education at Robin Hill Farm Park	\$119,549	\$81,247	\$200,796
46	39	22-2125 E	IslandWood	IslandWood Outdoor School Overnight Program	\$105,875	\$317,625	\$423,500
47	37	22-2140 E	Camp Hope of Southwest Washington	Outdoor Discovery Camps at Camp Hope of Southwest Washington	\$145,700	\$62,000	\$207,700
48	35.22	22-2321 E	Building Youth Through Music	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Based Outdoor Enrichment for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Youth	\$118,000	\$41,000	\$159,000
49	34.22	22-2150 E	Camp Solomon Schechter	Opportunities for Stewardship Promoting Respect for the Environment and Youth Camp Outdoor School Expansion	\$150,000	\$95,000	\$245,000
50	33.67	22-2220 E	Excelsior Wellness Center	Excelsior Wellness Challenge Course Spokane	\$139,782	\$146,754	\$286,536
51	31.11	22-2048 E	Pacific Shellfish Institute	Garden of the Salish Sea Whatcom County Marine Education	\$150,000	\$97,870	\$247,870
52	29.44	22-2407 E	Boy Scouts of America Mount Baker Council	Fire Mountain Camp Year-Round Access	\$124,275	\$41,425	\$165,700
Total					\$7,090,095	\$7,641,161	\$14,731,256

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Grant Criteria Changes

Prepared By: Leah Dobey, Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes recreation evaluation criteria changes that will be explored during 2023 in response to recommendations from a 2022 Equity Review of Recreation and Conservation Office grant programs, the 2022 Physical Activity Task Force Report, and 2023 Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) update.

Criteria being considered for changes include Need, Need Satisfaction/Project Design, Project Support, and Expansion and Renovation and Immediacy of Threat.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

In November 2020, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement by passing [Resolution 2020-35](#). This resolution recognized the board's obligation to ensure equitable and inclusive programs and policies. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) completed several studies and reports identifying actions the board and agency can take to further improve grant programs and improve recreation access in Washington. These works include the [Physical Activity Task Force \(PATF\) Report](#), which identifies gaps in youth physical activity and opportunities to address them; the Prevention Institute's [Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs \(Equity Review\)](#); and the [2023-2027 Washington Recreation and Conservation Plan \(SCORP\)](#).

Eleven recommendations from the Equity Review describe possible changes to evaluation criteria to potentially address disparate outcomes. Additional criteria-related changes are identified in SCORP and the PATF report. Staff also collect feedback and input from applicants and evaluators after each grant round and compile important observations about ways in which evaluation criteria could be updated.

This memo describes evaluation changes that will be considered for implementation in the 2024 spring grant round.

Project Goals

Everyone should have safe, easy access to public lands and facilities that support participation in outdoor activities. To work toward this, RCO can implement changes to evaluation criteria that will reward projects that improve outdoor access, focusing on those who currently experience a lack of adequate facilities.

RCO policy staff will address findings from the 2022 Equity Review. In the review, Prevention Institute reported that:

- RCO's investments skew markedly toward census tracts with pre-existing parks and greenspace,
- Communities of color, especially those with low amounts of parks and greenspace are underinvested in by most grant programs reviewed, and
- Sizeable differences in proposal activity are a driving factor in under-investments, and a multi-faceted approach is needed to increase proposals where access is most needed.

By acting on criteria change recommendations from the Equity Review, SCORP, the PATF report, and staff observations, the board and RCO can begin to address some of the findings above and close park and greenspace gaps, directly connecting communities to parks, trails and greenspace.

Project Scope

Staff will focus primarily on changes that relate to recreation equity, while also incorporating several administrative changes that are needed due to the recent SCORP update. Equity changes will be considered in the following programs/categories to create consistency for applicants who may apply for matching grants in different programs:

- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Trails

- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Water Access
- Youth Athletic Facilities
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

Beyond those considered this year, there are other criteria-related recommendations that could have important implications for communities' recreation and greenspace access. Those recommendations will continue to be discussed and explored in future grant cycles.

Themes

Between the Equity Review and SCORP, several themes stood out as being of particularly high priority. Both efforts identified opportunities within criteria pertaining to Need, Need Satisfaction/Project Design, and Project Support. Staff have also identified several existing criteria that could be contributing to the agency's low investment in areas with low amounts of parks and greenspace.

Need

Currently, the need for projects is based on a variety of information provided by applicants in a written or presentation form. The information may include a recreational inventory, use information, local priorities, and alignment with SCORP in addressing the needs for underserved communities and those at higher health risk. The Equity Review found that this model is difficult for evaluation panels to score. In addition to challenges with lumping multiple priorities into one Need question, Prevention Institute noted that *"current scoring scales rely considerably on the subjective determinations of panelists, which may undermine current and future equity indicators."*¹

Equity Review recommendations include identifying key objective measures to determine project need and reassessing the Need point scale and weighting. Similarly, the SCORP Unified Strategy noted that the agency could *"identify, incorporate, and weight measures to help address disparate outcomes in outdoor recreation and conservation funding."*² Objective measures could be used in combination with narrative opportunities for applicants to describe needs in their communities.

¹ Prevention Institute. (2022). Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs, 15

² Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. (2023). Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan

Need Satisfaction / Project Design

In addition to improvements to Need criteria, there was a clear priority to reassess how projects are evaluated on their ability to satisfy the needs of a community. Greenspace that reflects the input and desires of a community promotes a healthy community, especially in disadvantaged communities.³ It is imperative that investments in underserved communities are executed **with** community members, rather than by making assumptions. Recommendations relating to meeting needs and designing projects include rewarding project proposals with elements that incorporate local context as well as prioritizing projects that show how community input shaped the project design.

Project Support/Partnerships

In the Equity Review, Prevention Institute recommended that RCO *"build in structures and criteria to promote community involvement in shaping project proposals."*⁴ Similarly, SCORP and the PATF noted the importance of partnerships. From the PATF Tacoma Case Study, it is noted that a partnership between the local park district and school district *"allows each organization to maximize their assets and strengths in service of Tacoma's kids."*⁵

Updates to the Project Support criteria could better assess authentic engagement between the project sponsor and the local community. Recommended changes include rewarding support that goes beyond letters of support or that include shared use agreements between partners.

Investments in Low Park/Greenspace Areas

Though not specifically named in the Equity Review or SCORP, two additional criteria have been identified that may impact programs' abilities to address recreation gaps: Expansion and Renovation and Immediacy of Threat.

The Expansion and Renovation criteria is applied in several programs/categories, aims at evaluating the cost-benefit of a project, and states that updates to existing facilities are generally of greater benefit.

³ Prevention Institute. (2022). Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs, 23

⁴ Prevention Institute. (2022). Equitable Grantmaking: A Comprehensive Review of Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Programs, 22

⁵ Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. (2022). Physical Activity Task Force Report, 20

The Immediacy of Threat criteria is applied for acquisition projects and can be difficult given that many acquisition projects receive waivers of retroactivity. In such cases, property may have been purchased years prior to the grant application and evaluation, which makes it difficult for the applicant to convey the threat at the time of purchase.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to research the effects of existing criteria and potential impacts of recommended changes highlighted in this memo and during the staff presentation. Given the range of grant programs that could see changes, robust engagement with current and potential applicants, partners, and stakeholder groups is anticipated. Staff will return to the board at their June meeting to present an update and request direction as needed. Following a summer public comment period, the board will be presented with criteria change decision items at the October 2023 board meeting.



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Youth Athletic Facilities Program Review

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Policy Specialist and Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director

Summary

This memo provides background on the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program, recent board decisions related to YAF, and highlights the reasons why RCO is undertaking a review of program policies and funding limits. In addition, staff will assess the relation of matching funds between Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program—Local Parks Program and YAF grants.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The YAF grant program provides money to purchase land and develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities serving youth. The program priority is to enhance facilities that serve people through the age of 18 who participate in sports and athletics.

Eligible projects in the program include development, renovation, and combination (acquisition & development/renovation). Eligible project elements include retrofits for accessibility; new or renovated athletic fields (soccer, baseball, softball, football, etc.), hard courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.), outdoor pools for competitive events, and support elements.

The board most recently reviewed this program in 2017. At that time, the board raised the maximum grant limit from \$250,000 to \$350,000 and established a “small grants” category. Small grants are available to communities with 10,000 or fewer residents, counties with 60,000 or fewer residents, tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations with a maximum \$75,000 award.

Prior to the 2017 review, the YAF program priorities, funding limits, sponsor and project eligibility were set by the board when they re-established the program in 2015. At that time, the primary identified need was renovating and expanding the capacity of existing athletic facilities.

At the January 2023 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting, the Washington Recreation and Parks Association made a request for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to assess the YAF program.

Research Questions

RCO staff are initiating a project to review YAF grant limits, program policies, and the relationship between the YAF and WWRP Local Parks category.

Work will include data analysis of the relationship between the two funding programs, stakeholder outreach, and development of policy alternatives.

Specific Questions Include:

- How do we incentivize applications for Athletics Projects to come through YAF/How do we reduce the number of projects w/ athletics in WWRP Local Parks?
- What are the current costs of developing an athletic facility and how do we accommodate escalating costs?
- What policy/grant limit/evaluation criteria changes should be made in YAF and Local Parks to better distinguish the two programs?

Next Steps

RCO staff will work with stakeholders to develop options for the board to consider at their June meeting. Pending the board's direction, RCO will refine options and present a final alternative in October. Staff intent is to make changes to the YAF program prior to the 2024 grant application cycle.



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Cost Increases

Prepared By: Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director

Summary

Project sponsors in Washington State are experiencing significant increases in costs for land, labor, materials, and equipment for capital improvement projects. This has had substantial impacts on Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved projects where budgets are set years before actual project implementation. This memo summarizes stakeholder interests in cost increase policies for two grant programs and asks the board for a policy decision regarding how to address cost increases.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-07

Purpose of Resolution: To adopt cost increase policies for the Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts.

Background

At the October 2022 and January 2023 Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meetings, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff briefed the board on the issue of rising costs for construction projects, current board policies on cost increases, and options for the two programs that currently do not allow for cost increases—the Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)—Habitat Conservation and Outdoor

Recreation Accounts. The categories in the Habitat Conservation Account include critical habitat, natural areas, riparian protection, state lands restoration and enhancement, and urban wildlife habitat. The Outdoor Recreation Account includes local parks, state lands development and renovation, state parks, trails, and water access. After discussion, the board provided direction and options for the next steps.

Board Direction and Policy Options

Board Direction

For the ALEA program, board members were presented with two options:

- ALEA Option 1 (staff recommendation): Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project cost. Increases above 10 percent would be referred to the board for consideration.
- ALEA Option 2: No action.

For the WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation accounts, the board was asked to consider the following four options, (which did not include a staff recommendation):

- WWRP Option 1: Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts.
- WWRP Option 2: Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts. In addition, prioritize use of unspent funds in the following order: finish funding partially funded projects, approve pending cost increases, then fund alternates on the board approved ranked lists.
- WWRP Option 3: Hold back a small percentage (1 to 2.5 percent) of the 2023-2025 WWRP budgets for the Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts and allow the RCO Director to utilize this funding to cover future cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project cost. Funds may be used for 2022 projects only.
- WWRP Option 4: No change.

As a follow-up to their discussion, the board asked staff to solicit public feedback on these options for consideration at the April board meeting.

Public Comment

RCO staff solicited feedback through an open public comment period from March 7 through March 28. In addition, staff met with interested stakeholders that included the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition and the Washington Recreation and Park Association. While there was ample time for comments, RCO received few responses from the public or via stakeholder engagement. However, two additional options emerged and are summarized below.

Additional Policy Options for Board Consideration

The first emerging option is for the WWRP State Parks category. This category is part of the Outdoor Recreation Account, however, reasoning to disallow cost increases may not apply to the State Parks category. When a State Parks project experiences a cost overrun, State Parks has limited other resources to help make up the difference. This WWRP category has a single sponsor, which means alternate projects for other sponsors would not be impacted. The impact instead would be to the next State Parks category project. If the board does not approve cost increases for the Outdoor Recreation Account, State Parks asks that the board consider approving a cost increase policy for the State Parks category. Here is proposed language for that policy option:

WWRP Option 5: The RCO Director may use unspent funds from the State Parks category to approve cost increases for a State Parks category project. The increase is limited to 10 percent of the total project amount for the approved WWRP State Parks category project.

The second emerging option is to modify Option 2, to only allow the policy to be implemented during unique economic circumstances, like what was experienced in the past two years. Staff looked at different economic indicators and learned that the “consumer price index” has been consistently tracked by the federal government for decades. It had not risen over four percent in any month from 2013 through 2020. It has risen more than five percent every month since early 2021. If the board chooses this new option, staff suggest the board use the “consumer price index” as part of its cost increase policy. Here is proposed language for this policy option:

WWRP Option 6: The RCO Director may use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation accounts, if the consumer price index increase is five percent or higher for any six consecutive months starting May 2023. In addition, the RCO Director must prioritize use of unspent funds in the following order: finish funding partially funded projects, approve pending cost increases, and then fund alternates on the board approved ranked lists.

Board Authority

Another question that came up in conversations with stakeholders was about the board's current authority for cost increases. Staff clarified that the board may choose to override its own policies and approve cost increases for projects in its programs, which allows the board to approve cost increases for individual projects.

Request for a Decision

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Options

Due to the similarities between ALEA and other board programs, and to bring policy consistency with those programs, the following options are being considered, with a staff recommendation for option 1:

- Option 1 (staff recommendation): Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project cost. Increases above 10 percent would be referred to the board for consideration.
- Option 2: Do not allow cost increases.

Here are pros and cons identified for Option One.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost increases would only be approved if there are sufficient funds available in the account after viable applications are funded.• Existing board policy governing cost increases would be used for the program.• A cost increase option may reduce the number of scope changes or withdrawn projects.• Alleviates some of the burden from sponsors working to complete projects during challenging economic periods.• Provides an opportunity to use all available funds when funds are restricted to a legislatively approved list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could potentially mean that the program funds fewer projects.• Increasing funds 10% may alleviate only some of sponsors' financial concerns.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cost increase policy for this program would help ensure consistency across board programs, since increases are allowed in almost all programs now. 	
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Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Options

Per the board's direction, the following options for the WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts are presented to the board. Due to the complex nature of WWRP funding formula, the history of funding alternate projects, and to provide the most certain outcomes to project sponsor, staff is recommending option four.

- Option 1: Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts. **Note: The board decided not to move forward with this option.**
- Option 2: Allow the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to 10 percent of the total project amount for WWRP Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts. In addition, prioritize use of unspent funds in the following order: finish funding partially funded projects, approve pending cost increases, then fund alternates on the board approved ranked lists.
- Option 3: Hold back a small percentage (1 to 2.5 percent) of the 2023-2025 WWRP budgets for the Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts and allow the RCO Director to utilize this funding to cover future cost increases of up to 10 percent of the total project cost. Funds may be used for 2022 projects only.
- Option 4: Do not change the existing policy of no cost increases.

Pros and Cons with the proposed options:

Option	Pro	Con
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the number of scope changes or withdrawn projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially funds few projects • Deprioritizes alternate projects

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides consistency with other board programs of allowing for cost increases • Assists with unanticipated costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only addresses up to 10% of cost increase which may not address full sponsor concern
Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically sets aside funds • Reduces the number of scope changes or withdrawn projects • Does not complicate the WWRP formula in the future. • Assists with unanticipated costs • Only applies to 2022 and returns to current policy for 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds back funding that could be invested in projects • 1-2.5% hold back may not be enough to meet demands • Can only be applied to 2022 projects. Does not help 2018 and 2020 projects, which have been the most impacted by rising costs • Only addresses up to 10% of cost increase which may not address full sponsor concern
Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleviates the challenge of deciding which project is most deserving of an increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not provide sponsors any relief, if needed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “no increase” policy is very clear, and sponsors know what to expect 	
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Next Steps

If the board chooses to adopt a policy that is different than existing policy, that policy will become effective, July 1, 2023. RCO staff will update the appropriate policy manuals before the next grant cycle.

Attachments

Attachment A: Resolution, Cost Increases for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Accounts

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Cost Increases for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Resolution 2023-07**

WHEREAS project sponsors create estimates of projects costs 15 or more months before funds become available; and

WHEREAS 2021 and 2022 were years of unprecedented inflation of property values and construction costs; and

WHEREAS projects may continue to experience unexpected increases in cost due to several different site specific and economic factors; and

WHEREAS sponsors may not have other financial resources to ensure a project is completed as proposed; and

WHEREAS the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's strategy is to provide leadership to help its partners invest in protecting, restoring, and developing habitat and recreation resources through policy development; and

WHEREAS considering cost increase policies for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account aligns with the board's goal for delivering successful projects using broad public participation and adaptive management; and

WHEREAS allowing cost increases supports the stewardship of public money by ensuring state funded projects are completed and do not become an undo financial burden on a community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves:

- Option 1 for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, which allows the RCO Director to use unspent funds to approve cost increases up to ten percent of the total project cost. Increases above ten percent would be referred to the board for consideration and

directs staff to update the appropriate policy manuals before the next grant cycle. The effective date for these policies is July 1, 2023.

Resolution moved by: Member Herzog

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (underline
one) Date: April 25, 2023

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Chelan County Wenatchee River Park Conversion

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager

Summary

Chelan County is asking the board to recommend approval of a conversion of 8.6 acres at Wenatchee River Park to the National Park Service (NPS). A portion of the park was converted in 2001 for seasonal farmworker housing.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Resolution: 2023-08

Purpose of Resolution: Recommend the National Park Service approve the partial conversion of the Wenatchee River Park and the adjacent property as replacement.

Overview of Applicable Rules and Policies and the Board's Role

Chelan County converted a property developed with grants using state bonds and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding. The grants were used to develop park facilities in the community of Monitor in Chelan County. However, a portion of the park was converted in 2001 into farmworker housing.

Conversion Policy

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) projects for the Wenatchee River Park are [68-112](#), [69-208](#), [70-001](#) and [71-003](#). The first project received funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the other three projects were funded with state bonds. A LWCF 6(f) boundary encumbers the entire park making it subject to National Park Service (NPS) LWCF policies.

As a result of the combined funding, both the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act¹ and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) set forth rules and policies for addressing the proposed conversion:

- Use of LWCF grant funds creates a condition under which property and structures acquired become part of the public domain in perpetuity.
- Board policy states that interests in real property, structures, and facilities that were acquired, developed, enhanced, or restored with board funds, including state bond funds, must not be changed (either in part or in whole) or converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved without the approval of the board.²
- The RCO grant agreement provides additional protections from conversion.

However, because needs and values may change over time, federal law and board policy allow conversion of a grant-funded project area. If a LWCF or state-funded project is converted, the project sponsor must replace the converted interests in real property, structures, or facilities. The replacement property must have at least equal market value and have reasonably equivalent recreation utility and location.

Applicable Policies and Rules

NPS LWCF policies define when a conversion occurs and the requirements for requesting approval. LWCF policy for a conversion requires compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

The board has adopted Washington Administrative Code³ and policy that defines when a conversion occurs, the appropriate replacement measures, and the steps that sponsors must take to request approval. Those steps are:

- The sponsor has demonstrated the need to convert the project area⁴ including all efforts to consider practical alternatives, how they were evaluated, and the reasons they were not pursued;

¹ Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 59 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Program of Assistance to States; Post-Completion Compliance Responsibilities

² Policy is consistent with state law and administrative rule.

³ WAC 286-13-160; WAC 286-13-170

⁴ WAC 286-04-010 (19) Project area is a geographic area that delineates a grant assisted site which is subject to application and project agreement requirements.

- Provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the identification, development, and evaluation of the alternatives, including a minimum public comment period of at least thirty days; and
- Provide another property or project area to serve as replacement.

The replacement for conversion of a LWCF project area must:

- Be an interest in real property of at least equal current market value to the converted property;
- Be of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location;
- Be administered by the same sponsor unless otherwise approved by the board;
- Satisfy need(s) identified in the sponsor's current plan, or other relevant local or statewide plan;
- Is in accordance with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP);
- Be eligible in the LWCF grant program; and
- Satisfies the conversion without grant assistance from the LWCF program.

The Role of the Board

Because one of the projects was funded by a LWCF grant, the entire park is encumbered with the federal grant boundary. The role of the board is to decide whether to recommend approval of the conversion to the NPS.

To do so, the board evaluates the list of practical alternatives that were considered for the conversion and replacement, including avoidance, and considers whether the replacement property has reasonably equivalent recreation utility and location.

The NPS has the legal responsibility to make the final decision of whether or not to approve this conversion related to the LWCF project.

The board does not have the authority in statute, rule, or policy to accept other types of mitigation, levy penalties, or dictate the future use of the property or project area being converted.

Background

The projects that were funded are described as follows.

Project Name: Wenatchee River Park

Project #: 68-112

Grant Program:	Land and Water Conservation Fund	Board funded date: 1968
LWCF	\$96,000	Original Purpose: The project was the first phase of development of campsites, play area, picnic shelter, utilities, and restrooms.
Project Sponsor Match	\$96,000	
Total Amount:	\$192,000	

Project Name: Wenatchee River Park		Project #: 69-208
Grant Program:	State Bonds	Board funded date: 1970
State Bonds Amount	\$ 53,363	Original Purpose: The project developed the second phase of the park with campsites, playground, picnic shelter, and a park/administrative building.
Project Sponsor Match	\$17,787	
Total Amount:	\$71,150	

Project Name: Wenatchee River Park		Project #: 70-001
Grant Program:	State Bonds	Board funded date: 1970
State Bonds Amount	\$56,250	Original Purpose: The project developed the third phase of the park with campsites, restroom, road, and parking.
Project Sponsor Match	\$18,750	
Total Amount:	\$75,000	

Project Name: Wenatchee River Park		Project #: 71-003
Grant Program:	State Bonds	Board funded date: 1971
State Bonds Amount	\$56,191	Original Purpose: The project was the final phase of park development that included tent camping sites, picnic shelter, restrooms, and road.
Project Sponsor Match	\$18,730	
Total Amount:	\$ 74,921	

The Wenatchee River Park is an 18-acre park located adjacent to US Highway 2 in the community of Monitor (Attachment A). Chelan County (County) received four grants

over three years (1968-1971) to develop the park for overnight camping and day use facilities. As noted in the park's name, it is located adjacent to and provides access to the Wenatchee River.

The day use area includes a picnic shelter, restrooms, parking, and the park office. The RV campground includes picnic shelters, comfort stations, and playground. A park maintenance area is located in the eastern part of the park and contains the underground septic system for the park, which limits development in that area.

Wenatchee River Park Conversion

In May 2001, County and RCO staff discussed the planned seasonal farmworker housing that would be located at the park. A portion of the eastern area of the park was identified as the location for the housing. That area consisted of 24 RV pull-through campsites, an open grassy area, and an unpaved overflow parking area. At that time, it was expected the temporary housing use would be limited to 28 days on a seasonal basis and consist of non-permanent structures.

Subsequently, the County received funding through the state Department of Commerce (formerly Commerce, Trade and Economic Development, CTED) to provide temporary housing for farmworkers at the park. The use became permanent over time. (Attachment B)

The housing facility is occupied from June 1 to November 1 annually. The 8.6-acre conversion area includes the housing and support facilities, which consists of 28 small modular housing units, 30 canvas tents on concrete pads, restroom/shower building, common kitchen/dining area, storage/maintenance structures, and a parking area. A playground and open play area for housing residents are also located within the conversion area.

Details of Proposed Replacement Property

Location

The replacement property is adjacent to the existing park on the park's eastern boundary. (Attachment B and C)

Property Characteristics

The replacement property is approximately 20 acres and gently sloped towards the Wenatchee River. It is undeveloped and consists of a mix of riparian forested areas, wetlands, and riverfront. There are no buildings on the property. An existing powerline

and related infrastructure (poles and guy wires) is located near the eastern boundary of the property⁵. (Attachments C and D)

Planned Use

The County plans to maintain the replacement as open space with public access provided at the northwest corner and from the existing camping area along the riverfront. Access along the shoreline of the replacement will be available to the public.

Analysis

When reviewing conversion requests, the board considers the following factors, in addition to the scope of the original grant and the proposed substitution of land or facilities⁶:

- All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
- The fair market value of the converted property has been established and the proposed replacement property is of at least equal fair market value.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement property has at least reasonably equivalent utility and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Conversion

In 1998, Governor Gary Locke declared farmworker housing to be the state's highest housing need and a Farmworker Housing Program was established in the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (now the Department of Commerce). The park was identified as a site for locating farmworker housing.

The conversion occurred in 2001. The County has an ongoing contract with the Department of Commerce for the use of a portion of the park for farmworker housing.

The option to remove or relocate the housing use and related infrastructure is cost prohibitive.

⁵ There is no recorded easement for the powerline. The line runs from north to south near the eastern boundary of the property. Estimated size is 100' by 409'.

⁶ Manual #7: *Long-term Obligations*

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives - Replacement

The replacement property is adjacent to the park's eastern boundary. It consists of 20 acres and is owned by the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The property meets board and National Park Service policy requirements for eligibility for land that is publicly owned. (Attachment D)

The replacement property would expand the park. Expansion of the park has been limited due to existing conditions. The river creates the park's southern boundary, the county road is on the park's western boundary, and the state highway is adjacent to the park's northern boundary.

The county has been in discussion with RCO for several years on resolving the conversion. There have been different replacement properties considered but due to the lack of resources, the county was unable to proceed in seeking approval of the conversion until late 2021.

Alternatives for replacement included a 10.7-acre undeveloped parcel adjacent to Ohme Gardens and a 15-acre property on Nason Creek. (Attachment C). The Nason Creek property is located south of Lake Wenatchee and adjacent to Hwy 2. The Ohme Gardens property is adjacent to the existing Ohme Gardens County Park in Wenatchee. These properties were deemed less desirable when compared to the ability to expand the existing park.

The county has identified the adjacent WSDOT property as the replacement.

Evaluation of Fair Market Value

The conversion area and replacement property have been appraised for fee title interest with market value dates that meet board and LWCF policy.

	Conversion Property	Replacement Property	Difference
Market Value	\$430,000	\$529,000	+99,000
Acres	8.6 Acres	20 Acres	+11.4 Acres

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location

The proposed replacement property is adjacent to the park's eastern boundary.

Evaluation Reasonably Equivalent Usefulness

The conversion area was developed with 24 pull-through campsites and included an open grassy area and an unpaved overflow parking area.

The replacement property consists of a mix of riparian forested areas, wetlands, and riverfront. The property will provide open space, preserve onsite wetlands, and expand access to the Wenatchee River for fishing and wildlife viewing.

Of note for a LWCF conversion, replacement property that includes wetlands can be considered as providing equivalent usefulness when identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Wetlands restoration and preservation are recognized in the state plan as providing critical ecosystem services and opportunities for recreation.

Evaluation of Public Participation

The County posted a public notice of the conversion and replacement on the County's website on February 20, 2023. The public comment period ended on March 22, 2023. No comments were received.

Other Requirements Met

[Same Project Sponsor](#)

The replacement property will be administered by the same project sponsor, Chelan County.

[Satisfy Needs in Adopted Plan](#)

The replacement property will function as open space and in preserving wetlands while also providing access for recreation on the Wenatchee River. This satisfies the goal in the Parks element of the County's Comprehensive Plan to encourage open space and public land use for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The replacement meets the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) priority for "protecting natural and cultural resources while managing increased demand". One of the goals in this priority is "an expanding mosaic of protected public and private lands supports outdoor recreation, public health, community development, natural resource and wildlife conservation". Additionally, the board's Unifying Strategy identifies a goal of conserving habitat and preserving wetlands.

[Eligible in the Funding Program](#)

The proposed replacement property meets eligibility requirements.

National Park Service – Land and Water Conservation Fund Requirements

LWCF policies require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The conversion qualifies as a categorical exclusion to satisfy the NEPA requirements.

Cultural resources review and consultation is underway. A cultural resources survey was conducted on the replacement property and uploaded to the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) database. RCO received concurrence from DAHP on the area of potential effects (APE).

The NPS has the authority and responsibility for conducting consultation with Native American Tribes. The consultation was initiated on March 21, 2023. Staff will provide an update at the board meeting.

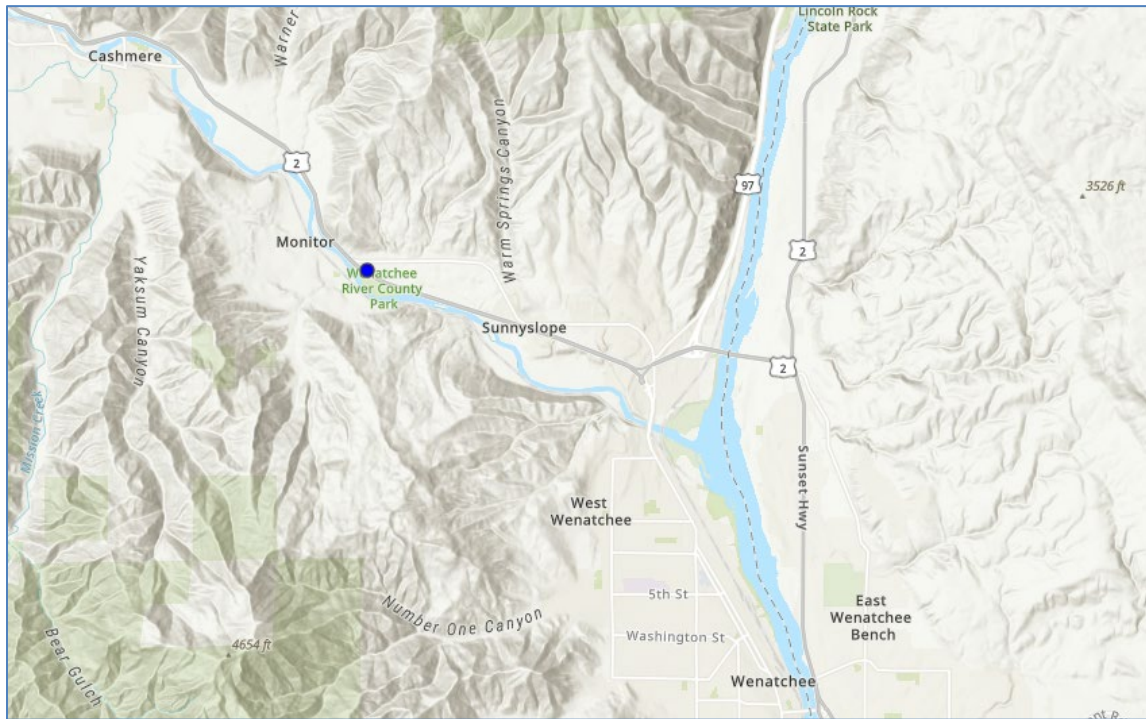
Next Steps

If the board recommends approval of the conversion, RCO staff will prepare the required federal documentation and transmit the recommendation to the NPS. Pending NPS approval, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the grant agreement, as directed.

Attachments

- A. Wenatchee River Park - Site Location and Aerial Maps (2017; 1998)
- B. Conversion Area and Replacement Property Aerial Map
- C. Replacement Property Parcel Map
- D. Replacement Property Photos
- E. Alternatives Considered for Replacement – Location and Parcel Maps
- F. Wenatchee River Park Photos
- G. Resolution 2023-08

Location Map, 2017 and 1998 Aerial Maps

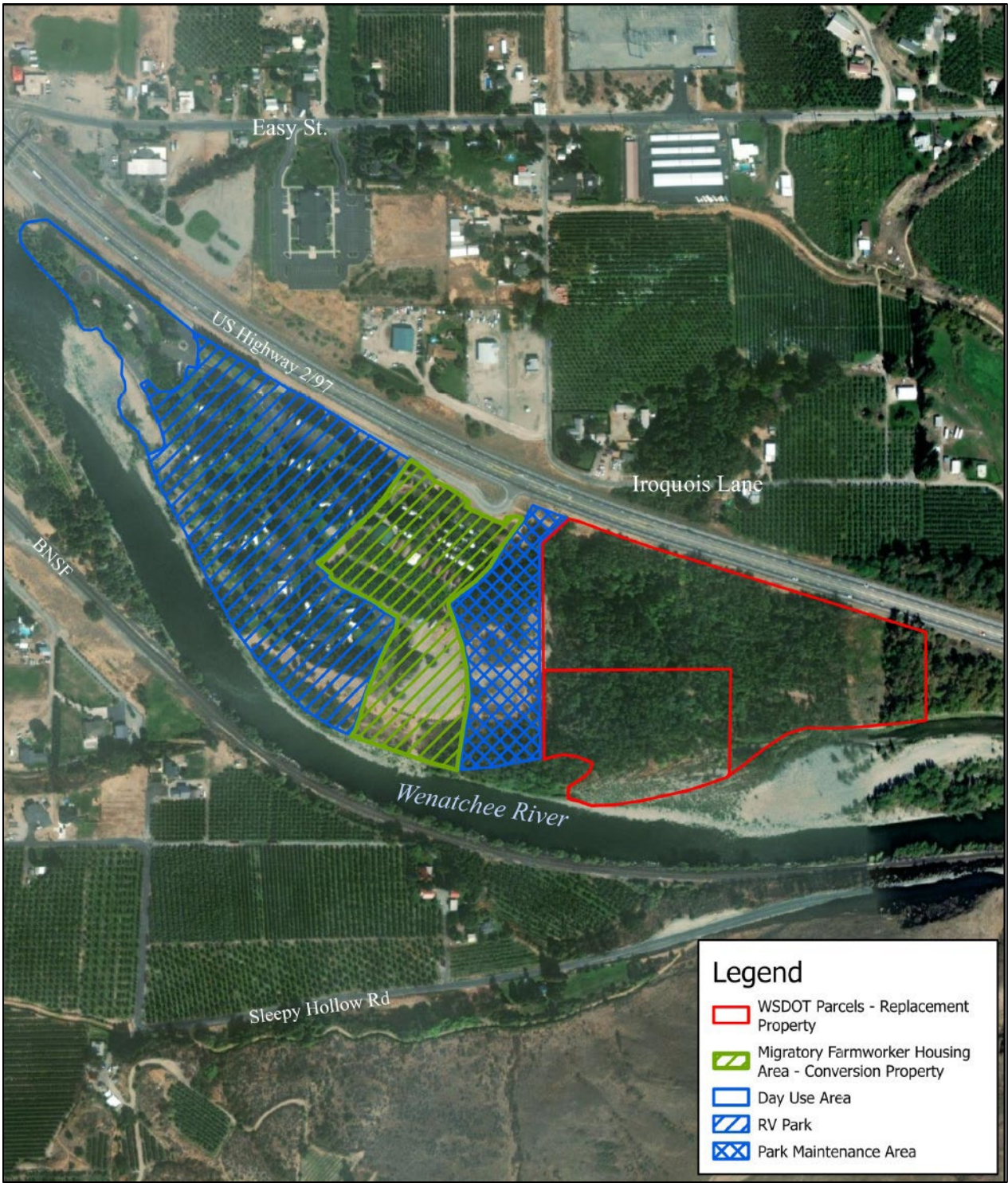




1998 Aerial Map – Prior to the partial conversion of the park



Aerial Map – Wenatchee River Park - Conversion Area and Replacement Property



Parcel Map - Replacement Property



Photos of Replacement Property



View into the Replacement Property from the southwest corner



View into the Replacement Property from midway on western boundary



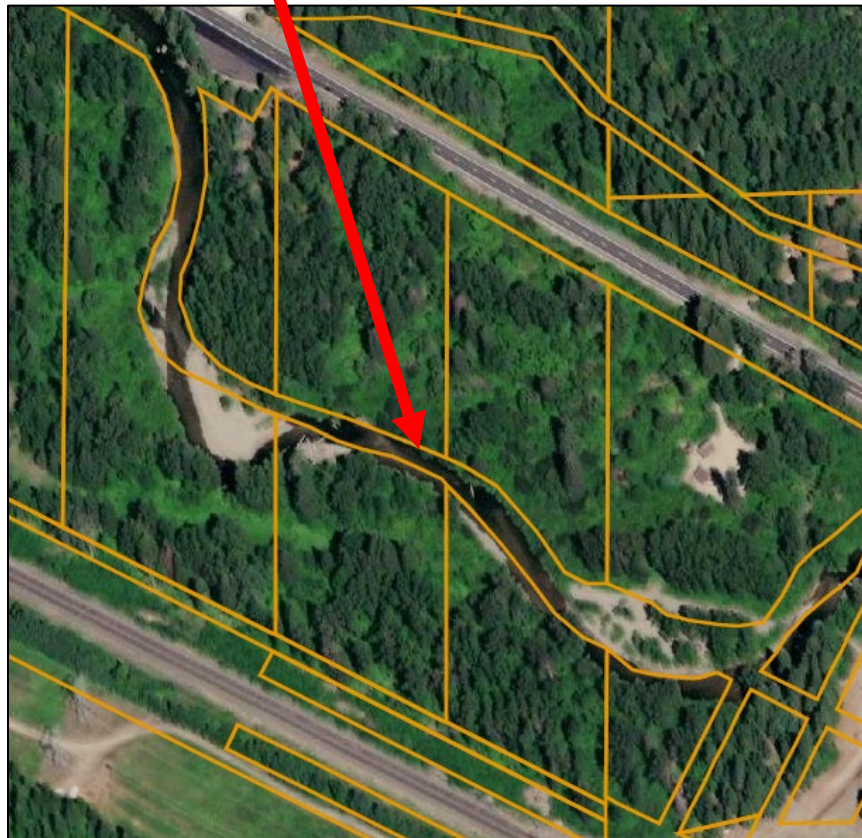
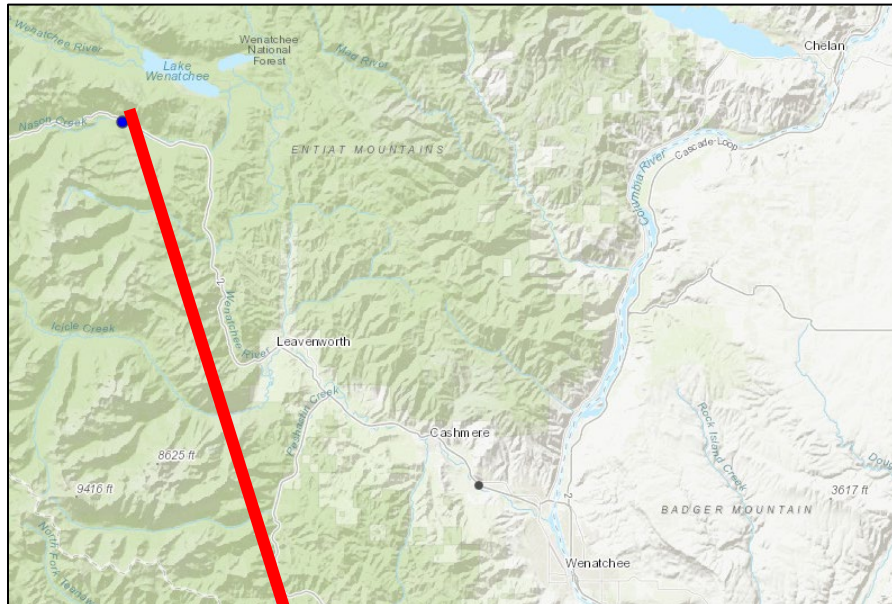
View of Replacement Property from Sleepy Hollow Road (looking north across the Wenatchee River)



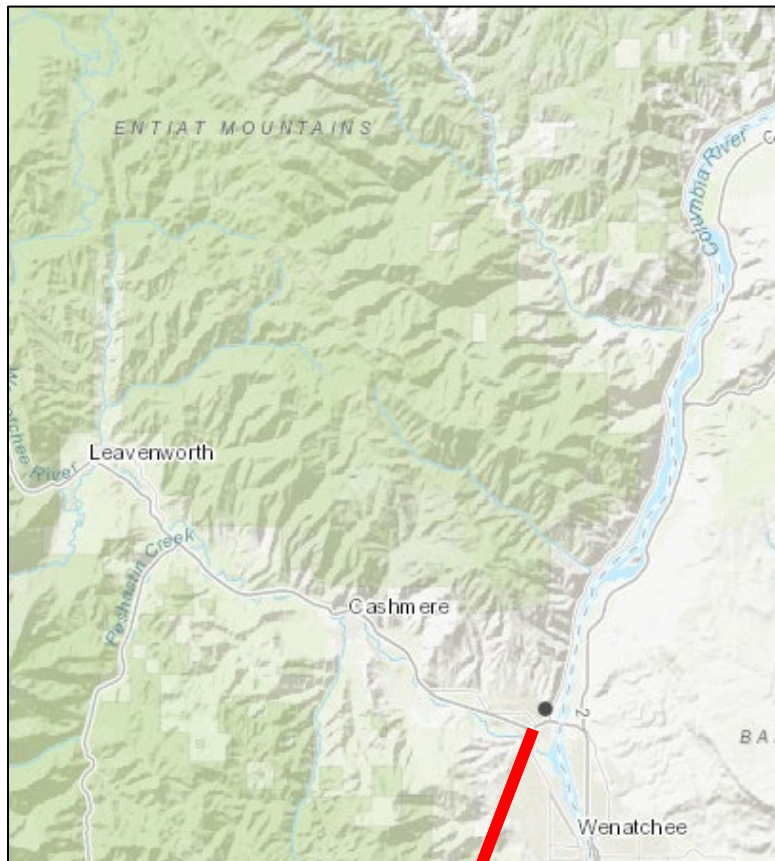
View from Hwy 2 into the Replacement Property

Attachment E – Maps of Alternatives for Replacement Property

Nason Creek



Ohme Gardens Property



Attachment F: Wenatchee River Park Photos





Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2023-08
Recommending Approval of the Conversion and Replacement
Chelan County Wenatchee River Park

WHEREAS, Chelan County used grants from state Bonds and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to develop the Wenatchee River Park; and

WHEREAS, the County has dedicated a portion of the property for temporary farmworker housing thus creating a conversion; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conversion, a portion of the property no longer satisfies the conditions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant; and

WHEREAS, the County is asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to recommend approval of the conversion and replacement property identified in this memorandum and as presented to the board to the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the replacement property has an appraised value that is greater than the conversion area, and has greater acreage than the conversion area; and

WHEREAS, the replacement property will expand the existing park and provide open space, wetland preservation, and recreational access to the Wenatchee River; and

WHEREAS, the replacement property meets needs identified in the County's comprehensive plan, thereby supporting the board's goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor sought public comment on the conversion, thereby supporting the board's strategy to regularly seek public feedback in policy and funding decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the conversion request and the replacement property for RCO Projects #68-112, #69-208, #70-001, and #71-003 as presented to the board on April 25, 2023, and set forth in the board memo prepared for that meeting;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board hereby authorizes the RCO director to forward a recommendation for approval of the conversion and replacement to the National Park Service for final approval.

Resolution moved by:

Member Burgess

Resolution seconded by:

Member Shiosaki

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline*

one) Date:

April 25, 2023



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2022

Title: Policy Proposal: Additions to the Exceptions to Conversion Policy

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager

Summary

This memo describes the proposed changes to the Exceptions to Conversion policy based on feedback from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and completion of the public comment period. Staff recommends board approval of the proposed changes.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Resolution: 2023-09

Purpose of Resolution: Approve one revision and four new exceptions to the Exceptions to Conversion Policy.

Background

In 2019, the board approved an Exceptions to Conversion policy (Attachment B). The policy provides flexibility for addressing changes to a project area that have minimal impact to the intended purpose and use as described in the grant agreement. The actions or uses that meet the Exceptions to Conversion policy must be secondary to the site's intended purpose and use. *There are no automatic approvals granted for an exception. Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

A sponsor must request approval for an exception to conversion and provide documentation that supports the request as having minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area.

Final Proposed Changes to the Exceptions to Conversion

Staff are proposing to revise one of the current exceptions to conversion and add four (4) new exceptions to the policy.

Revised exception (revision underlined):

- Relocation of an easement and related infrastructure that would benefit and/or improve the intended purpose and use of the project area, with restoring the disturbed area to original or better condition in a specified period of time.

New exceptions:

- A new easement and/or right-of-way and related infrastructure (such as a utility box, poles, guide wires) that would benefit the intended purpose and use of the project area. *Not intended to provide a blanket exception to any new easement, such as conveying an easement to a private party for their convenience.*
- A new easement and/or right-of-way for a culvert replacement or improving fish passage that has minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area.
- Changes to an existing easement, right-of-way, or encumbrance (and related infrastructure) that would have minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area.
- Telecommunications and related infrastructure (such as tower, fencing, equipment, access and related lease or easement) that has minimal impact to the intended purpose and use of the project area and provides for increased safety, or service, or information to the public using the project area.

Summary of Public Outreach and Comments

The proposed policy change was posted for public comment on RCO's website. The comment period began January 30, 2023, and concluded on March 1, 2023.

Staff participated in an online session with members of the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA). Staff explained the proposed policy and answered questions from members.

Four (4) comments were received and are found in the attached table (Attachment A). Overall, the comments were in support of the proposal.

Staff will summarize the comments specific to the proposal and staff response.

Summary of comment: Right-of-way expansion doesn't have a definition of scale included. There's a difference between expanded ROW for an existing road to serve the park or adjoining properties between a major new road project.

Summary of comment: New easement for culvert/improving fish passage is not clear what the public benefit test is.

Summary of comment: Utilities are quick to propose the use of parks and open spaces as the cheapest alternative to expand services...unless it is for the benefit of the function of the park or open space facility specifically, I wouldn't support this amendment.

Staff response: There are no automatic approvals for an exception to conversion request. A sponsor must provide justification and support describing the impact and benefit that would result from the use or conveyance. A sponsor may be asked to provide additional information and documentation regarding the requested use or action before a determination is made.

Summary of comment: Telecommunications towers may negatively impact the experience. A visual impact report/study could be required. Access to the tower may require a new road that could negatively impact a site.

Staff response: The suggestion for a visual impact study and access road impact will be taken into consideration as guidance for RCO review of requests.

Summary of comment: If approved, must the income from the use be applied directly back to the property where the income is generated?

Staff response: The income policy applies to a project area where an exception to conversion is being requested. Income generated from a project area must be used for the operation, maintenance, and stewardship of the project area or for similar areas in the sponsor's system.

Staff Recommendation and Next Steps

Staff recommends board approval of the final proposed changes to the Exceptions to Conversion policy. Staff will revise the policies as directed by the board and incorporate the changes into Manual 7.

Attachments

Attachment A: Public Comments Received

Attachment B: Current Exceptions to Conversion and Conversion Policy

Attachment C: Resolution 2023-09

Public Comments Received

Date Received	Name	Organization	Comment	RCO Response
2/2/2023	Monica Tubberville	Vancouver Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services	<p>RE: New easement/ROW exception: In the context of the City of Vancouver Transportation proposal for the extension of 32nd Avenue though the Vancouver Lake Lowlands, I'm leery of a ROW expansion that doesn't have a definition of scale included. If there's expanded ROW dedication needed for an existing road to serve the park or even adjoining properties that is notably different than a major new road project as proposed.</p> <p>RE: New easement for culvert/improving fish passage: It's not clear from the amendment what the public benefit test is. The wildlife and ecosystem benefits make perfect sense and I'm supportive.</p> <p>RE: Telecommunications and related infrastructure: Utilities are quick to propose the use of parks and open spaces as the cheapest alternative to expand services, and easy to say it provides public benefit off-site. Unless it is for the benefit of the function of the park or open space facility specifically, I wouldn't support this amendment.</p>	Thank you for your comments. As clarification, there are no automatic approvals for an Exception to Conversion. A sponsor must submit a formal request for approval and provide justification and support on the impact and benefit that would result from the use or conveyance. A sponsor may be asked to provide additional information and documentation regarding the requested use or action before a determination is made.
2/2/2023	Dave Erickson	Wenatchee Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services	Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and provide input regarding the proposed RCO conversion policy. A few questions came up with regard to telecommunication structures that I feel should be considered.	Thank you for your comments. The suggestions will be taken into consideration.

			<p>Visual impacts to park visitors. Telecommunications towers may negatively impact the visitor experience depending on the area in which they are located. In rural/open areas a tower may be visually unappealing, negatively impacting view corridors versus if they are located urban setting where they may be more easily camouflaged into the surrounding landscape. Care should be taken when sighting them. A recommendation to consider would be in the case where towers are proposed, applicants could be required to provide a Visual Impact Report/Study which investigates the impacts of both views from within the site and also from outside to the site.</p> <p>Access for construction and maintenance. Although the footprint of a tower is generally not large, another item of potential concern would be construction and maintenance access routes. In developed/urban areas access to and from a tower may not be an issue, but in some areas construction of access roads may be required to get to the site for construction and ongoing maintenance. This could negatively impact the site.</p> <p>I'm assuming that agencies would receive rental and/or lease fees for the use of the property also. A question would be: If the conversion is approved, could/should this income the agency receives be required to be applied directly back to the property where the income is generated?</p>	
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			Thank you for the opportunity. I appreciate all the great work the RCO does!	
2/4/2023	Jennifer Burbidge	Lacey Parks Culture & Recreation	<p>Dear RCFB,</p> <p>I'm writing in support of the proposed Exception to Conversion policy changes.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Thank you for your comment.
2/24/2023	Heather Ahndan	King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Generally speaking, we support conversion exceptions that provide increased management flexibility while protecting public open space and associated benefits. We are especially in support of removing any administrative barriers on grant funded properties for restoration activities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.</p>	Thank you for your comment.

Current Exceptions to Conversion and Conversion Policy

Exceptions to Conversion¹

Under certain circumstances, a change in the use or function of a project area may be considered an exception to conversion.²

A sponsor may request RCO review for an exception to conversion for the actions below when demonstrating the action will have no permanent impact to the intended purpose, use, and function of the project area. RCO will consider the cumulative impacts of previously approved exceptions and encumbrances.

Exceptions that may be considered include the following:

- Relocation of an easement that would benefit the intended purpose and use of the project area, with restoration in a specified period of time.
- Right-of-way for road improvements that improve access to the project area.
- Underground utility easement for electrical, fiber optic, sewer, stormwater, or water, with restoration in a specified period of time.
- Temporary construction easement, with restoration in a specified period of time.
- Levee and related infrastructure relocation that expand and support the original habitat purpose of the project. A levee may consist of a landform or structure such as an embankment, dike, road, or similar structure that inhibits natural floodplain or tidal processes. Related infrastructure relocation may include easements for rights-of-way for roads, utilities, and other infrastructure. This exception is limited to sites funded for habitat conservation or restoration purposes.
- Granting utility permits. After determining that a pipe or power line will have no adverse effect on present and future public recreation or habitat use of a project site, any permit issued must include the following:
 - Not be an easement giving property rights to a third party.³

¹ Manual 7 Long-term Obligations

² Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2019-05. Additionally, this policy does not apply to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The National Park Service policy does not exempt these actions from conversion.

³Underground easements may be considered an exception to conversion as described above.

- State that the pipe or power line will be underground.
- Require that the third party give prior notice to and receive approval from the sponsor to enter the site for construction or maintenance. Regular maintenance checks and the method of performance (which must not involve disruption of any recreation or habitat conservation function), must have prior approval based on a schedule. Emergency maintenance would not normally require prior notification and approval. Adequate assurance of surface restoration also is necessary.
- State a duration for construction and include language that allows setting a duration for reconstruction.
- Non-permanent, non-conforming use or temporary closure. A non-permanent, non-conforming use that will have minimum impact to the project area (or portion of) from 180 days to 2 years must be reviewed by RCO and may be approved by the director. The project area impacted must be restored⁴ in a specified period of time following the use. The board may approve an extension of the non-permanent, non-conforming use.

Conversion Policy⁵

A conversion occurs when one or more of the following takes place, whether affecting an entire site or a portion of a site funded by RCO:

- Permanent property interests are conveyed for non-public, outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses.⁶
- Permanent property interests are conveyed to a third party not eligible to receive grants in the program from which funding was derived.⁷
- Non-outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses (public or private) are made in a manner that impairs the originally intended purposes of the project area.

⁴The portion of the project area impacted by the action is returned to its original (or better) surface condition.

⁵Manual 7 Long-term Obligations

⁶Unless approved as an Exception to Conversion. See Exception to Conversion section.

⁷An exception is allowed under Salmon Recovery Funding Board rules: Property acquired for salmon recovery purposes may be transferred to federal agencies, provided the property retains adequate habitat protections, and with written approval.

- Non-eligible indoor facilities or non-eligible structures are built in the project area.
- Public use of the property or a portion of the property acquired, developed, or restored with an RCO grant is terminated unless public use was not allowed under the original grant.
- If a habitat project, the property, or a portion of the property acquired, restored, or enhanced no longer provides the environmental functions for which RCO funds were approved originally.

A conversion requires replacement. Replacement requirements vary by program and project type but, at a minimum, must provide equivalent value and reasonably equivalent usefulness. The replacement must be eligible in the grant account or category that funded the original project.

A sponsor may not use RCO funding to purchase replacement land or develop replacement facilities or for replacement of restoration activities on the replacement project area. Grants may be used to develop or restore replacement property only for acquisition projects that have been converted.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Resolution 2023-09

Approval of Changes to the Board's Exceptions to Conversion Policy

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.030 authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt rules and procedures governing approval of conversions; and

WHEREAS, updating the board's compliance policies is desired for transparency and flexibility in having sponsors meet the board's long-term grant obligations and the Recreation and Conservation Office's grant management and contracting requirements; and

WHEREAS, retaining compliance policies help ensure completed projects remain in the public domain for the respective compliance period; and

WHEREAS, the board solicited and heard public comments on the changes to the Exceptions to Conversion policy recommended in this memorandum in an open public meeting on April 25, 2023, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed and considered public comments on the recommendations contained in this memo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves Resolution 2023-09 and the policy recommendation contained in this memo, excluding the language surrounding the exception of telecommunication facilities.

Resolution moved by:

Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by:

Member Lam

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline

one) *Date:*

April 25, 2023

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Scope Change: City of Zillah, Zillah Splash Park, RCO #20-1305D

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager
Jesse Sims, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo outlines a request from the City of Zillah to move the construction of their proposed splash pad from Loges Park to Stewart Park, causing a scope change that requires Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approval.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-10

Purpose of Resolution: Approve a major scope change to the Zillah Splash Park project.

Summary

In November 2020, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved the final ranked list of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects and delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) director to award grants using existing available funds and funds for federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 subject to Congressional and National Park Service (NPS) approval. Twenty-two of the projects submitted in 2020 were fully funded in November 2020 with an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant or a director approved LWCF grant. The highest-ranking projects received funding in November 2020.

When additional funds became available in April 2021, the director gave preliminary approval for a grant for the City of Zillah's Splash Park ([20-1305](#)) project in Loges Park pending federal approval. NPS will issue the federal agreement to RCO for Zillah's

project upon satisfactory completion and documentation of all pre-agreement requirements. Zillah is working to provide everything needed to meet these stringent federal readiness conditions.

Since the application was submitted, Zillah has more information about project costs and site suitability, determining that relocating the project to a different park will result in a more cost-effective and accessible park for the community.

Overview of the Major Scope Change Policy

As outlined in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 286-13-050, the board makes the final decision for awarding grants, program policies, and project changes. However, some decisions are delegated to the agency director. The WAC states:

- (1) The board shall consider recommendations from the director for grant projects at regularly scheduled public meetings.
- (2) The board retains the authority and responsibility to accept or deviate from the director's recommendations and make the final decision concerning the funding of an application *or a change to a funded project*.
- (3) Unless otherwise precluded by law, the board's decision is the final decision.

The director has determined that this request is for a major scope change and the appropriate authority for this decision is the board.

Background on Funded Project

Project Name: Zillah Splash Park		Project #: 20-1305D	
Grant Program: Land and Water Conservation Fund		Board funded date: November 2020	
Original Purpose: Development of a new splash park, renovation of six parking stalls, and installation of fencing, landscaping, signage, picnic tables and benches in Loges Park.	LWCF Grant	\$255,170	
	Sponsor Match	\$255,170	
	Total Amount	\$510,340	

Zillah applied for a LWCF grant and a matching Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Local Parks category grant to design and install a splash park at Loges Park. The project primarily consisted of constructing a new splash pad on top of a

decommissioned swimming pool. The objective was to provide a safer alternative for community members who would otherwise cool off in the Yakima River.

Due to the high cost of maintaining and operating an older structure, Zillah had closed its only public pool at Loges Park and was looking for options to provide water-based recreation for the community. Installing a splash park was ranked 14 out of 20 park facility capital improvements listed in Zillah's 2017 Parks and Recreation Plan. Loges Park was selected as the location for the new splash park as it was originally thought that the existing pool footprint and infrastructure would allow for a less-costly project. Although Loges Park is developed with a few other compatible park amenities including a skate park, sports court, and restroom, it has a few challenges that include limited parking. Still, the council believed Loges Park to be the best option when Zillah applied for the two board grants in 2020.

The WWRP Local Parks category project ranked 47 out of 80 projects, which was well below the funding line. The LWCF application ranked 22 out of 23 projects. One applicant withdrew a project and three projects on the list received ORLP grants thus allowing funds for all projects on the board-approved list. Zillah certified the required 50 percent match using local funds and was subsequently awarded a \$255,170 LWCF grant.

Readiness Requirements

RCO expected NPS to issue federal agreements for all funded projects no later than September 20, 2022. After RCO submitted the applications, NPS instituted unanticipated readiness requirements that must be met before it will issue the federal agreement. In the past, NPS routinely issued agreements with special conditions, which allowed time, post-award, for successful applicants to secure environmental and cultural resources clearances and obtain federal permits, if needed. Now those same requirements must be met in advance. This unexpected change has significantly impacted LWCF applicants, including Zillah. While NPS has now issued 15 agreements, Zillah and six other applicants are still diligently working to satisfy the readiness requirements.

Budgets

A significant challenge for applicants with delayed federal agreements (including Zillah) has been the escalating costs of construction, materials, and labor. Budgets prepared in early 2020 are now obsolete due to rising costs. In addition to inflation, some (like Zillah) are further along in the design process and have a better understanding of their project and can more reliably estimate project cost. Applicants, including Zillah, are looking for ways to complete projects as scoped with either additional bid rounds, considering less expensive materials, and bringing in additional funds. If unable to adjust budgets or secure the needed funds, sponsors are considering requests for scope

reductions. Utilizing unspent LWCF dollars, the director approved cost increases for many of the sponsors to help mitigate the impacts of rising costs.

Zillah is a small community (population 3,179) located in rural Yakima County and has limited staff resources. While initially reluctant to start design until funds were in hand, Zillah has been responsive and has been working in good faith to meet the readiness requirements for the Loges Park project. Zillah progressed to 60 percent design for the Loges Park site and their cultural resources survey and monitoring plan is nearly complete. Since submitting the application in May 2020, improvements within Zillah's small park system have necessitated consideration of relocating the spray park to another more suitable site.

Major Scope Change Request

On March 15, 2023, Zillah submitted a formal request to RCO asking for approval to move the proposed splash park project from Loges Park to Stewart Park. When Zillah applied for grant funds, Loges Park was chosen primarily due to the anticipated cost-savings of siting the new splash pad on the footprint of the decommissioned pool. Zillah has since determined that the cost to demolish the Loges Park pool to prepare it for the new splash park was greater than originally estimated. In addition to the cost of demolition, per board policy Zillah would need to bury the overhead utility lines.

Stewart Park, located approximately a half mile from Loges Park, has been determined by the council to be a more suitable site for the new splash park. At the time of application, Stewart Park was not considered as a desirable site for two primary reasons: 1) Zillah believed it would be more cost-effective to update the pool footprint to support the new splash park, and 2) the parking and park access points were limited at Stewart Park.

What's Changed

In October, Zillah provided RCO with the 60 percent design plans along with a refined, updated budget for the Loges Park site. The total estimated cost at time of application was \$510,340. Now two years later, the cost has increased to \$980,525. Even with the modest 10 percent Director-approved cost increase, an additional \$368,117 is needed.

	Original Amount	Cost Increase	Current Totals
LWCF Grant	\$255,170	\$51,034	\$306,204
Sponsor Match	\$255,170	\$51,034	\$306,204
Total	\$510,340	\$102,068	\$612,408

While searching Zillah's city budget to see if there were funds that could be shifted to this priority project, Zillah concurrently applied for a Planning for Recreation Access (PRA) grant to pay for architecture and engineering, cultural resources, and permitting for this project at the Stewart Park site. Although Zillah did not receive a grant during the first round of funding, both proposed capital budgets include an additional \$5 million for PRA grants. If that funding is approved, RCO's director would award a grant of \$109,700 for the Zillah Splash Park Design and Construction Plans ([22-2428](#)) project.

The most notable budget increases at the Loges site were due to the cost of burying overhead power lines and demolishing and replacing outdated pool infrastructure, all of which were additional site-specific costs. Since submitting its 2020 grant applications, Zillah has improved its own property adjacent to Stewart Park with a 96-stall paved and ADA accessible parking lot, which has two electric vehicle charging stations, a bus shelter, and several entrances to Stewart Park. Water, sewer, and power (no overhead lines) are already available along with the cookshack, which is a large picnic shelter with restrooms and a kitchen, and a playground.

Costs have been invested in design and securing cultural resources and environmental clearances at Loges Park. The value in the work that has been done to date is that Zillah now has a reliable cost estimate for its project and understands that using the Loges Pool footprint will result in a costlier project than constructing a new splash park at a different site. Even with funds already spent that cannot be reimbursed with the grant, moving the project to Stewart Park will still result in an estimated cost savings of \$150,000. This will reduce the current budget deficit to approximately \$218,000. Zillah is committed to raising enough funds to complete the project.

Analysis

For the board's consideration, RCO staff has analyzed whether LWCF evaluation team would have scored the construction of the new splash park in a different location the same as they scored the approved project.

Attachment E includes a summary of the LWCF evaluation criteria and the scores for all the applications considered in 2020. Zillah Splash Park ranked 22 out of 23 projects and scored no higher than mid-range in each evaluation criterion. While it is difficult to predict how the evaluation team might have scored a project, RCO staff believe that this project would have likely scored higher if it were sited at Stewart Park. In particular, the attributes of Stewart Park appear to warrant greater consideration under the *Project Design* criteria where the characteristics of the property are evaluated. Here is the evaluation criterion:

Criteria 4: Project Design. Is the project well designed? Consider the following:

- **Does this property support the type of development proposed? Describe the attributes: size, topography, soil conditions, natural amenities, location and access, utility service, wetlands, etc.**

Stewart Park is comprised of 2.4 acres of primarily open play grass fields and is centrally located within the community. It is adjacent to a 96-stall accessible parking area that has several access points into the park. Many community events are held at this park and the splash pad will be a cohesive community amenity. Loges Park is slightly larger at 3.0 acres but has limited parking (6 dedicated stalls). Both parks have open playfields, existing playground equipment, accessible restrooms, and park furnishings.

Loges Park is a half mile from Stewart Park but is not quite as centrally located. It contains a wetland which reduces the buildable area. If the splash pad were constructed here, overhead utility lines would need to be buried and new electrical and water connections would have to be installed, in addition to demolishing and removing the existing pool infrastructure.

Sufficient water and utilities already exist at Stewart Park. There are no overhead utility lines. Zillah proposes siting the splash pad at the eastern end of the park near the parking lot and other developed amenities.

- **How does the project design make the best use of the site?**

Zillah's plans were to use existing infrastructure at the decommissioned pool in Loges Park. After further research, it determined that renovating the former pool site is costlier than expected. The limited parking and the added expense of burying overhead utility lines makes Loges Park a less desirable location.

Constructing the 2,500 square foot splash pad at Stewart Park will be visually and spatially compatible with existing park structures including the cookshack with restrooms and the community center. The splash pad will be sited between the well house and playground within a few feet of the large group picnic shelter.

- **How well does the design provide equal access for all people, including those with disabilities? How does this project exceed current accessibility requirements?**

There are accessible entrances at Stewart Park from the adjacent park-and-ride and the Teapot Dome Memorial Park. As part of this project, new access paths would extend to the proposal spray park. A high priority for Zillah is to add a perimeter wellness path once funding is secured. This future fully accessible path

would include fitness stations and would improve access to existing park amenities including the cookshack and playground.

- **Is the cost estimate realistic?**

Zillah worked with an engineer to evaluate the costs for the originally sited project at Loges Park. This disclosed the high costs of demolishing the pool, burying overhead lines, installing new utilities, renovating the existing parking, and adding security fencing. By eliminating costs that would not be incurred at Stewart Park, Zillah determined that its cost savings would equate to \$150,000.

Staff Recommendation

RCO staff recommends the board approves Zillah's scope change request to site the new splash park at Stewart Park instead of Loges Park. Stewart Park is centrally located, provides plenty of parking, has high visibility, and does not require extensive demolition. In addition, Zillah expects a cost-savings of \$150,000, which is significant for this small community and its desire to provide a safe water-based public recreation facility.

Next Steps

If the board approves the request, Zillah will immediately begin the pre-agreement work needed to secure NPS approval of the federal agreement. When that agreement is issued, RCO will issue the state agreement and Zillah will move forward with constructing the new splash pad at Stewart Park.

Attachments

Attachment A: Resolution 2022-31

Attachment B: City of Zillah Location Maps

Attachment C: City of Zillah Aerial Views of the Parks

Attachment D: Photos at Stewart Park

Attachment E: LWCF Evaluation Criteria Summary and Scores for 2020 Projects

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2023-10
Major Scope Change Request: City of Zillah, Zillah Splash Park
RCO #20-1305D**

WHEREAS, the City of Zillah was awarded a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to develop a splash park at Loges Park; and

WHEREAS, Zillah has found that the combination of required pre-agreement costs, demolition, and escalating construction costs has significantly impacted its ability to complete the scope of work at Loges Park; and

WHEREAS, Zillah has requested approval to move the project from Loges Park to Stewart Park to allow for development of a more cost-efficient facility that has better infrastructure and access for a greater number of park visitors; and

WHEREAS, developing a funded facility at a site other than the one considered during the review and evaluation process is considered a major scope change; and

WHEREAS, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board policy requires board approval of major scope changes; and

WHEREAS, the board agrees with RCO staff's determination that the project would have scored the same or better if the proposed facilities were sited at Stewart Park; and

WHEREAS, consideration of this request supports the board's goal to provide funding to help partners develop public outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves moving the project site from Loges Park to Stewart Park and delegates authority to RCO's director to complete the appropriate paperwork to facilitate this approval.

Resolution moved by: Member Burgess

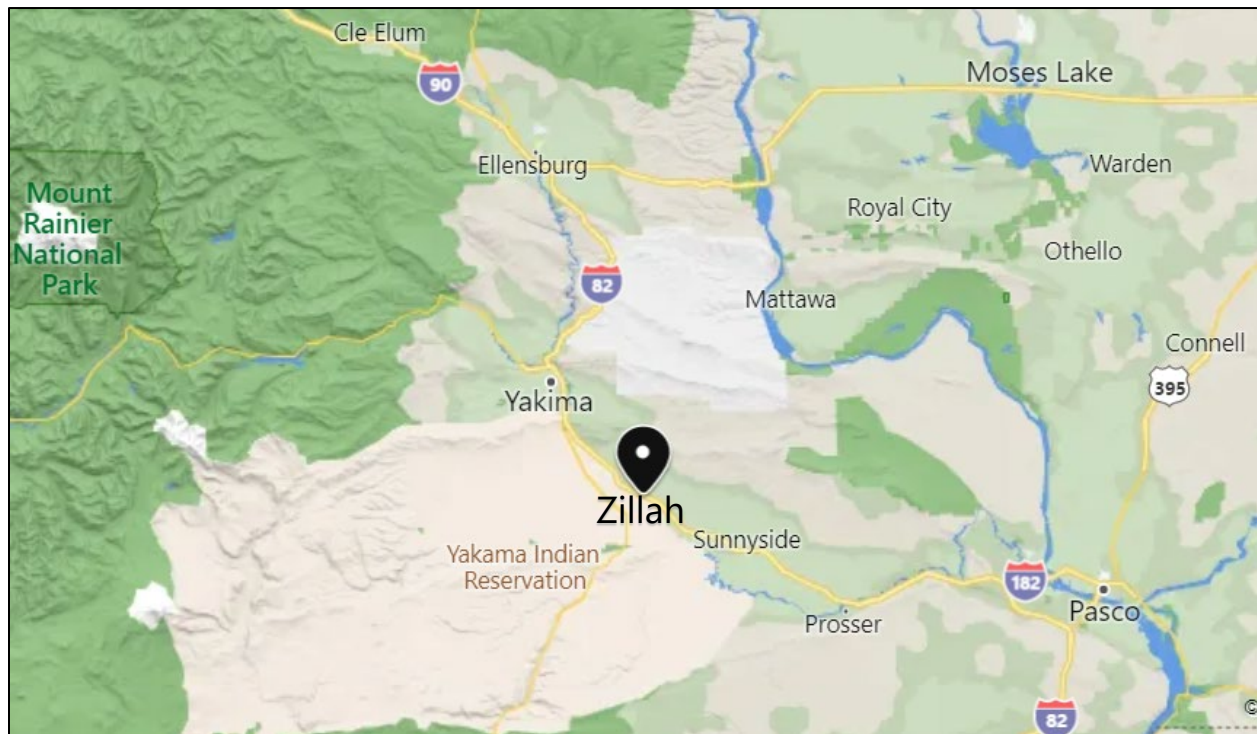
Resolution seconded by: Member Lam

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

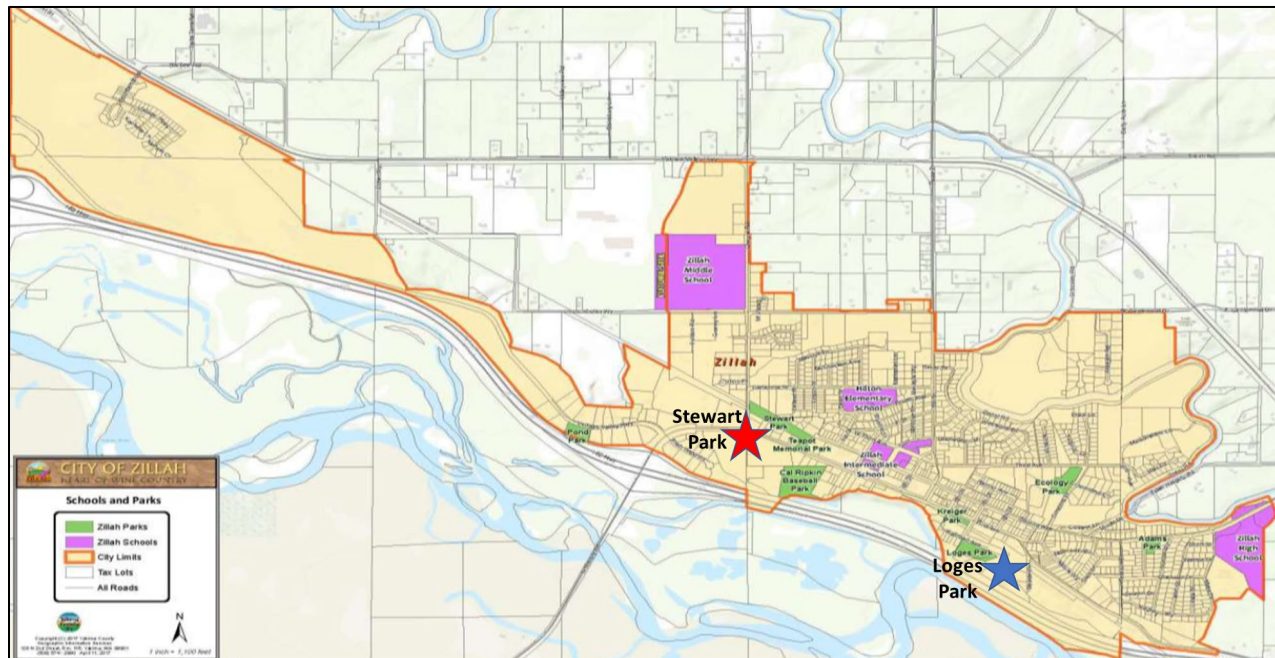
one) *Date:* April 25, 2023

City of Zillah Location Maps

Regional Location Map: City of Zillah



Site Map: Stewart Park and Loges Park in Zillah



City of Zillah Aerial Views of the Parks

Loges Park: Location of Proposed Splash Pad



Stewart Park: Location of Proposed Splash Pad



Photos at Stewart Park

Oblique View of an Entry Way and Parking Area



Ground Shot of the Site for the Proposed Splash Pad



Land and Water Conservation Fund: 2020 Evaluation Criteria and Scores

The [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022](#) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board [Unifying Strategy](#) establish priorities for funding outdoor recreation in Washington State. The evaluation questions below incorporate the plans' priorities identified specifically for the LWCF. This priority rating system is part of the LWCF open project selection or evaluation process.¹

LWCF Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scored by	Criteria	Project Type Questions	Maximum Points	Priority
Advisory Committee	1 Need	All projects	15	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	2 Need satisfaction and diversity of recreation	All projects	10	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	3 Immediacy of threat and viability	Acquisition Combination	15 5	Board
Advisory Committee	4 Project design	Development Combination	10 5	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	5 Sustainability	Development and Combination	5	Recreation and Conservation Plan
Advisory Committee	6 Community support	All projects	5	Board
Advisory Committee	7 Cost efficiencies	All projects	5	Board
RCO Staff	8 Proximity to people	All projects	1.5	State law
RCO Staff	9 County population density	All projects	1.5	State law
RCO Staff	10 Applicant compliance	All projects	0	National Park Service
Total Points Possible			53	

¹Land Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program Manual, Chapter 2(B)

Evaluation Scores for All 2020 Projects



Evaluation Scores Land and Water Conservation Fund 2021-23

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	1. Need	2. Need Satisfaction and Diversity of Recreation	3. Immediacy of Threat and Viability	4. Project Design	5. Sustainability	6. Community Support	7. Cost Efficiencies	8. Proximity to People	9. County Population Density	10. Applicant Compliance	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-1	0-1	-2-0	
1	20-1276 A	Make Beacon Hill Public	13.3 6	8.18	14.7 3			4.82	4.55	1.50	1.50	0.00	48.64
2	20-1363 D	Lions Park Pride Rock Playground	14.1 8	8.73		9.09	4.27	4.64	3.73	1.50	0.00	0.00	46.14
3	20-1833 D	North Rainier Land Banked Park	13.9 1	8.91		9.09	3.82	4.00	3.82	1.50	1.50	- 1.00	45.55
4	20-1648 D	Play for All at Raab Park	13.0 9	7.82		8.91	3.36	4.55	4.55	1.50	1.50	0.00	45.27
5	20-1389 D	Sprinker Recreation Center Outdoor Improvements	13.3 6	8.73		9.09	4.27	4.45	3.64	0.00	1.50	0.00	45.05
6	20-1763 D	Wards Lake Park Enhancements Phase 1	12.8 2	8.91		8.55	4.00	4.27	2.91	1.50	1.50	0.00	44.45
7	20-1731 D	Gene Coulon Beach Park Trestle Bridge	13.0 9	8.00		8.55	3.64	3.73	3.09	1.50	1.50	0.00	43.09
8	20-1828 D	Maple Wood Playfield Renovation	12.8 2	8.73		8.18	3.64	4.27	3.27	1.50	1.50	- 1.00	42.91
9	20-1746 D	Gig Harbor Sports Complex - Pickle-Bo Spot	11.1 8	8.00		7.82	4.00	4.45	4.27	1.50	1.50	0.00	42.73
10	20-1431 D	Garfield Pool Upgrades	13.6 4	8.91		7.82	3.82	4.27	3.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.73
11	20-1345 D	Olmsted Park Development	12.8 2	7.45		7.45	3.18	4.45	3.91	1.50	0.00	0.00	40.77
12	20-1618 D	Cirque Park Renovation	11.7 3	7.64		8.00	2.82	4.09	3.18	1.50	1.50	0.00	40.45
13	20-1360 D	Lions Park Trails and Fishing Pond	12.0 0	7.27		8.00	4.00	4.45	4.00	1.50	0.00	- 1.00	40.23
14	20-1286 A	East Monroe Heritage Site	9.82	6.91	13.0 9			4.09	3.18	1.50	1.50	0.00	40.09
15	20-1888 D	Heritage Square Park Redevelopment	11.1 8	7.64		8.55	3.73	4.36	4.09	1.50	0.00	- 1.00	40.05
16	20-1643 D	Evergreen Playfield Infield Turf and Lights Phase 2	11.4 5	6.91		7.64	3.73	4.09	3.18	1.50	1.50	0.00	40.00

17	20-1818 D	Eagle Ridge Park Development	11.1 8	7.27		7.64	3.55	3.82	2.64	1.50	1.50	0.00	39.09
18	20-1798 A	Narrows Park West Acquisition	11.4 5	6.55	12.5 5			3.82	3.18	0.00	1.50	0.00	39.05
19	20-1858 C	Jenkins Creek Park Expansion	10.6 4	7.09	3.73	3.82	3.73	3.82	3.09	1.50	1.50	0.00	38.91
20	20-1943 D	Lakeside Park Renovation	11.7 3	8.18		8.18	3.91	3.45	3.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.55
21	20-1533 C	Little Lake Forest Trailhead Amenities	10.6 4	7.09	3.09	3.64	3.27	4.00	3.09	0.00	1.50	- 1.00	35.32
22	20-1305 D	Zillah Splash Park	10.9 1	6.00		6.91	2.73	3.36	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.91
23	20-1671 D	Cap Sante Marina RV Park	7.64	5.09		6.55	2.82	3.45	2.82	1.50	0.00	0.00	29.86

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

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Boating Facilities Program:
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked Lists for the 2023-25 Biennium

Prepared By: Allison Dellwo, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 27 projects for the Boating Facilities Program (BFP). This memo describes the program, evaluation process, categories, and the resulting ranked lists. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the April Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting. Staff will ask the board to approve the preliminary ranked lists, which becomes the basis for board approval of grants in June, following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-11

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

Background

Washington State citizens, through Initiative 215, established the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) in 1964 with passage of the Marine Recreation Land Act. The Act authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to provide financial assistance for acquisition and development of recreational boating access on both fresh and salt waters.

State, local, and tribal governments may request grant funds to:

- Acquire real property for motorized recreational boating,

- Develop or renovate sites and facilities used exclusively or primarily by recreational boaters, and
- Complete the design and engineering, environmental and cultural resources reviews, and permitting activities required for a development project.

To participate in the program, an applicant must adopt a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The board's [Recreational Boating Programs Plan](#) sets the priorities that shape the program policies and evaluation criteria that the board adopted into [Manual 9, Boating Facilities Program](#). The legislative authority for this program is the Revised Code of Washington 75A.25 and Washington Administrative Code 286.

The following table provides a summary of the program:

Category	State Agency Category	Local Agency Category
Eligible Applicants	State agencies	Municipal governments and Native American tribes
Eligible Project Types	Planning, acquisition, development, and renovation projects.	Planning, acquisition, development, and renovation projects.
Grant Limits	No limits on the maximum grant request for a project, but the total funds requested by an agency may not exceed twice the estimated funds available for the grants cycle.	The maximum request for a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning project is \$200,000, or 20 percent of the estimated construction cost (whichever is less). • Acquisition, development, or combination project is \$1 million.
Match Requirements	No match required	A minimum twenty-five percent matching share is required.
Public Access	Required	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning projects must result in construction ready documents. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Multi-site projects are eligible. • Launch facilities are primarily for public, non-commercial recreational boat launching and retrieval. 	

- Commercial or non-recreational use between October and April may be allowed if the sponsor ensures it will not displace recreational boaters.
- Applicants must prorate costs for facilities used for both eligible and ineligible boating activities. For example, since long-term guest moorage is not eligible for funding, an applicant would prorate costs for a breakwater that protects transient recreational moorage and long-term moorage.

Overview

Evaluation Summary

Members of the Boating Programs Advisory Committee evaluated thirteen state agency projects and fourteen local agency projects, requesting \$20.45 million in grant funds. The committee used board-adopted criteria to review and rank projects in virtual meetings on February 14-15, 2023. Advisory committee members included the following representatives, all of whom are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about recreational boating issues:

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
*Chris Cole, Poulsbo	Citizen
*Eric Fickeisen, Bellevue	Citizen
Karl Harris, Shelton	Citizen
Linda Henriksen, Port Townsend	Citizen
*Paul Sorenson, Anacortes	Citizen
Greg Englin, Port of Kingston	Local Agency
Tami Hayes, Port of Friday Harbor	Local Agency
Shane Belson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Lowell Dickson, Washington Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Chris Guidotti, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	State Agency

* Participated in the technical review meeting only.

The results of the evaluations are provided for board consideration in *Table 1 – Boating Facilities Program, Local Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Boating Facilities Program, State Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*. The evaluation scores and project descriptions for each category are posted on RCO's Web site on the BFP page under [Grant Award History 2022](#).

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff hosted a virtual post-evaluation meeting with the Boating Programs Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the evaluation process and scoring results on February 23, 2023. The committee was satisfied with the information provided, the responsiveness of RCO staff to their follow-up questions, and the resulting ranked list.

Committee members discussed the evaluation criteria, noting that *Need* criterion can be challenging to score because the project may be in or near a community, but the community may not be the users. In the *Site Suitability* criterion, the committee discussed how existing sites are nearly always “suitable” since it is a current boating site and asked if there are ways to modify that criterion. Finally, they discussed the *Boating Experience* criterion and why there is a scoring range of -2 to 3 points. The committee members noted that they would prefer to change the range to 0 to 5 so it is consistent with the other questions. Marguerite Austin provided some historical background to the group noting that years ago the advisory committee asked to create this scoring range. Their thought at the time was that a project might be introducing a new or additional use at an existing site/waterbody that would negatively impact the characteristics of that site. For example, there might not be enough parking for all the additional users, thus creating an issue with adjacent landowners due to “illegal” parking. Another example, a new use, like jet skiing on a lake that was traditionally a quiet fishing lake could negatively impact the fisher’s experience. If there was a negative impact, the committee could give negative points.

Committee members spent time discussing the projects at the bottom of the BFP State Category list. They noted that proration needs to be clearly stated and explained in both the application and the presentation. They also stated that there is a wide range of costs for similar scope elements from one location to another so applicants should briefly explain and add a note as to why their costs may be higher. In general, the committee members thought it would be helpful to know about prior RCO funding in the *Site Suitability* section and have clear details if there was a previous planning grant for the project.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Public Comment

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – Boating Facilities Program, Local Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Boating Facilities Program, State Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, the lists will be available for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislature will set the BFP funding authority in the state capital budget. The board will approve the final list and make its funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2023-11
 - *Table 1 – Boating Facilities Program, Local Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
 - *Table 2 – Boating Facilities Program, State Agency Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Maps of Local Agency Category Projects
- C. State Map of State Agency Category Projects
- D. Evaluation Criteria Summary

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2023-11
Boating Facilities Program
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked List of Projects for the 2023-25 Biennium**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, twenty-seven Boating Facilities Program (BFP) projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all twenty-seven projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 9, Boating Facilities Program*; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the projects provide for acquisition, planning, development, and renovation of motorized boating access areas and facilities, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list for the projects depicted in *Table 1 – Boating Facilities Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Local Agency Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Boating Facilities Program, Preliminary Ranked List of State Agency Projects, 2023-25*.

Resolution moved by: _____
Member Herzog

Resolution seconded by: _____
Member Windrope

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred* (underline

one) Date: _____
April 25, 2023

Table 1: Boating Facilities Program
Local Agency Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	67.71	<u>22-2051D</u>	Seattle	Stan Sayres Boat Launch Renovation	\$820,000	\$1,010,576	\$1,830,576
2	62.71	<u>22-2334D</u>	Skamania County	Wind River Dock Replacement	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000
3	62.57	<u>22-2095D</u>	Port of Port Townsend	Herb Beck Marina Boat Launch Replacement	\$1,000,000	\$1,136,400	\$2,136,400
4	62.29	<u>22-2033D</u>	Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park Dock Reconfiguration Construction	\$1,000,000	\$1,919,690	\$2,919,690
5	62	<u>22-2105D</u>	Port of Poulsbo	Guest Moorage Facility Improvements	\$548,000	\$182,695	\$730,695
6	61.57	<u>22-1907D</u>	San Juan County	Hunter Bay Float and Gangway Replacement	\$545,200	\$185,000	\$730,200
7	60.71	<u>22-2190P</u>	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Rogers Bar Boating	\$180,000	\$70,000	\$250,000
8	60.43	<u>22-1823D</u>	Port of Port Angeles	John Wayne Marina Boat Launch Boarding Float Replacement	\$257,250	\$85,750	\$343,000
8	60.43	<u>22-2039D</u>	Port of Grays Harbor	Westport Float 21 Guest Moorage Replacement	\$1,000,000	\$1,019,578	\$2,019,578
10	59.86	<u>22-2196P</u>	Port of Grays Harbor	Friends Landing Boat Launch Renovation	\$117,500	\$62,500	\$180,000
11	58.57	<u>22-2038D</u>	Port of Illahee	Port of Illahee Public Pier Pile Replacement	\$191,000	\$64,000	\$255,000
12	57.43	<u>22-2052D</u>	Seattle	South Leschi Guest Moorage	\$1,000,000	\$4,232,897	\$5,232,897

Table 1: Boating Facilities Program
 Local Agency Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
13	56.86	<u>22-1865D</u>	Des Moines	Redondo Boat Launch Restroom Facility	\$1,000,000	\$585,880	\$1,585,880
14	53.71	<u>22-2063D</u>	Clallam County	Lake Pleasant Dock Renovation	\$110,625	\$37,375	\$148,000
Total					\$7,919,575	\$10,642,341	\$18,561,916

¹Project Type: D=Development, P=Planning

Table 1: Boating Facilities Program
State Agency Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

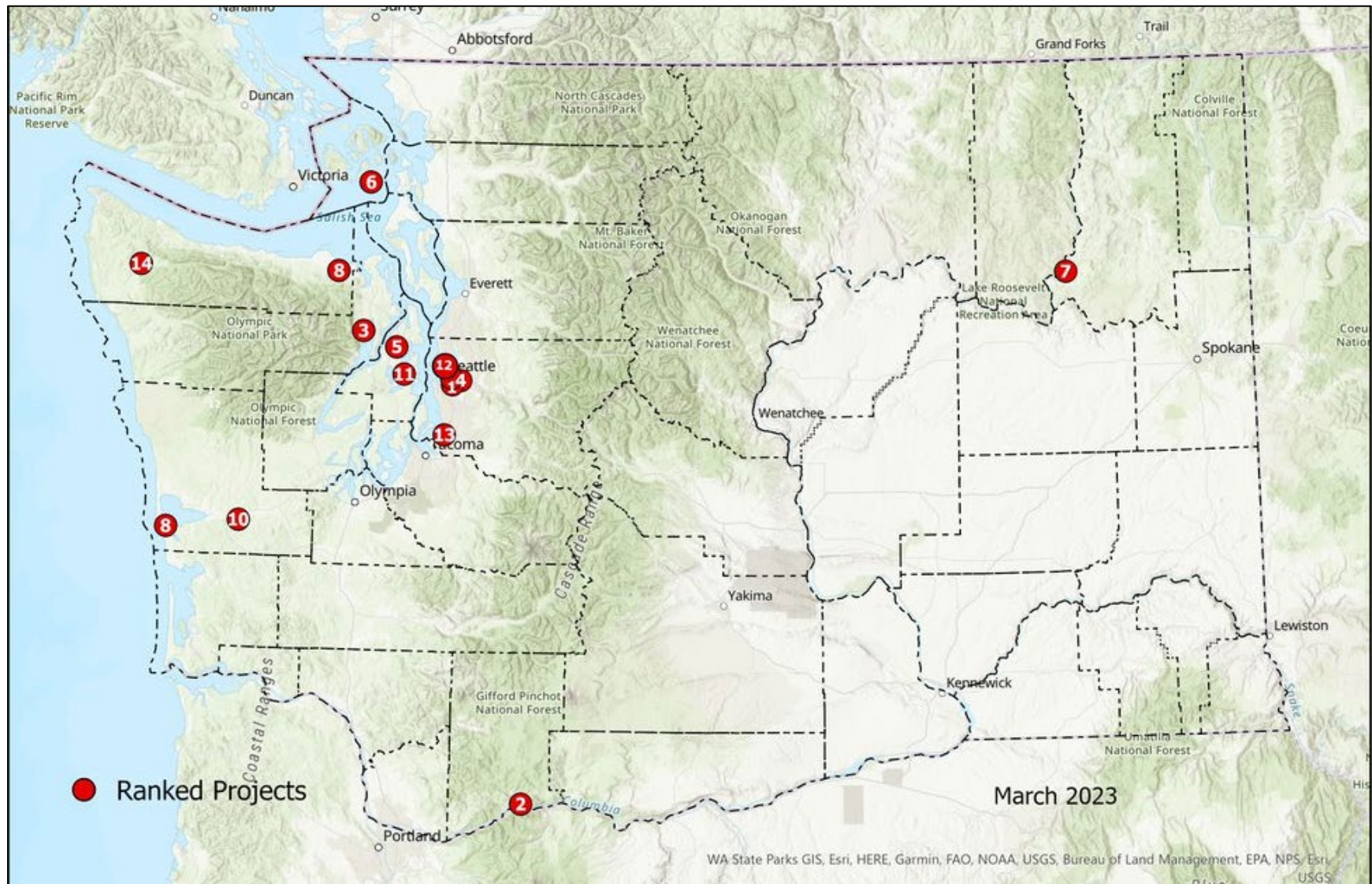
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
1	65.9	22-2181 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Region 6 Boating Access Restroom Replacement	\$400,000	\$400,000
2	63.3	22-1984 P	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Vernita Bridge Site Planning	\$200,000	\$200,000
3	58.1	22-2416 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Stuart Island Prevost Harbor Moorage Replacement	\$2,410,000	\$2,410,000
4	57.9	22-2417 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Sucia Island Fossil Bay Moorage Replacement	\$2,505,000	\$2,505,000
5	57.1	22-2029 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Glen Williams Access Development Phase 2	\$1,465,000	\$1,465,000
6	56.9	22-2244 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Spectacle Lake Access Area Improvements	\$454,000	\$454,000
7	56.14	22-2075 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hamilton Landing Boat Launch Phase 2	\$500,000	\$500,000
8	55.86	22-1976 C	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Sequim Bay State Park Pier Design and Permitting	\$596,050	\$596,050
9	54.29	22-2065 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lakebay Marina Development	\$1,639,042	\$1,639,042
10	52	22-2357 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Gardiner Access Area Parking Redevelopment	\$168,000	\$168,000

Table 1: Boating Facilities Program
State Agency Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
11	51.86	22-2172 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Spencer Lake Redevelopment	\$960,000	\$960,000
12	50.43	22-2292 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lake Whatcom Access Area Phase 2	\$435,000	\$435,000
13	45.4	22-2243 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sidley Lake Access Area Improvement Phase 2	\$800,000	\$800,000
Total					\$12,532,092	\$12,532,092

¹Project Type: C=Combination of Acquisition and Planning, D=Development, P=Planning

State Map for Boating Facilities Program: Local Agency Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

State Map for Boating Facilities Program: State Agency Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

Boating Facilities Program

Local Agency and State Agency Evaluation Criteria Summary

BFP Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scored by	#	Item	Project Type*	Possible Points
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	2	Site Suitability	Acquisition	20
			Combination, Development, Planning	15
Advisory Committee	3	Urgency	Acquisition	10
			Combination	5
Advisory Committee	4	Project Design	Development	10
			Combination of Acquisition and Development	5
Advisory Committee	5	Planning Success (architectural/engineering only)	Planning	10
			Combination of Acquisition and Planning	5
Advisory Committee	6	Sustainability	All	10
Advisory Committee	7	Cost-benefit	All	5
Advisory Committee	8	Boats on Trailers	All	5
Advisory Committee	9	Boating Experience	All	6
Advisory Committee	10	Readiness	All	5
RCO Staff	11	Matching Shares	All	4 Local 1 State
RCO Staff	12	Proximity to People	All	1
RCO Staff	13	Growth Management Act Preference (local agencies)	All	0
Total				76 Local 73 State

*All project types=Acquisition, development or renovation, and planning (architecture-engineering or permit related). Combination projects include both acquisition of real property and either development or planning activities.

Scoring Criteria for the Boating Facilities Program

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** Is the project needed?
2. **Site suitability.** Is the site well-suited for the intended recreational uses?
3. **Urgency** (any project with acquisition as a component). How urgent is the need for funding from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board?
4. **Project design** (development or acquisition and development projects only). Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use?
5. **Planning success** (planning or acquisition and planning projects only). What potential does this project have to successfully complete the required documents needed to start a development project?
6. **Sustainability.** Will the project's location or design support the organization's sustainability plan? What ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan?
7. **Cost-benefit.** Do the benefits of the project outweigh the costs?
8. **Boats on Trailers.** Does the proposed project predominantly serve boats on trailers?
9. **Boating experience.** How will the project affect the boating experience?
10. **Readiness.** Is the project ready to proceed?

Scored by RCO Staff

11. **Matching Shares.** To what extent will the applicant match BFP funds with contributions from its own resources?
12. **Proximity to people.** Is the project site in a populated area?
13. **Growth Management Act compliance.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?¹

¹Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Growth Management Act preference required.)

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program:
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked List for the 2023-25 Biennium

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted six projects for the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program. This memo describes the program, evaluation process, and preliminary ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the April Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting. Staff will ask the board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for board-approval of grants in June, following legislative appropriation of funds for the program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-12

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Table 1.

Background

The Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) program provides funding to support firearm and archery recreation. This includes facilities for handgun, muzzleloader, rifle, shotgun, and archery activities. Established by the Legislature in 1990, the primary goals of the FARR program are to increase general public access to firearm and archery range facilities and provide hunter safety education. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) policies that guide this program are outlined in [Manual 11, Firearms and Archery Range Recreation](#). The legislative authority is the Revised Code of Washington 79A.25 and Washington Administrative Code 286.

Program Summary

This table provides a summary of the program:

Eligible Applicants	State and local agencies and qualified nonprofit shooting organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition• Development and renovation• Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Grant Limits	Grant requests are limited to \$150,000 per project.
Match Requirements	Applicant matching shares are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 33 percent for safety or noise abatement elements in range renovation projects.• 50 percent for all other project costs.
Public Access	Facilities must be open to the general public for a minimum of eight hours per month, with special emphasis on access for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hunter and safety education classes○ Law enforcement personnel○ Members of the public with concealed pistol License
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor and outdoor ranges are eligible.• Liability insurance is the only operational expense eligible for funding.• A public hearing or meeting is required for projects that will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Acquire or develop a range facility where one does not currently exist.○ Result in substantial new external impact on the surrounding area of an existing range.

Program Changes for 2022

The primary changes to the FARR Program that were implemented this grant cycle included reinstating the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement and the *Applicant Match* criterion. The board suspended that policy and criterion last grant cycle to help mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other changes included updates to the PRISM Online application module and use of a virtual review and evaluation process.

Overview

Evaluation Summary

The FARR Advisory Committee evaluated six FARR projects requesting \$604,800, on February 16, 2023. The committee used board-adopted evaluation criteria to review and rank projects in a virtual meeting. The advisory committee includes the following representatives, all of whom are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about recreational shooting sports and hunter education:

Advisory Committee Member	Representing	Discipline/Sport
Rachel Bouchillon, Olympia	Citizen	Archery
Jenny Bull, Bellingham	Citizen	Hunter, Military, Rifle
Bill Cogley, Washougal	Citizen	General Public
Brian Schilt, Tenino	Citizen	Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun
Jay Cochran, North Whidbey Pool, Park, and Recreation District	Local Agency	General Public, Archery
Ty Peterson, King County Department of Local Services	Local Agency	General Public
Christopher Maurer, Washington Department of Ecology	State Agency	Black Powder, Archery
Dave Whipple, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*	State Agency	Hunter Education

*Participated in the technical review meeting only.

The results of the evaluations are provided for board consideration in *Table 1 – Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*. The evaluation scores and project descriptions are posted on RCO's Web site on the FARR page under [Grant Award History 2022](#).

Review of the Process and Evaluation Criteria

Staff held a post-evaluation meeting, on February 23, 2023, with the advisory committee to share the preliminary ranked lists, debrief and assess the application process, the technical review and evaluation meetings, and the evaluation criteria. Outlined below is a summary of the discussion with committee members immediately after the evaluation meeting. Staff will share additional thoughts and comments at the April board meeting.

Evaluation Process

The advisory committee felt the process was organized and efficient. They understood the expectations, received the application materials early enough to conduct their

preliminary reviews, and enjoyed participating in the process. Committee members discussed the value of the technical review meeting and expressed appreciation for the work applicants put into addressing questions raised during the technical reviews.

Evaluation Criteria

The advisory committee had a brief discussion about the evaluation criteria.

The committee discussed the *Public Access* criterion and access requirements. While the board policy only requires public access for eight hours a month, one nonprofit organization pulled its grant proposal before evaluation because the club was not comfortable opening its facilities to the public. Advisory committee members think revising the annotated explanation for the question to prompt applicants to provide additional details about how they make the facility accessible to the public would help with scoring. Like last grant cycle, one member recommended the board convert the criterion to a staff-scored question and give points based on the number of hours over the minimum required.

Some members feel the *Budget Development* criterion is difficult to score. Without direct knowledge and expertise, it does not seem appropriate to second guess or be too critical of the cost include in the proposals. Evaluators tended to trust the applicants and scored the projects the same.

Staff has added the FARR Advisory Committee's suggested changes to the *Public Access* criterion to the policy list for prioritization and further assessment.

Strategic Plan Link

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

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

Public Comment

No public comment has been received to date. Staff will share any comments provided at the upcoming meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve Resolution 2023-12, including *Table 1 – Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, the preliminary ranked list will be available for funding consideration for the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislature will set the FARR funding authority in the state capital budget. The board will approve the final list and make its funding decision at its June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2023-12
 - *Table 1 – Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*
- B. State Map of FARR Projects
- C. FARR Evaluation Criteria Summary

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2023-12
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked List of Projects for the 2023-25 Biennium

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, six Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all six projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 11, *Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program*; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the projects develop and renovate public outdoor recreation facilities, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list for the projects depicted in *Table 1 – Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

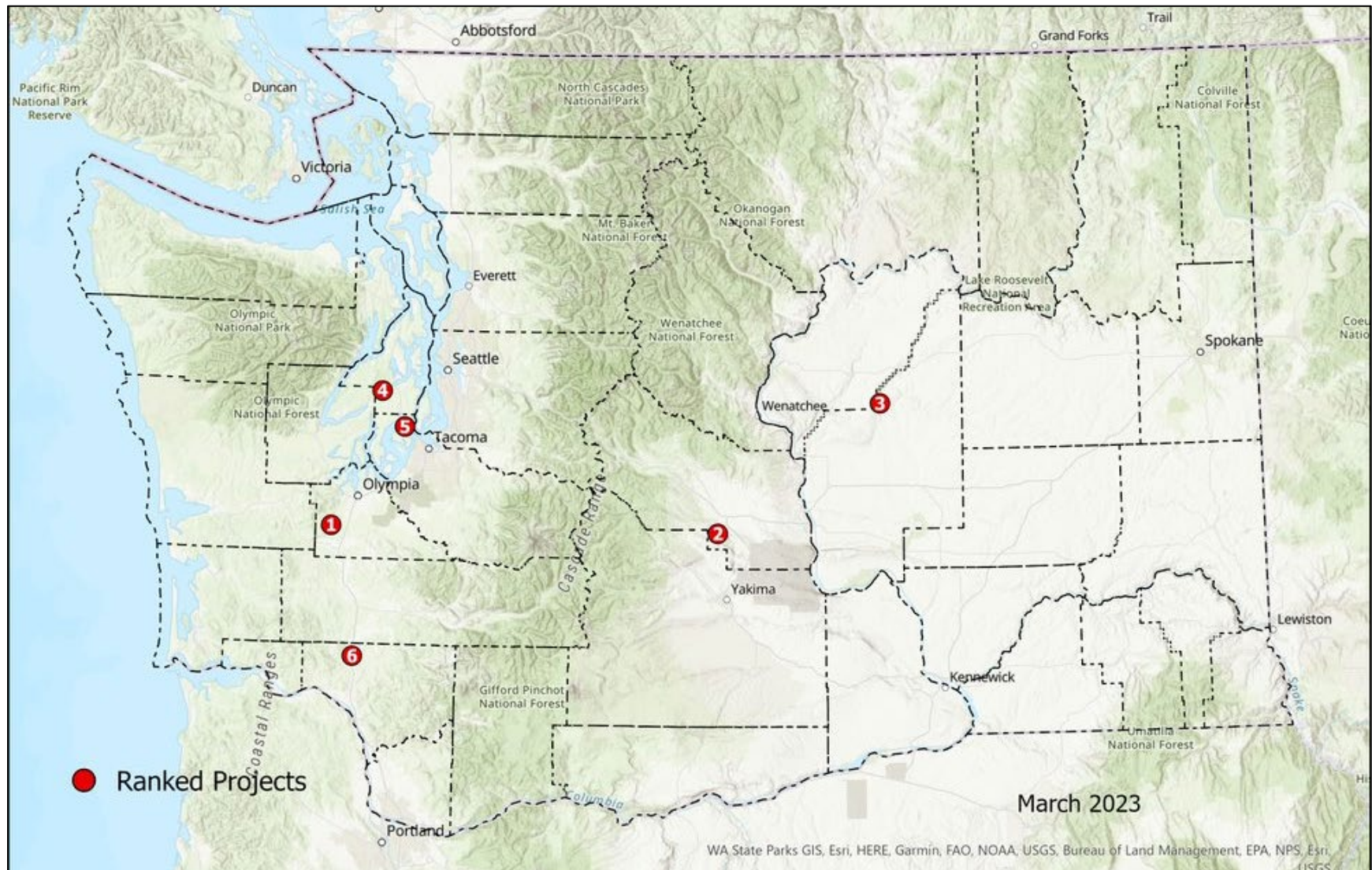
Date: April 25, 2025

Table 1: Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects
2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	74.57	22-2179D	Evergreen Sportsmen's Club	Rifle-Pistol Range Safety Improvements	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
2	73.29	22-2088D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Durr Road Target Shooting Range	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
3	72.86	22-1979D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lake Lenore Shooting Range Development	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
4	67.29	22-1872D	Bremerton Trap and Skeet Club	Develop and Upgrade Buildings and Grounds	\$70,000	\$70,185	\$140,185
5	66.86	22-2360D	Gig Harbor Sportsmen's Club	Five-Stand Target Range Improvements	\$7,550	\$7,550	\$15,100
6	66.57	22-2252D	Cowlitz County	Cowlitz Public Shooting Range Phase 4	\$77,250	\$77,250	\$154,500
Total					\$604,800	\$604,985	\$1,209,785

¹ Project Type: D=Development

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program State Map of Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program Evaluation
Criteria Summary

FARR Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scored by	Question Number	Item	Maximum Points	Project Type
Advisory Committee	1	Need	15	All
Advisory Committee	2	Immediacy of threat	10	Acquisition
			5	Combination
Advisory Committee	3	Project design	10	Development
			5	Combination
Advisory Committee	4	Impact on surrounding property*	5	All
Advisory Committee	5	Expansion or renovation	5	All
Advisory Committee	6	Health and safety	15	All
Advisory Committee	7	Budget development	5	All
Advisory Committee	8	Mandated uses	10	All
Advisory Committee	9	Public access	15	All
Advisory Committee	10	Need satisfaction	10	All
RCO Staff	11	Applicant match	5	All
RCO Staff	12	Growth Management Act compliance	0	All
Total Points Possible for Existing Sites=95				All
Total Points Possible for New Sites=90				All

**Applies only to existing sites and projects certified as qualifying for a higher funding level.*

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program Detailed Scoring Criteria

Scored by the Advisory Committee

- 1. **Need.** To what extent is this type of FARR project needed in the service area?
- 2. **Threat Immediacy (acquisition and combination projects only).** To what degree will implementation of this proposal reduce the impact of a threat to the future availability of this opportunity?
- 3. **Project Design (development and combination projects only).** Has this project been designed in a high quality manner?
- 4. **Impact on Surrounding Property.** How much will this project protect surrounding properties from noise impacts and/or projectile hazards originating from the range?
- 5. **Expansion and renovation.** Will the project effectively expand or renovate an existing facility?
- 6. **Health and Safety.** How much will this project improve the health and safety qualities of the range property?¹ How does your project address the safety guidelines required in the FARR program?
- 7. **Budget Development.** Is the budget appropriately developed with sufficient detail to ensure a successful, cost-effective project?
- 8. **Mandated Uses.** To what extent will the applicant make the facility available for range purposes to license holders, hunter or firearm education, or law enforcement?²
- 9. **Public Access.** To what extent will the FARR facility be available for access by the general public?³
- 10. **Need Satisfaction.** How well does this project satisfy the need identified in Question 1?

Scored by RCO Staff

- 11. **Applicant Match.** What is the value of applicant contributions to this project?
- 12. **Growth Management Act Compliance.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?⁴

¹Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.720
²Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.720, paragraph 3.
³Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Policy
⁴Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Growth Management Act-preference required.)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023
Title: Recreational Trails Program:
Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists for the 2023-25 Biennium
Prepared By: Hayley Edmonston, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 43 projects for the Recreational Trails Program. This memo describes the program, categories, evaluation process, and the resulting ranked lists. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the April Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting and will ask the board to approve the preliminary ranked lists, which will become the basis for awarding grants in June, following legislative approval of federal spending authority.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-13

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked lists of projects as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Background

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program that assists states in creating and maintaining motorized and nonmotorized recreational trails. The federal program supports several recreational trails uses. These uses include walking, hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and off-road motorized vehicle driving, including off-road motorcycling and all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicle riding.

In the federal program, grants may be used to secure trail right of way; assess trail conditions; construct and maintain recreational trails, trailheads, and trailside facilities;

purchase equipment for constructing and maintaining trails; and conduct education programs for safety and environmental protection.

Each state develops its own procedures to solicit and select projects for funding in response to their recreational trail needs. In 1996, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) chose to use Washington State's allocation of RTP money to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance on recreational trails that provide a backcountry experience.

Program Summary

The RTP has two categories: general and education. The General Category provides grants for rehabilitating and maintaining existing recreational trails and developing short linking trails, trailside and trailhead facilities. The Education Category funds education programs that convey a safety or environmental protection message.

This table provides a general summary of the program:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal agencies• Local agencies• Native American tribes• Nonprofit trail organizations• State agencies
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development• Education• Maintenance, renovation, and reconstruction
Match Requirements	20 percent minimum
Grant Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The minimum fund request for a project is \$5,000.• The maximum fund requests are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$20,000 – Education (education activities or signs)○ \$150,000 – General (development or maintenance)
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects must provide a backcountry experience.• The project setting should be predominantly natural.• Funds are used for both motorized and nonmotorized recreation.• Development is limited to construction of new trailheads or short linking trails; replacement of trail structures; and renovation of existing trails and related facilities.

Rules governing the program are found in 2 Code of Federal Regulations part 200, Federal Highway Administration's *Recreational Trails Program Guidance*, and Washington Administrative Code Chapter 286-13. The board's program policies and adopted evaluation criteria are in Manual 16, [*Recreational Trails Program*](#).

Program Changes for 2022

The primary RTP change implemented this grant cycle was reinstating the 20 percent minimum match requirement and the *Matching Shares* criterion. The board suspended that requirement and criterion last grant cycle to help mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other changes included updates to the PRISM Online application module that requires a Secure Access Washington account. There is now an updated cultural resource mapping tool, revised metrics for collecting match data, and applicants must submit their environmental and cultural resources documentation by technical completion to ensure federal requirements are met in a timely fashion.

Program Eligibility

There are two major requirements for states to be eligible to receive an apportionment of federal RTP funds:

1. The Governor of the state must designate the state agency that will be responsible for administering the grant program and funding; and
2. The state must establish a recreational trail advisory committee that represents both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail users. The committee must meet at least once per federal fiscal year.

RTP legislation further requires that states are responsible for having a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or a recreational trails plan to guide them in administering and setting priorities for distribution of RTP funding.

Overview and Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Washington's RTP Advisory Committee evaluated 43 proposals totaling over \$4.2 million in grant requests. Advisory committee members, appointed by the RCO director, are selected for their expertise, experience, and technical knowledge related to recreational trails. Using the board adopted evaluation criteria, shown in Attachments D and E, committee members reviewed and evaluated grant proposals using a written, score-at-home process. Advisory committee members participating in the evaluation process this year included the following:

Name	Representing	Location
Norris Boyd	Citizen: snowmobile	Newport
David Fleischhauer	Citizen: mountain bike	North Bend
Andree Hurley	Citizen: nonmotorized, water	Seattle
Ethan Lockwood	Citizen: hiking	Ellensburg
James Morin	Citizen: off-road motorcycle	Olympia
Nichol Phillips*	Citizen: 4x4	Lake Tapps
Jim Thode	Citizen: equestrian	Onalaska
Rusty Milholland	Citizen-at-large	Snoqualmie
Pete Teigen	Citizen-at-large	Leavenworth
Nicole Johnston	Local agency: City of Anacortes	Anacortes
John Hansen	State agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife	Olympia
Janet Shonk	State agency: State Parks and Recreation	Olympia

*Evaluated General Category projects only.

The resulting ranked list, for each category, is provided for board consideration in *Table 1 – Recreational Trails Program, Education Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*, and *Table 2 – Recreational Trails Program, General Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*. The evaluation scores and project descriptions for each category are posted on RCO's Web site on the RTP page under [Grant Award History 2022](#).

Review of Process and Criteria

RCO staff hosted a virtual annual advisory committee meeting on March 9, 2023. This meeting provided an opportunity for the committee to review the preliminary ranked lists and to debrief and assess the evaluation process and scoring results.

The advisory committee discussed the program in general. They noted that in 2022, applicants submitted 43 grant proposals for RTP consideration, which is a 26 percent decrease in the number of applications from the previous grant cycle. In addition, the funds requested decreased by 24 percent. Staff reminded the committee of information shared during the RTP evaluation orientation meeting, held February 1, 2023, including that some of the regular applicants did not apply this year. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some regular applicants have not used all the grant funds awarded in 2021. Sponsors requested and RCO approved time extensions so they could use those unspent funds for this biennium. Staff believes this is part of why the application numbers and funds requested were down from the previous grant cycle.

Education Category Projects

Federal program guidelines give states the option of using up to five percent of the RTP allocation for education projects. Program legislation requires applicants to expend their entire Education Category grant within the federal fiscal year. Applicants submitting projects for winter recreation find this requirement a challenge because the funds typically become available in the spring. The board has approved an advanced implementation waiver to help applicants get a jump on implementing these projects. Despite the challenges, the RTP Advisory Committee recommends the board continue providing funds for the category.

Evaluation Criteria

During the criteria discussion, it became apparent that the *Need* and *Need Satisfaction* criteria presented a challenge for some advisory committee members. It was stated that some projects had low need but had high need satisfaction. This made it difficult to effectively score some projects. One suggestion to help was to have applicants speak to what trail issues the sponsor is trying to address instead of focusing on the number of users. Other suggestions were to lower the point value of *Need Satisfaction* or to incorporate it into the *Need* criterion.

The Committee discussed how important the *Cost Benefit* criterion is. Multiple members suggested increasing the point value of this criterion.

Observations

The advisory committee took time to discuss projects in general, why some consistently rank low, and the eligibility of others. Here are some of the observations:

Eligibility

- There were several projects that were not necessarily backcountry. They meet the eligibility criteria for backcountry; however, the actual location seemed to be off major roadways.
- Committee members questioned the eligibility of Tall Timber Ranch's ([22-2352](#)). RCO staff determined that this education project appeared to meet the eligibility criteria. However, the only individuals who would have direct access to the Leave No Trace Awareness workshops are people who register to attend this private summer camp where current registration fees are between \$395 for a two-night camping trip for 1st graders and up to \$845 for a six-night stay for high school students.

Low Scores

- New construction may not score well because of the concern that the applicant does not have the resources to maintain new trails.
- Smaller site-specific projects had a harder time with project support letters than the larger statewide projects. This is reflected in the scores for *Project Support*.
- Winter recreation projects do not receive high scores and a significant factor for the advisory committee is the focus on “backlogged” maintenance. These projects involve grooming snow trails annually. While there may be some backlog work on occasion, the primary work done is routine maintenance.

General observations

- Applicants need to strengthen their strategy for addressing backlog by using quantitative data like the miles of trails in their backlog and better explain their rotational maintenance schedule.
- Applicants need to give more detailed information for each work site. Some projects have over twenty sites. More specifics around what their project will do at each individual site would be beneficial.
- There are quite a few overlapping projects. Land managers submit applications for maintenance on their lands and often a nonprofit organization brings in a project to help maintain some of the same areas. This can present a challenge for advisory committee members scoring an overlapping project.

Evaluation Process

Overall, the advisory committee felt the process was organized, well run, and fair. They appreciated using the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module and many of the built-in features. They would like to score the full range of points and not have multipliers for scoring. They were confident in the ranked list and felt that the process works. Staff appreciates the time that advisory committee members dedicated to preparing for and participating in the written evaluation process.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Projects considered for RTP funding support board adopted priorities in the [Washington State Trails Plan](#) and the [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022](#).

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for 31 general projects and 5 education projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and attached to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the April board meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve Table 1 – *Recreational Trails Program, Education Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025* and Table 2 – *Recreational Trails Program, General Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-2025*.

Next Steps

If the board approves the preliminary ranked lists, staff will move forward with preparing the projects for funding consideration, following legislative approval of a capital budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The board will approve the final list and make funding decisions at the June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2023-13
 - Table 1 – *Recreational Trails Program, Education Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 2)*
 - Table 2 – *Recreational Trails Program, General Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 3)*
- B. State Map of Education Category Projects
- C. State Map of General Category Projects
- D. Evaluation Criteria Summary: Education Category
- E. Evaluation Criteria Summary: General Category

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2023-13
Recreational Trails Program
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects for the 2023-25 Biennium

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, forty-three Recreational Trails Program (RTP) projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all forty-three projects have met program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Federal Highways Administration's *Recreational Trails Program Guidance*, Washington Administrative Code, and Manual 16, *Recreational Trails Program*; and

WHEREAS, these RTP projects were evaluated by twelve members of the RTP Advisory Committee using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved and adopted evaluation process and criteria, thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the evaluations occurred through a board-approved written evaluation process, followed by advisory committee and board discussions in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the forty-three projects provide for maintaining recreational trails, developing trailhead facilities, and operating environmental education and trail safety programs, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked lists of projects as depicted in *Table 1 – Recreational Trails Program, Education Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25* and *Table 2 – Recreational Trails Program, General Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Resolution moved by:

Member Burgess

Resolution seconded by:

Member Lam

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline*

one) Date:

April 25, 2023

Table 1: Recreational Trails Program
Education Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	21.0	22-2285E	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Wilderness Education Rangers	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$32,000
2	20.6	22-2309E	Mount Saint Helens Institute	Mount Saint Helens Stewards for Responsible Recreation	\$15,000	\$29,551	\$44,551
2	20.6	22-2371E	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Lake Wenatchee and Entiat Snow Ranger	\$20,000	\$16,500	\$36,500
4	19.8	22-2368E	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Trailhead Ambassadors: Mountains to Sound Greenway	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
5	18.6	22-2288E	Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive	Protect and Educate Trail Users	\$14,759	\$5,100	\$19,859
6	18.3	22-2386E	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Scouts and Stock On The Trail	\$14,000	\$12,350	\$26,350
7	15.3	22-2352E	Tall Timber Ranch	Outdoor Ethics for Washington Students	\$20,000	\$89,590	\$109,590
Total					\$123,759	\$170,091	\$293,850

¹Project Type: E=Education

Table 2: Recreational Trails Program
General Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	72.25	<u>22-2195M</u>	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Eastern Washington Volunteer Trail Maintenance	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$300,000
2	71.58	<u>22-1822M</u>	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Restoring and Maintaining Olympic Peninsula Trails	\$124,564	\$256,562	\$381,126
3	71.25	<u>22-2194M</u>	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Western Washington Volunteer Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$390,000	\$540,000
4	70.67	<u>22-2164M</u>	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	Pacific Northwest Trail Statewide Stewardship	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
5	70.58	<u>22-1898M</u>	Washington Trails Association	Statewide Backcountry Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$578,214	\$728,214
6	70.08	<u>22-1897M</u>	Washington Trails Association	Statewide Volunteer Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$748,160	\$898,160
7	69.67	<u>22-2145M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Lower Lake Chelan Summer and Winter Trails	\$150,000	\$130,000	\$280,000
8	69.58	<u>22-1982M</u>	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Reopening At-Risk Trails Statewide	\$127,500	\$255,000	\$382,500
9	69.5	<u>22-2147M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Upper Lake Chelan Basin Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$123,225	\$273,225

Table 2: Recreational Trails Program
General Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
10	69.08	<u>22-2114M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$156,865	\$306,865
11	68.83	<u>22-2202M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$150,001	\$300,001
12	67	<u>22-2262M</u>	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
13	66.67	<u>22-1896M</u>	Washington Trails Association	Statewide Youth Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$519,580	\$669,580
14	66.33	<u>22-1892M</u>	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Maintaining Endangered Trails	\$150,000	\$301,615	\$451,615
15	66.08	<u>22-2001M</u>	Washington Climbers Coalition	Maintain Washington State's Climbing Access Trails	\$42,560	\$56,100	\$98,660
16	64.58	<u>22-2216M</u>	National Park Service	Carbon River and Mowich Entrance Trails	\$150,000	\$184,150	\$334,150
17	64.17	<u>22-2422M</u>	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Moto-Volunteer Statewide	\$121,195	\$417,980	\$539,175

Table 2: Recreational Trails Program
General Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
18	63.83	<u>22-2101M</u>	Nooksack Nordic Ski Club	Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Trail Maintenance and Grooming	\$25,500	\$59,680	\$85,180
19	62.83	<u>22-2337M</u>	Mount Tahoma Trails Association	Winter Grooming and Trail Maintenance	\$15,000	\$106,040	\$121,040
20	62.33	<u>22-2166M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Hood Canal District Non-Motorized Maintenance	\$40,990	\$47,405	\$88,395
21	62.17	<u>22-1994M</u>	Aberdeen	Stewart's Park Trail Improvements	\$11,060	\$14,241	\$25,301
22	61.25	<u>22-2026D</u>	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Theler Wetlands Trail Reconnection	\$150,000	\$785,000	\$935,000
23	60.33	<u>22-2367M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Snowmobile Trails Maintenance	\$111,000	\$92,000	\$203,000
24	58.17	<u>22-2282M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Naches Motorized Trails Deferred Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$206,280	\$356,280
25	57.92	<u>22-2023D</u>	Seattle	Discovery Park South Beach Trail	\$150,000	\$270,111	\$420,111
26	57.75	<u>22-2327D</u>	University Place	Adriana Hess Wetland Boardwalk	\$117,250	\$117,250	\$234,500

Table 2: Recreational Trails Program
General Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

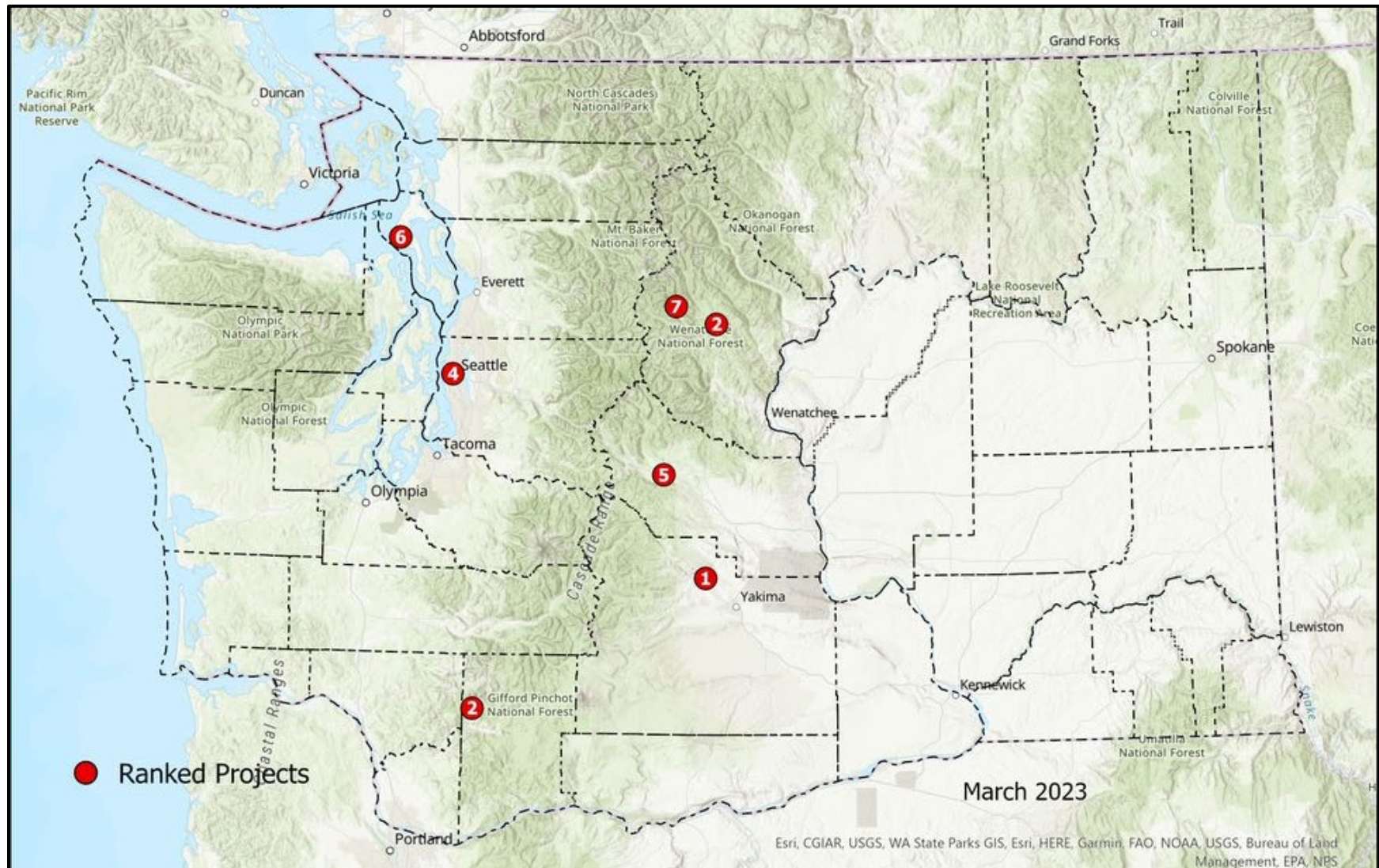
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
27	57	<u>22-2284M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Naches Wilderness Trails Deferred Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$220,000	\$370,000
28	55.42	<u>22-2420M</u>	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Heavy Maintenance Crew Statewide	\$150,000	\$432,400	\$582,400
29	54.83	<u>22-2030D</u>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Hamilton Mountain Trail Reroute at Beacon Hill State Park	\$142,000	\$47,500	\$189,500
30	51.83	<u>22-1990M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument Front Country Trails	\$140,000	\$47,950	\$187,950
31	50.83	<u>22-2389M</u>	Whatcom Snowmobile Association	Nooksack Glacier Area Snopark Route Maintenance	\$26,060	\$11,620	\$37,680
32	50.08	<u>22-2044D</u>	Chewelah Valley Land Trust	Gold Hill Community Forest Trailhead and Boardwalk	\$73,203	\$23,497	\$96,700
33	49.92	<u>22-2176M</u>	Mountain Trails Grooming Association	Methow Area Snowmobile Trail Maintenance and Grooming	\$122,968	\$32,000	\$154,968
34	49.58	<u>22-2555D</u>	Aberdeen	Stewart's Park Trail Bridge Replacement	\$66,500	\$16,626	\$83,126

Table 2: Recreational Trails Program
General Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
35	46.92	<u>22-1981M</u>	Yakima Greenway Foundation	Trail Maintenance at Yakima Greenway	\$124,000	\$31,848	\$155,848
36	46.42	<u>22-2362M</u>	Columbia Springs	Columbia Springs Access Improvement	\$75,000	\$37,564	\$112,564
Total					\$4,156,350	\$7,366,464	\$11,522,814

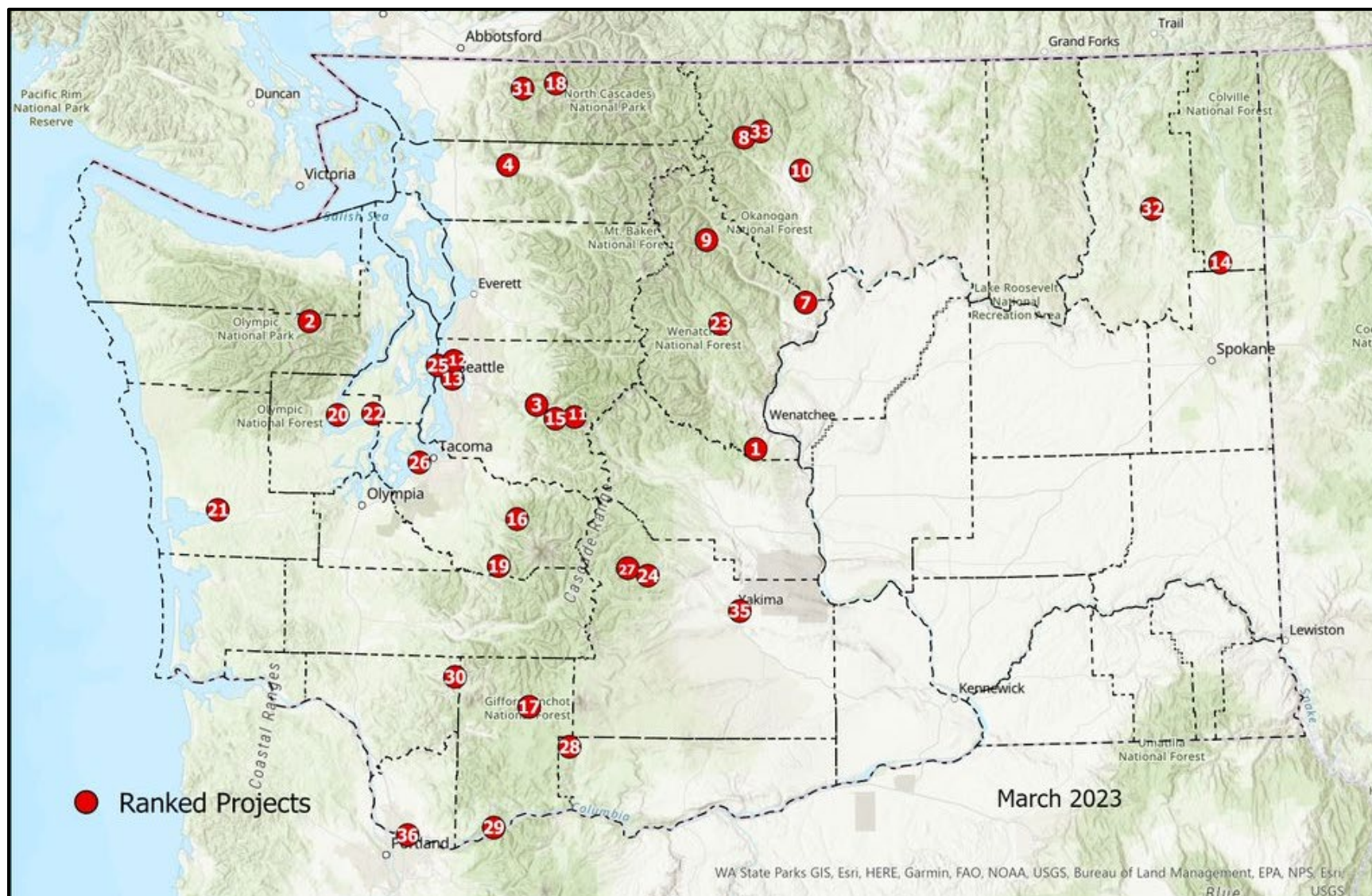
¹Project Type: D=Development, M=Maintenance

State Map for Recreational Trails Program Education Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

State Map for Recreational Trails Program General Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

Recreational Trails Program

Education Category

Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Question	Criteria Title	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Need	5
Advisory Committee	2	Need satisfaction	5
Advisory Committee	3	Applicant's ability	5
Advisory Committee	4	Cost-benefit	5
Advisory Committee	5	Support	5
Total Points Possible			25

Scoring Criteria: Education Category

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** Describe the need for this project.
2. **Need satisfaction.** Describe the extent to which the project satisfies this need.
3. **Applicant's ability.** Describe the applicant's ability to accomplish the project.
4. **Cost-benefit.** Describe the project's cost-benefit.
5. **Support.** Describe the support for the project.

Recreational Trails Program

General Category

Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored by	Question	Criteria Title	Project Type Questions	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	2	Need satisfaction	All	15
Advisory Committee	3	Project design	Development	10
Advisory Committee	4	Maintenance	Maintenance	15
Advisory Committee	5	Sustainability	Development	5
Advisory Committee	6	Readiness to proceed	All	5
Advisory Committee	7	Cost-benefit	All	5
Advisory Committee	8	Cost efficiencies	All	5
Advisory Committee	9	Project support	All	10
RCO Staff	10	Matching shares	All	10
RCO Staff	11	Growth Management Act preference	All	0
Total Points Possible				80

Scoring Criteria: General Category

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** How great is the need for improved trail facilities that provide a backcountry experience?
2. **Need satisfaction.** To what extent will the project satisfy the service area needs identified in Question 1, Need?
3. **Project design.** Is the proposal appropriately designed for intended uses and users? *(Development projects)*
4. **Maintenance.** To what degree will the project reduce recreational trail maintenance backlogs and/or recreate a recreational trail opportunity? *(Maintenance projects)*
5. **Sustainability and environmental stewardship.** Will the project's location or design support the organization's sustainability plan? What ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan? *(Development projects)*
6. **Readiness to proceed.** Is the applicant prepared to begin the project?
7. **Cost-benefit.** Do the benefits of the project outweigh costs?
8. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?
9. **Project support.** To what extent do users and the public support the project?

Scored by RCO Staff

10. **Matching shares.** To what extent will the applicant match the RTP grant with contributions from its own resources?
11. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

Title: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program:
Approval of Preliminary Ranked Lists for the 2023-25 Biennium

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 97 projects for the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program. This memo describes the program, categories, evaluation process, and the resulting ranked lists. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the April Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting and will ask the board to approve the preliminary ranked lists, which becomes the basis for board-approval of grants in June, following legislative appropriation of funds for the program.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2023-14

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked lists for the projects shown in Tables 1 – 4.

Background

The Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program is a motor vehicle fuel-tax refund grant program that provides grants for planning, acquiring land, constructing, and maintaining facilities for a variety of back-country recreational activities. These activities include cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. A portion of NOVA funding is set aside for grants that may be used for education and enforcement programs serving these recreationists, to preserve

and protect NOVA recreation opportunities. In addition to fuel taxes, funds come from off-road vehicle use permits.

The legislative authority for the NOVA program is the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.09 and Washington Administrative Code chapter 286-13. The board's [2018-2022 NOVA Plan](#) sets the priorities that guide the program policies and evaluation criteria. The board adopted these policies into [Manual 13](#), *NOVA Education and Enforcement* and [Manual 14](#), *NOVA Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-road Vehicle*.

Program Summary

The table on the following pages provides a summary of current program policies for each NOVA Program category.

NOVA Categories

The NOVA program has four grant categories: 1) Education and Enforcement, 2) Nonhighway Road, 3) Nonmotorized, and 4) Off-road Vehicle. The program categories share some common and distinct characteristics as shown below:

Category	Education and Enforcement	Nonhighway Road	Nonmotorized	Off-road Vehicle
Recreation Activities Targeted	Information, education, and outreach programs for trail and back-road related outdoor recreation; encourages responsible recreational behavior; and may provide law enforcement for the benefit of outdoor recreationists.	Nonmotorized boating, camping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, gathering, hunting, and picnicking.	Nonmotorized trail activities such as horseback riding, hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.	Motorized off-road activities including motorcycling and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles on trails and in sport parks.
Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, and federal, state, and local governments.	Native American tribes, and federal, state, and local governments.	Native American tribes, and federal, state, and local governments.	Native American tribes, federal, state, and local governments, and nonprofit off-road vehicle organizations.
Legal Opinion	To participate in the program, an applicant must submit a legal opinion. ¹			
Plan Required	None	Applicants must have an adopted comprehensive outdoor recreation plan on file with RCO if the grant proposal involves planning, acquisition, or development of facilities.		

¹ First time applicants only.

Eligible Project Types	Education and law enforcement activities that target NOVA-eligible uses and recreationists.	Land acquisition ² , development or renovation projects, maintenance and operation of facilities, and planning activities.		
Fund Limits	Up to \$200,000 per project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition, development, and planning projects are limited to \$200,000. Maintenance and operations projects are limited to \$150,000 for two-year projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition, development, and planning projects are limited to \$200,000. Maintenance and operations projects are limited to \$150,000 for two-year projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fund limits for land acquisition, development, and planning projects. Maintenance and operations projects are limited to a maximum of \$200,000 for two-year projects.
Match	By law, no matching share is required, but an evaluation criterion encourages non-RCO match contributions by awarding additional points.			
Typical Project Elements	Salaries, operating expenses, and capital equipment including vehicles.	Interpretive trails and related trailheads, picnic areas, day-use areas, viewpoints, campgrounds, and support structures including sanitary facilities and utilities.	Trails, trailheads, and structures including sanitary facilities and utilities that support nonmotorized trail recreation.	Trails, trailheads, day-use areas, sports parks, campgrounds, intensive use areas, and support structures including sanitary facilities and utilities.

² Federal agencies are not permitted to purchase real property using NOVA funding.

Projects in the Nonhighway Road and Nonmotorized categories must be adjacent to, or accessed by, a nonhighway road. A nonhighway road is any road owned or managed by a public agency, a primitive road, or any private road for which the owner has granted an easement for public use. In addition, appropriations from the motor vehicle fund cannot be used for (a) original construction or reconstruction in the last twenty-five years; or (b) maintenance in the last four years of the nonhighway road.³

Program Changes for 2022

The primary NOVA Program change implemented this grant cycle was reinstating the *Matching Shares* criterion. The board suspended that criterion last grant cycle to help mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other changes included updates to the PRISM Online application module and use a virtual review and evaluation process for recreation categories.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

The NOVA Advisory Committee evaluated 97 grant proposals between February 1 and March 3, 2023, where applicants are requesting more than \$16.3 million in grant funds. The advisory committee has governmental representatives that manage land where NOVA activities occur, and a proportional representation of persons with recreational experiences in areas identified in the most recent fuel use study.⁴ The RCO director selects and appoints advisory committee members who have experience, expertise, and technical knowledge of NOVA related recreation. Advisory committee members participating in the evaluation process this year include the following:

Name	Representing	Location
Crystal Crowder	Citizen: motorized, 4 x 4	Ridgefield
Lance Hansen	Citizen: motorized, all-terrain vehicle	Lynden
Nancy Toenyan	Citizen: motorized, motorcycle	Mossyrock
Denise Garcia	Citizen: nonhighway road	Camano Island
Richard Johnson	Citizen: nonhighway road	Sammamish
John Spring	Citizen: nonhighway road	Mercer Island
Kathy Doubt	Citizen: nonmotorized, equestrian	Kent
Gary Paull	Citizen: nonmotorized, hiker	Darrington
Holly Weiler	Citizen: nonmotorized, hiker	Spokane

³ Revised Code of Washington 46.09.310(7)

⁴ Revised Code of Washington 46.09.340(1)

Brandon Lester*	Citizen: nonmotorized, mountain bike	Kirkland
Yvonne Kraus**	Citizen: nonmotorized, mountain bike	Seattle
Susan Cable	Federal agency: U.S. Forest Service	Wenatchee
Bryant Robinson	Local agency: Spokane County	Spokane
Andrea Martin	State agency and land manager: Washington Department of Natural Resources	Olympia
Randy Kline	State agency and land manager: Washington State Parks and Recreation	Olympia

*Evaluated recreation category projects only.

**Evaluated Education and Enforcement Category projects only.

The advisory committee evaluated the Education and Enforcement category using a written, score-at-home process. They evaluated Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-road Vehicle projects in virtual meetings that were broadcast live for members of the public. The committee used the board-adopted criteria, shown in Attachments C and D, to score projects. The resulting ranked lists for each category are in Attachment A, Tables 1-4. The evaluation scores and project descriptions for the Education and Enforcement category are posted on RCO's Web site on the NOVA Education page under [Grant Award History 2022](#). The scores and project descriptions for the trails categories are posted on the NOVA Trails page under [Grant Award History 2022](#).

Review of Process and Criteria

RCO staff hosted a virtual post-evaluation meeting with the NOVA Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the evaluation process and scoring results on March 9, 2023. The committee noted that the number of grant proposals submitted this cycle had decreased by 15 percent from what was submitted in 2020. This reduced the time needed for evaluation of project proposals. Outlined below is a summary of the discussion with committee members immediately after the evaluation meeting or during the post evaluation session. Staff will share additional thoughts and comments at the April board meeting.

Nonhighway Road Eligibility

A key eligibility requirement for the Nonhighway Road and Nonmotorized categories is that the facility a project benefits is adjacent to, or accessed by, a nonhighway road. This is still one of the most difficult aspects in determining project eligibility. Staff and the advisory committee struggle with this when the nonhighway road is short or could be viewed as a park access road or a driveway from a highway to a parking lot. Committee members raised this eligibility issue because they want to ensure projects meet the legislative intent and purpose of NOVA as a fuel tax refund program intended to benefit users that pay into the program by driving and consuming fuel on backcountry roads.

Evaluation Criteria

The Education and Enforcement category has two evaluation questions that are very similar. The advisory committee scores the *Non-Governmental Contributions* criterion, which rewards an applicant for reducing government costs through documented use of donations or similar cost savings. RCO staff scores the objective criterion, *Matching Shares*, which rewards an applicant for contributing match that includes donations. The committee believes the weight placed on donations or match may be disproportionate to other criteria such as *Need* and *Need Satisfaction*.

One of our newer advisory committee members asked for clearer guidance for scoring the *Project Design* and the *Planning* criteria. After reviewing the scores, she recognized that those two questions can make a difference in the rankings. The board's suggested scoring recommends higher points for "very good to excellent" designs or plans. She felt a little more direction on what is considered exceptional would be helpful.

Advisory committee members were somewhat frustrated by how applicants addressed the *Project Support* criterion. They consider whether the applicant had letters of support, how many were provided, and whether the letters included endorsements from the primary users. One commented that it feels like applicants are scored on their ability to "jump through hoops." Applicants are submitting outdated letters and "not very many high-quality letters". Some of the letters include a list of projects that the sender supports; however, there is no information about why a specific project is supported.

After reviewing the *County Population Density* and the *Proximity to People* criteria, one committee member acknowledged that projects that are close to population centers seem to have an advantage over projects that are further away. The member went on to ask whether the board should give more points to more remote sites because recreationist accessing those sites contribute more gas tax dollars when driving greater distances. Another member commented that the people living in some of those more remote areas desperately need access to recreation facilities.

For NOVA recreation category projects there are several questions that apply only to projects eligible for competitive and excess funds. The advisory committee scores one of the questions, *Confidence in Estimated NOVA Recreationist Served*, and RCO staff score the rest. The committee asked if RCO could add that supplemental question to the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module. Because the scores for this criterion are 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, and 1, it is scored outside of the module because the system is not designed to calculate scores that are less than a whole number. The advisory committee uses a separate spreadsheet to score this question. They are hoping PRISM can be modified to make scoring that criterion easier.

Permit Fee Sub-Committee

There is a sub-committee of the NOVA advisory committee. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.09.340 (2) outlines the makeup of the committee and their responsibility.

After the advisory committee has made recommendations regarding the expenditure of the fuel tax revenue portion of the nonhighway and off-road vehicle account moneys, the advisory committee's off-road vehicle and mountain biking recreationists, governmental representatives, and land managers will make recommendations regarding the expenditure of funds received under RCW [46.68.045](#).

There are sub-committee members who feel strongly that the mountain biking representative should not be involved in making the decision about permit dollars. This was not a statement about the mountain biking representative, just about the fact that mountain bikers do not expend gas-tax dollars to operate their bikes and therefore should not be involved in making the decision about expenditure of those gas tax dollars. Staff reiterated that the make-up of the sub-committee is part of the statute.

Evaluation Process

The advisory committee felt the evaluation process was organized, well-run, and fair. They appreciated the breaks and thought the virtual meeting was very successful. One advisory committee member who attends a lot of meetings said: *"Your meetings are the most flawlessly executed of any of them I attend, and I know Tessa [Cencula] has a huge hand in that. So, thank you for how well you manage this not only when we are in person or zooming or whatever we are doing, you guys really, absolutely nail it 110 percent every single time I've been involved."* There was immediate validation and agreement about the meetings by the other advisory committee members.

While they recognize that RCO plans to continue offering virtual evaluation sessions, several members want to see a change and asked if they could once again meet in-person to score the Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-Road Vehicle categories. They are very comfortable with a written process for the Education and Enforcement category. They feel applicants should continue to participate virtually; they just want to meet to help facilitate the learning that happens when they are physically in the same room. Most advisory committee members represent specific recreational users. They found it challenging to discuss and learn about other uses and how to assess those project proposals in the virtual environment.

One committee member summed it up this way:

Years ago, there were huge conflicts between NOVA user groups. RCO's in-

person advisory committee meetings provided an opportunity for interactions between user representatives throughout the meetings, in the hallways, during breaks, and even after hours for those staying nearby. That has had a huge impact and has ultimately brought about a better understanding between the various recreational users and their needs. This is part of why there are not as many conflicts on the trails as there was in the past. This is also reflected in the number of volunteers (both motorized and nonmotorized users) working together to improve trails that benefit all recreationists.

Clearly, most of the members of this committee want to get together to evaluate projects. One suggestion was for RCO to see if there was a way to offer a hybrid process that could meet the needs of all members.

The advisory committee was comfortable with the resulting ranked list. It was clear that advisory committee members dedicated themselves to preparing for and participating fully in the written and virtual evaluation process.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Projects considered for NOVA funding directly support board adopted priorities in the *2018-2022 Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Plan* and the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Public Comment

Applicants attached letters of support for NOVA projects to the individual project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters, labeled as Project Support or Concern documents, are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked lists (Attachment A, Tables 1-4). Staff will share any additional written comment at the April board meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve Resolution 2023-14, including Tables 1-4, NOVA Preliminary Ranked List of Projects for each category for the 2023-25 biennium.

Next Steps

If the board approves the preliminary ranked lists, staff will move forward with preparing the projects for funding consideration following legislative approval of a capital budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The board will approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2023 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution #2023-14
 - Table 1 – *Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 3)*
 - Table 2 – *Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 6)*
 - Table 3 – *Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 9)*
 - Table 4 – *Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25 (page 13)*
- B. State Maps of Projects for each NOVA Category
- C. Evaluation Criteria Summary: Education and Enforcement Category
- D. Evaluation Criteria Summary: Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-road Vehicle Categories

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2023-14
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
Approval of the Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects for the 2023-25 Biennium**

WHEREAS, for the 2023-25 biennium, ninety-seven Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all ninety-seven projects have met program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 13, *NOVA: Education and Enforcement Category* and Manual 14, *NOVA: Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, Off-Road Vehicle Categories*; and

WHEREAS, these NOVA projects were evaluated by fifteen members of the NOVA Advisory Committee using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved and adopted evaluation criteria, thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, evaluation of the Education and Enforcement Category occurred through written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, evaluation of the Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized and Off-Road Vehicle Categories occurred through a virtual live broadcast meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-five Education and Enforcement Category projects focus on protecting user needs and minimizing environmental impacts and conflict between user groups; and

WHEREAS, the twenty Nonhighway Road Category projects provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy activities such as nonmotorized boating, camping, driving for pleasure, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, gathering, hunting, and picnicking; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-six Nonmotorized Category projects provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy nonmotorized trail activities such as horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and cross-country skiing; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-six Off-Road Vehicle Category projects provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy motorized off-road activities, including motorcycling and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles on trails and in competition sport parks, and

WHEREAS, all ninety-seven projects plan, develop, maintain, or provide education and enforcement activities, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked lists of projects depicted in *Tables 1-4 – Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2023-25*.

Resolution moved by:

Member Lam

Resolution seconded by:

Member Burgess

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline*

one) Date:

April 25, 2023

Table 1: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
Education and Enforcement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-25

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	62	<u>22-2233E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Front Country Patrol	\$150,000	\$151,000	\$301,000
2	61.43	<u>22-2111E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Wilderness and Backcountry Rangers	\$200,000	\$200,848	\$400,848
3	60.29	<u>22-2222E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Wilderness Backcountry Patrol	\$200,000	\$201,000	\$401,000
4	60.07	<u>22-2040E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Wilderness Education Enchantments Emphasis	\$197,596	\$198,554	\$396,150
4	60.07	<u>22-2228E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Central Zone Backcountry Education and Enforcement	\$200,000	\$136,000	\$336,000
6	59.5	<u>22-2117E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Capitol Forest Education and Enforcement	\$197,500	\$139,500	\$337,000
7	58.21	<u>22-2187E</u>	Spokane County	Education and Enforcement Program	\$157,400	\$169,271	\$326,671

Table 1: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
Education and Enforcement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-25

8	57.79	<u>22-2184E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Northwest Region Education and Enforcement South Zone	\$191,208	\$197,000	\$388,208
9	57.71	<u>22-2286E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Off-Highway Vehicle Education and Enforcement Rangers	\$200,000	\$305,000	\$505,000
10	57.43	<u>22-2104E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Hood Canal District Education and Enforcement	\$164,901	\$167,645	\$332,546
11	57.07	<u>22-2209E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Elbe and Tahoma Education and Enforcement	\$149,039	\$149,804	\$298,843
12	56.57	<u>22-2134E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Cle Elum Ranger District	Frontcountry Education and Enforcement	\$113,700	\$77,000	\$190,700
13	56.5	<u>22-2082E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Cle Elum Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Wilderness Education and Enforcement	\$150,000	\$65,000	\$215,000
14	56	<u>22-2087E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Off-Road Vehicle Education and Enforcement	\$185,500	\$47,000	\$232,500
15	55.93	<u>22-2077E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Snoqualmie Corridor and Middle Fork Valley Education and Enforcement	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
16	55.71	<u>22-2141E</u>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside Education and Enforcement Ranger	\$183,160	\$192,106	\$375,266
17	55.5	<u>22-2304E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Wilderness Education	\$162,800	\$165,133	\$327,933

Table 1: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
Education and Enforcement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-25

18	55	<u>22-2165E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Wilderness Education and Enforcement	\$70,000	\$72,000	\$142,000
19	54.79	<u>22-2130E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	North Zone Climbing Rangers	\$171,040	\$171,456	\$342,496
20	53.71	<u>22-2107E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Northwest Region Education and Enforcement North Zone	\$200,000	\$88,000	\$288,000
21	53.14	<u>22-1945E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Pacific Cascade Region Education and Enforcement	\$187,000	\$80,200	\$267,200
22	52.86	<u>22-2169E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest	Off-Road Vehicle Forest Ranger Program	\$200,000	\$176,000	\$376,000
23	52.57	<u>22-2034E</u>	Grant County	Grant County Off-Road Vehicle Education and Enforcement	\$200,000	\$395,110	\$595,110
24	52.21	<u>22-1989E</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Southeast Region Education and Enforcement	\$176,700	\$142,200	\$318,900
25	45.14	<u>22-2144E</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District	Backcountry and Climbing Rangers	\$75,000	\$78,000	\$153,000
Total					\$4,282,544	\$3,964,827	\$8,247,371

¹Project Type: E=Education and Enforcement

Table 2: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
 Nonhighway Road Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	68.21	<u>22-2037M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Developed and Dispersed Recreation	\$123,000	\$86,400	\$209,400
2	66.86	<u>22-1972M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Mount Loop Byway Recreation Maintenance	\$150,000	\$151,000	\$301,000
3	66.14	<u>22-2129M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Developed Recreation Campground Maintenance	\$150,000	\$286,901	\$436,901
4	65.5	<u>22-2135M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Frontcountry Maintenance and Operation	\$150,000	\$101,000	\$251,000
4	65.5	<u>22-2232M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Frontcountry Maintenance	\$150,000	\$65,000	\$215,000
6	64.79	<u>22-2239D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Greenwater Camping Improvements	\$86,310	\$91,000	\$177,310
7	63.93	<u>22-2237M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Developed and Dispersed Campground Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$239,500	\$389,500

Table 2: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
 Nonhighway Road Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
8	63.71	<u>22-2154M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District	Highway 2 Recreation Corridor Maintenance	\$150,000	\$155,000	\$305,000
9	63.36	<u>22-2137M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Sanitation Rentals	\$33,400	\$4,000	\$37,400
10	61.43	<u>22-1880M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Southeast Region Maintenance and Operations North Capitol and Yacolt State	\$150,000	\$124,000	\$274,000
11	60.93	<u>22-1946M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Forests Facilities Maintenance and Operations	\$148,000	\$99,000	\$247,000
12	60.86	<u>22-2348M</u>	U.S Forest Service, Colville National Forest	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$151,863	\$301,863
13	60.43	<u>22-2227M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Campgrounds and Dispersed Maintenance and Operations	\$95,000	\$95,500	\$190,500
14	59.86	<u>22-2014M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Samish Overlook and Lily and Lizard Lake Campgrounds	\$70,000	\$114,500	\$184,500
15	59.43	<u>22-1952D</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cold Creek Day Use and Americans with	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$135,000

Table 2: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
 Nonhighway Road Category
 Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
				Disabilities Act Trail Modernization			
16	58.57	<u>22-2240D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Denny Creek Trail Rehabilitation	\$200,000	\$86,000	\$286,000
17	53.93	<u>22-2160P</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Tinkham Camping and Trail Improvements Design	\$132,000	\$57,000	\$189,000
18	41.57	<u>22-2080D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Chambers Lake Campground Improvements	\$200,000		\$200,000
19	40.36	<u>22-2324P</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Nonmotorized Boat Ramp Design	\$45,000	\$5,000	\$50,000
20	33.79	<u>22-2323D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Cat Creek Chimney Campground	\$200,000		\$200,000
Total					\$2,597,710	\$1,982,664	\$4,580,374

¹Project Type: D=Development, M=Maintenance, P=Planning

Table 3: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Nonmotorized Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	69.5	<u>22-2139M</u>	U.S Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Wilderness and Multi-Use Trail Maintenance	\$149,602	\$150,614	\$300,216
2	69.4	<u>22-1996M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Wilderness Trail Crew	\$150,000	\$217,750	\$367,750
3	67.9	<u>22-2112M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Trail Maintenance	\$149,997	\$151,721	\$301,718
4	67.3	<u>22-2076M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Snoqualmie Corridor Facilities and Trails Maintenance and Operations	\$149,900	\$150,100	\$300,000
5	66.6	<u>22-1971M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Frontcountry Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$108,000	\$258,000
6	66.5	<u>22-2146M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District	Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$310,000

Table 3: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Nonmotorized Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
7	65.8	<u>22-1991D</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Teanaway West Fork Trails Development	\$84,500	\$87,500	\$172,000
8	65.6	<u>22-2042D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	North Summit Trails Development Phase 2	\$199,974	\$134,012	\$333,986
9	65.1	<u>22-2133M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Nonmotorized Trail Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$39,000	\$189,000
10	64.6	<u>22-2217D</u>	National Park Service	Carbon River and Mowich Entrance Trails	\$200,000	\$209,928	\$409,928
11	64.1	<u>22-2211M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Elbe Equestrian System Maintenance	\$148,188	\$148,385	\$296,573
12	63.6	<u>22-2199D</u>	U.S Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Number 2 Canyon Trail System Development Phase 4	\$185,506	\$193,079	\$378,585
13	63.2	<u>22-2272M</u>	U.S Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District	Nonmotorized Trails Maintenance and Operations	\$149,700	\$172,650	\$322,350
14	62.9	<u>22-2283M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee	Naches Wilderness Trails Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$246,500	\$396,500

Table 3: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Nonmotorized Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
			National Forest, Naches Ranger District				
15	62.8	<u>22-2119M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Capitol Forest Nonmotorized Trail and Facility Maintenance	\$149,100	\$129,114	\$278,214
16	61.0	<u>22-1950D</u>	King County	Taylor Mountain Trail Bridge Development Phase 2	\$200,000	\$356,000	\$556,000
17	60.7	<u>22-2375P</u>	U.S Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Upper Wenatchee Valley Sustainable Trails Planning	\$195,000	\$202,960	\$397,960
18	60.6	<u>22-2108M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District	Mount Baker Ranger District Trail Maintenance	\$150,000	\$154,000	\$304,000
19	58.1	<u>22-2015M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Blanchard and Harry Osborne Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$350,000
20	57.21	<u>22-1956P</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Headquarters	Alpine Lakes Collaborative Visitor Use Study	\$150,000	\$17,000	\$167,000
21	55.07	<u>22-2016D</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Olsen Creek Bridge	\$200,000	\$118,000	\$318,000

Table 3: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Nonmotorized Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
22	54.57	<u>22-2028D</u>	Seattle	Discovery Park South Beach Trail	\$182,111	\$238,000	\$420,111
23	52.86	<u>22-2207P</u>	U.S Forest Service, Colville National Forest	Sxwuytn-Kaniksu Connections West Bead Lake Layout	\$100,000	\$14,485	\$114,485
24	52.79	<u>22-2079D</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest	Snowgrass Trailhead Improvements	\$155,000	\$5,000	\$160,000
25	43.79	<u>22-2090M</u>	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wenas Wildlife Area Manastash Ridge Trails Maintenance	\$100,000		\$100,000
Total					\$3,898,578	\$3,603,798	\$7,502,376

¹Project Type: D=Development, M=Maintenance, P=Planning

Table 4: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Off-Road Vehicle Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	64.14	<u>22-2019M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Tahuya and Green Mountain Trails and Facilities Maintenance	\$167,425	\$168,971	\$336,396
2	63	<u>22-2018M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Tahuya 4x4 Trails Maintenance and Operation	\$165,146	\$165,368	\$330,514
3	62	<u>22-1986M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Evans Creek Off-Road Vehicle and Snoqualmie Ranger District Motorized Recreation	\$200,000	\$270,000	\$470,000
4	61.5	<u>22-2115M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle Trails Maintenance	\$192,000	\$429,000	\$621,000
5	60.86	<u>22-2223M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Entiat and Chelan Multiple Use Trail Maintenance and Operations	\$199,500	\$137,000	\$336,500
6	60.29	<u>22-2251M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Reiter Foothills Forest Maintenance and Operations	\$191,208	\$196,400	\$387,608
7	60.14	<u>22-2013M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Straits District Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$184,800	\$130,000	\$314,800
8	59.79	<u>22-2120M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Capitol Forest Off-Road Vehicle Trail and Facility Maintenance	\$195,550	\$124,612	\$320,162
8	59.79	<u>22-2136M</u>	U.S Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$149,980	\$150,799	\$300,779

Table 4: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Off-Road Vehicle Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

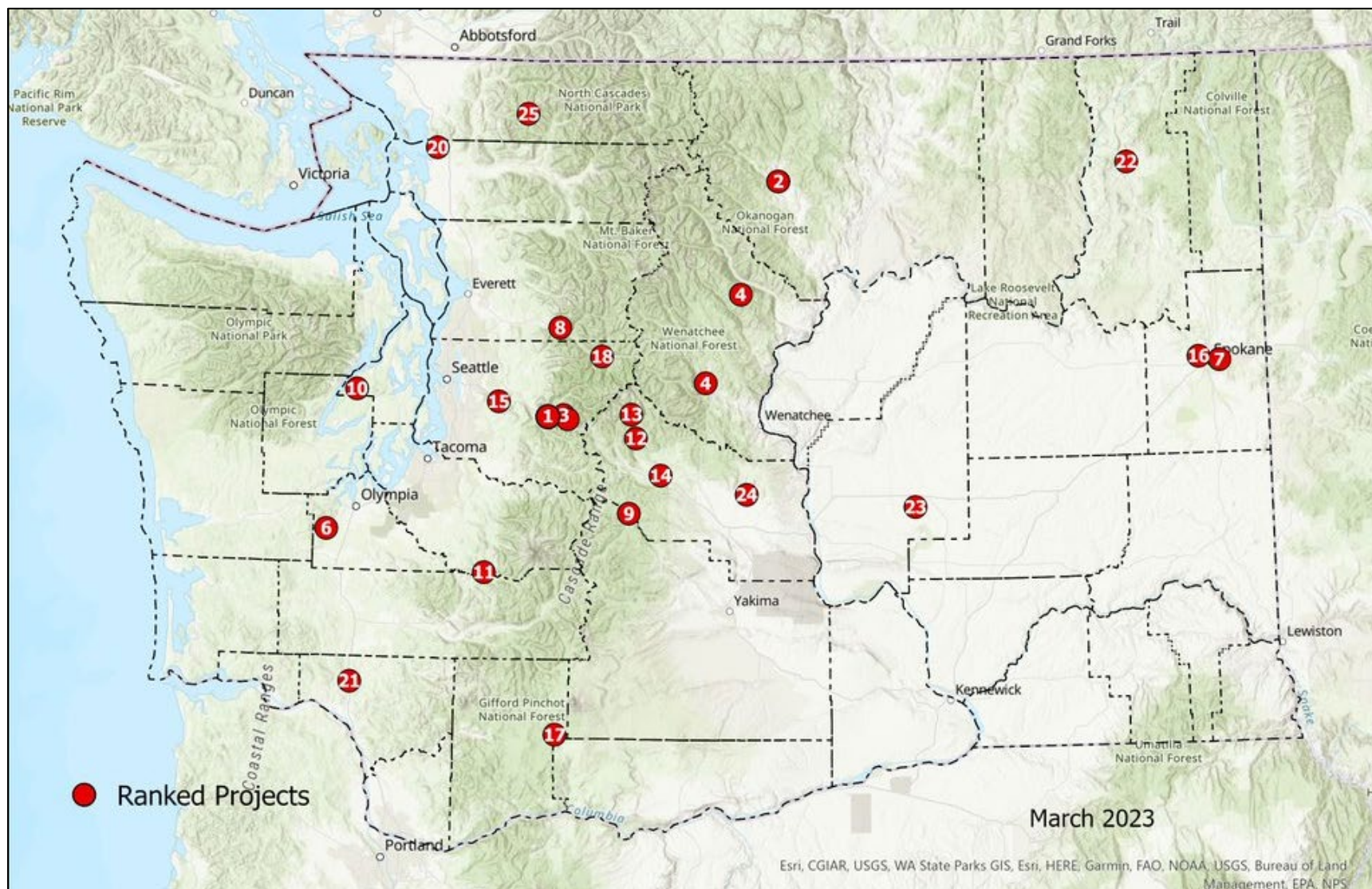
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
10	59.5	<u>22-2421M</u>	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Moto-Volunteer Statewide	\$107,480	\$216,500	\$323,980
11	59	<u>22-2210M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Elbe Off-Road Vehicle System Maintenance	\$147,726	\$101,129	\$248,855
12	58.57	<u>22-2027M</u>	Northwest Motorcycle Association	Heavy Maintenance Crew Statewide	\$200,000	\$114,850	\$314,850
13	57.86	<u>22-2200M</u>	Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance	2-Track Heavy Maintenance Crew	\$196,508	\$29,952	\$226,460
14	57.57	<u>22-2279M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operations	\$150,000	\$210,060	\$360,060
15	57.29	<u>22-2132M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	South Zone Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance	\$188,000	\$21,000	\$209,000
16	56.79	<u>22-2131M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	North Zone Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance	\$191,500	\$21,600	\$213,100
16	56.79	<u>22-2271M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District	Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operations	\$195,700	\$196,650	\$392,350
17	56.64	<u>22-2113M</u>	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$99,215	\$51,345	\$150,560

Table 4: Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities
Off-Road Vehicle Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects 2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
18	56.5	<u>22-1878M</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Ahtanum Off-Road Vehicle Facilities and Trail Maintenance	\$200,000	\$134,300	\$334,300
18	56.5	<u>22-2173M</u>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside State Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance and Operations	\$156,768	\$115,056	\$271,824
20	56	<u>22-2157M</u>	Grant County	Grant County Off-Road Vehicle Maintenance and Operation	\$59,990	\$40,010	\$100,000
21	54.21	<u>22-2064D</u>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Reiter Foothills Trailhead Development	\$719,000	\$1,094,000	\$1,813,000
22	52.07	<u>22-2201M</u>	Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance	2-Track Maintenance Volunteer Support	\$66,575	\$6,241	\$72,816
23	43.93	<u>22-2081D</u>	Spokane County	Airway Heights Off-Road Vehicle Park Phase 1 Renovations	\$336,320	\$205,900	\$542,220
24	36.43	<u>22-2270P</u>	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside State Park Off-Road Vehicle Area Improvements	\$320,000		\$320,000
25	26.93	<u>22-1960D</u>	Ferry County	Eagle Track Raceway Improvement	\$439,000		\$439,000
Total					\$5,419,391	\$4,330,743	\$9,750,134

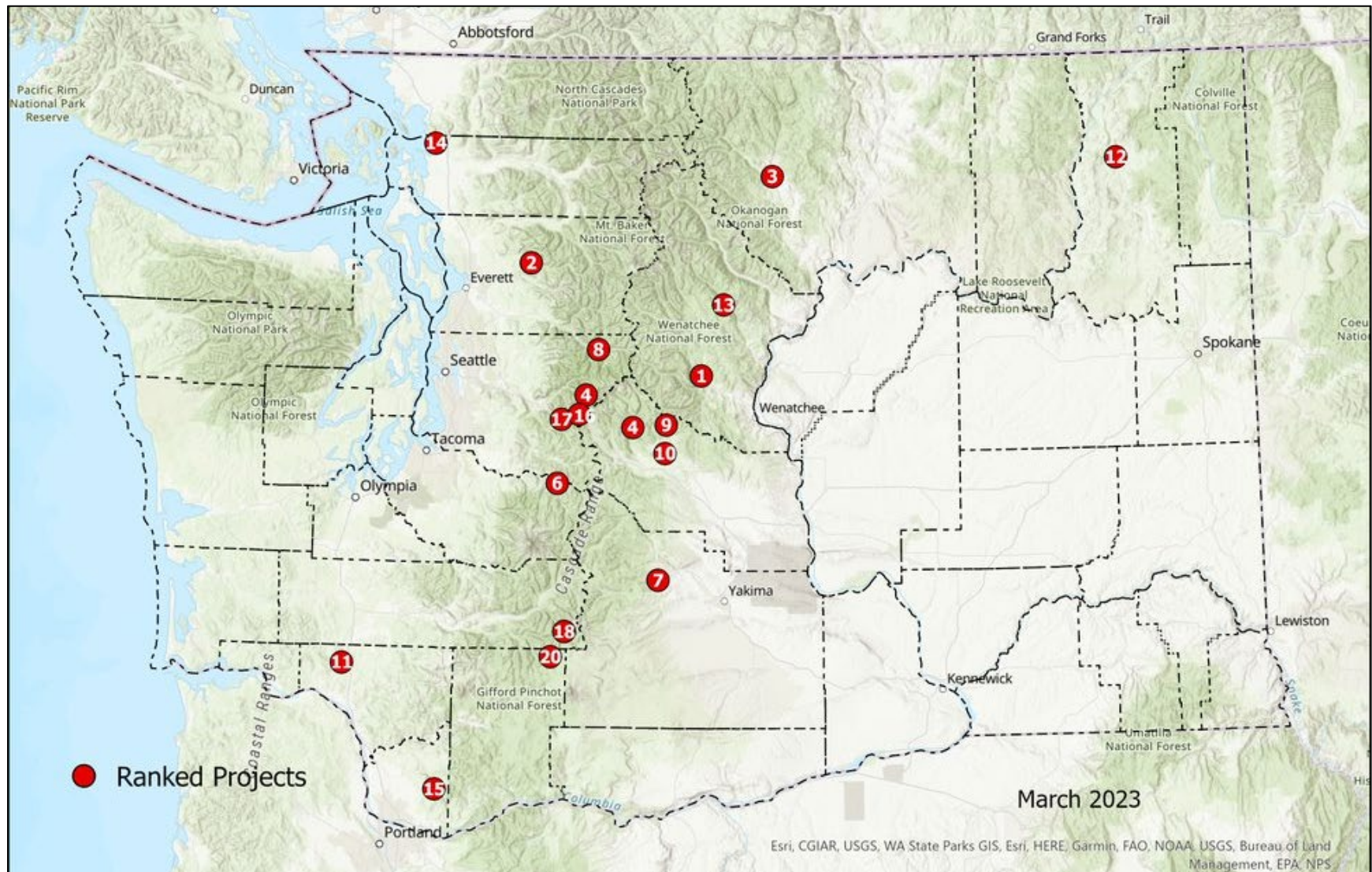
¹Project Type: D=Development, M=Maintenance, P=Planning

State Map for NOVA Education and Enforcement Category Projects



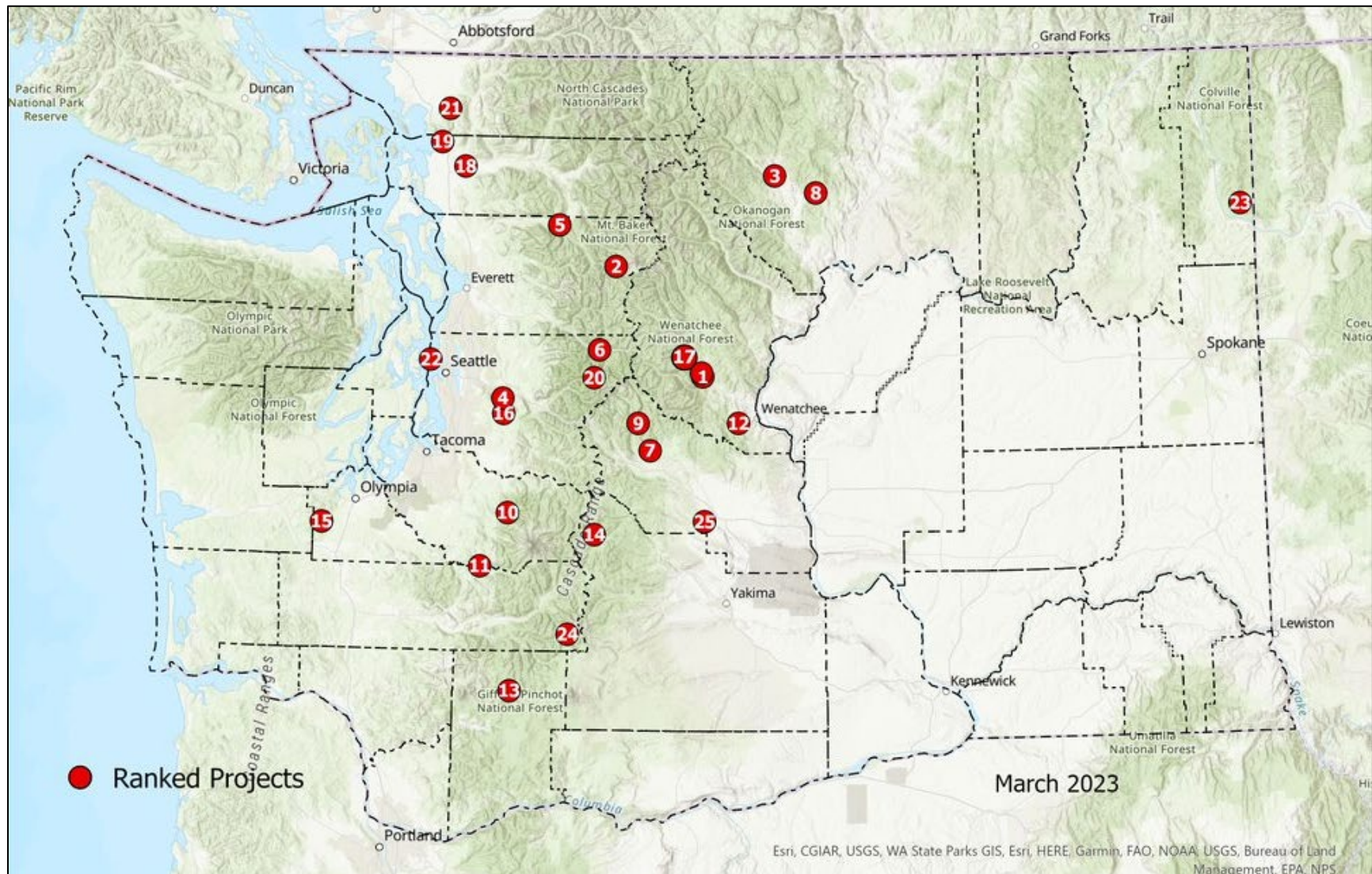
The numbers represent ranked order.

State Map for NOVA Nonhighway Road Category Projects



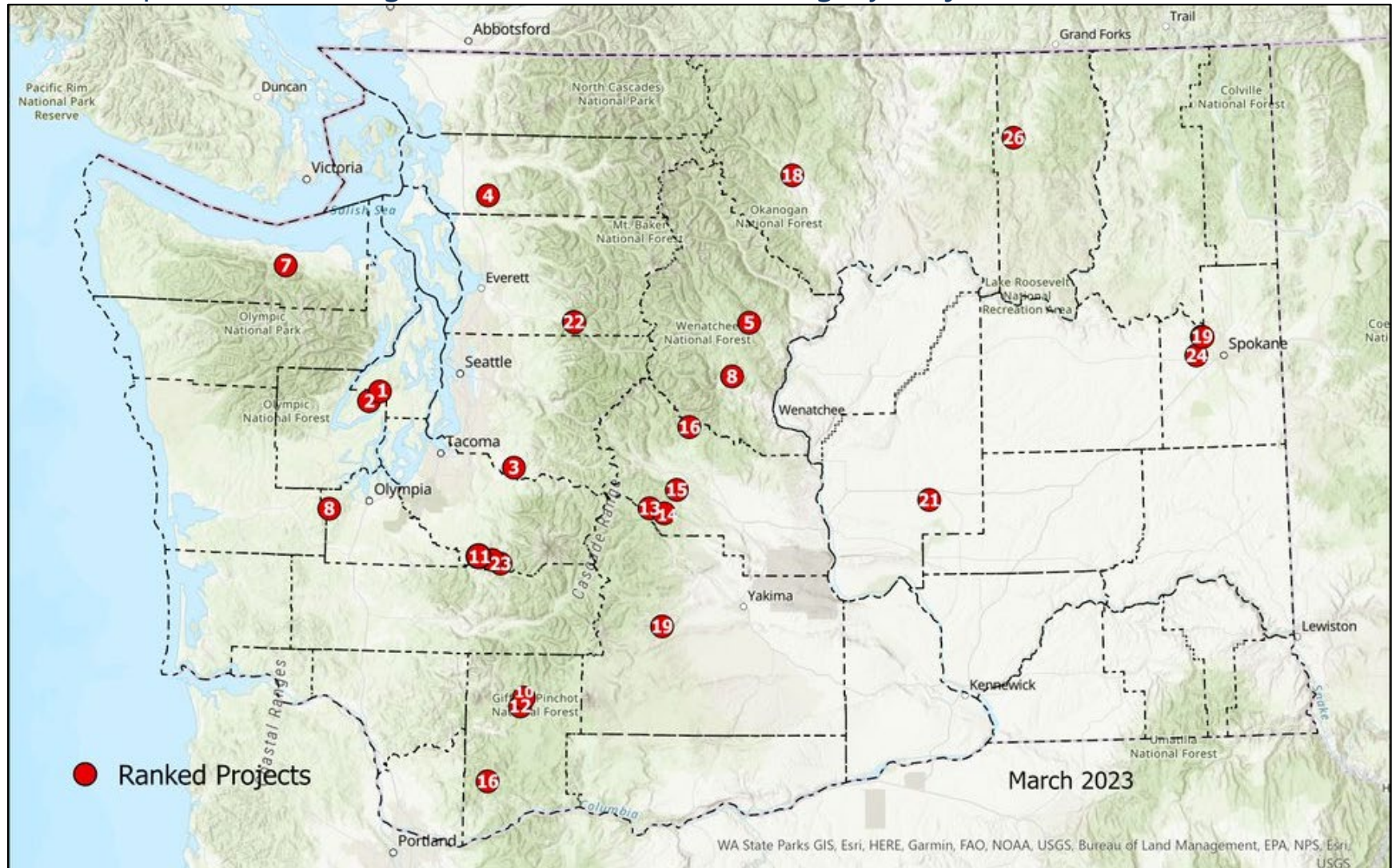
The numbers represent ranked order.

State Map for NOVA Nonmotorized Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

State Map for NOVA Program Off-Road Vehicle Category Projects



The numbers represent ranked order.

Quick Summary of outdoor recreation legislation and budget items as passed by the legislature (NOTE: not all bills and budgets have been acted on by the Governor yet. The Governor has 20 days from the end of the legislative session to sign, veto, or partially veto legislation.):

Legislation highlights

Selected outdoor recreation related bills that passed:

1086 Community organization contracts (local parks impact)
1112 Negligent driving
1258 Tourism marketing
1319 Collisions/driver reexaminations (traffic safety)
1460 DNR land (trust land transfers program)
1750 Water safety education
5001 Public facilities districts (public swimming pool financing)
5257 Elementary school recess
5371 Orca vessel protection
5452 Impact fee use (bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure)

Budget highlights

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

- **\$40M (double last biennium)**, for day and overnight camping experiences with instructional time that supports state learning standards

State Parks

- **\$7M for No Child Left Inside (highest funding ever)**
- \$7.5M recreation land maintenance
- \$844K supporting DEI at Parks
- \$1M for cultural resource management
- \$792K for increased customer service

- \$600k Miller Peninsula Park Plan
- \$1.3M for climate resilient parks
- \$672K to manage state land recreation impact
- **Capital budget (\$81.5M total--highest funding ever):** \$1M Fort Worden PDA geothermal heating, \$4.78 Cape Disappointment welcome center, \$574K Lake Chelan moorage dock, \$2.77M Fort Worden PDA fire alarm, \$1.2M Palouse to Cascades trail structures, \$2.49M Palouse to Cascades Kittitas depot, \$2.46 Nisqually day use, \$21.8M Nisqually new full-service park, \$450K Saltwater Green Vision project

Recreation and Conservation Office

- \$312K for diversity, equity and inclusion coordinator
- \$312K tribal liaison and outreach
- \$5M for local parks maintenance
- **Capital Budget: \$120M Washington Wildlife and Recreation program (highest funding ever),** \$10.4 Youth Athletic Facilities, \$5.9 Aquatic Lands Enhancement, \$7.8M Community Forest Grants, \$14M Springwood Ranch in Kittitas County, \$2M Upper Quinault River restoration, \$5M for recreation access planning grants, \$12.4M for equitable access to community outdoor athletic facilities

Department of Fish and Wildlife

- \$940K Salish Sea marine mammal surveys
- \$1.6M salmon and steelhead monitoring
- \$570K crab fishery and humpbacks
- \$4.4M for building a climate resilient WDFW
- \$4.81M emerging toxics in chinook and orca
- \$2.7M fisheries enforcement compliance
- \$3M upper Columbia salmon reintroduction
- \$696K pro-equity, anti-racism (PEAR)
- \$814K to monitor shellfish harvest
- \$560K to manage impacts to state lands
- **Capital budget: (Total \$133M) \$54M in new money for hatcheries, \$44M Duckabrush estuary habitat restoration.**

Department of Natural Resources

- \$2M for community forests
- \$2.5M for Conservation Corps partnerships
- \$1M for climate resilience strategy
- \$5.91 for urban tree canopy
- \$800K tribal outreach and engagement
- \$4M to protect lands and tribal rights
- \$2.06M for reforestation strategy
- **\$3.3M for management of natural areas**

- **Capital budget:** (\$276M total) \$19.6M for trust land transfers, \$6.9M for fish barrier remediation at Whiteman Cove, \$2.39M safe and sustainable recreation, \$5.1 natural areas facilities and preservation access.

Department of Transportation

- \$1.2M to advance and complete planned bicycle and pedestrian projects
- \$5.0 million for the department to make improvements to infrastructure as emergent safety needs arise
- \$3.0 million to construct pedestrian signals at nine locations on State Route 7 in Pierce County specifically to improve safety for bicyclists, pedestrians and other active transportation users
- \$5M for statewide sidewalk data collection
- \$5M for ebike rebate incentives and lending library
- \$16.8M statewide school-based bicycle education program
- \$200k for bicycle highways planning

Department of Commerce

- **Capital budget:** \$8M Youth Recreational Facilities grant program, Notable local/community projects recreation and conservation related: \$4M Memorial Stadium (Seattle), \$3M ASUW Shell House (Seattle), \$412K Sue Bird and Lenny Wilkens statues (Seattle), \$1.85M Nespelem Community Longhouse (Nespelem), **\$3M Glen Tana conservation (Spokane)** **This is one of the largest recent urban-adjacent conservation projects with over 1,000 acres.**

Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities

Education and Enforcement Evaluation Criteria Summary

NOVA Education and Enforcement Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scoring	Number	Item	Maximum	NOVA Plan Policy
Advisory Committee	1	Need	15	A-1, B-1, B-4
Advisory Committee	2	Need satisfaction	15	A-1, B-1, B-4
Advisory Committee	3	In-field contacts	10	B-2
Advisory Committee	4	Targeting current users	10	B-3
Advisory Committee	5	Project support	10	A-1, B-4
Advisory Committee	6	Non-government contributions	5	C-3
RCO Staff	7	Matching shares	5	A-1, B-4
Total Points Possible			70	

KEY:

Item = Criteria title

NOVA Plan Policy = Criteria orientation in accordance with the NOVA Plan 2005-2011, which were carried forward to the 2018-2022 plan. The letter and number codes reference corresponding policies in the plan.

Scoring Criteria, NOVA Education and Enforcement Category

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** What is the need for an education and enforcement project in the applicant's jurisdiction?
2. **Need Satisfaction.** To what extent will this project meet the service area's education and enforcement needs identified in Question 1, above?
3. **In-Field Contacts.** To what extent will the project address on-the-ground needs, including in-field contact with NOVA users during the high use season?
4. **Targeting Current NOVA Users.** To what extent will the project focus on needs created by current versus potential NOVA recreationists?
5. **Project Support.** To what extent do users and the public (statewide, community, or user groups) support the project?
6. **Non-Government Contributions.** Does this project reduce government costs through documented donations (labor, equipment, materials), signed cooperative agreements, or signed memoranda of understanding (including no cost leases, interagency agreements, donations, or similar cost saving arrangements)?
7. **Matching Shares.** What percentage of the total project cost is the applicant contributing?

Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities

Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-road Vehicle Categories Evaluation Criteria Summary

NOVA Evaluation Criteria Summary					
Scored By	Question	Title	Questions by Category and Project Type	Maximum Points	NOVA Plan Policy
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15	A-1, C-7
			Maintenance and Operation	25	
Advisory Committee	2	Need fulfillment	All	15	A-1, C-6, C-7
			Maintenance and Operation	25	
Advisory Committee	3	Site suitability	Acquisition	15	C-15
			Combination Acquisition and Development	5	
Advisory Committee	4	Project design	Development	10	C-1, C-5, C-7, C-8, C-14
			Combination Acquisition and Development	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Planning	Planning	10	C-6, C-15
Advisory Committee	6	Sustainability	All projects, except Maintenance	5	
Advisory Committee	7	Readiness to proceed	All projects, except Maintenance	5	
Advisory Committee	8	Predominately natural	Nonmotorized and Nonhighway Road categories only	5	C-13
Advisory Committee	9	Project support	All	10	C-3, C-4
Advisory Committee	10	Cost-benefit	All	5	A-1, C-3

NOVA Evaluation Criteria Summary					
Scored By	Question	Title	Questions by Category and Project Type	Maximum Points	NOVA Plan Policy
RCO Staff	11	Matching shares	All	5	C-4
RCO staff	12	County population density	All	1	C-4
RCO staff	13	Proximity to people	All	1	C-2
RCO staff	14	Growth Management Act preference	All	0	
Nonhighway and Nonmotorized Total Points Possible				77	
Off-Road Vehicle Total Possible Points				72	

KEY:

All = includes acquisition, development, maintenance and operation, and planning project types.

NOVA Plan Policy = Criteria orientation in accordance with the NOVA Plan 2005-2011, which were carried forward to the 2018-2022 plan. The letter and number codes reference corresponding policies in the plan.

Scoring Criteria for NOVA Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-Road Vehicle Categories

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** What is the need for new, improved, or maintained facilities?
2. **Need fulfillment.** How well will this project fulfill the service area's needs identified in Question 1?
3. **Site suitability.** To what extent is the site to be acquired well suited for the intended recreational activity? (*Acquisition projects*)
4. **Project design.** Is the proposal appropriately designed for intended uses and users? (*Development projects*)
5. **Planning.** To what extent will the proposed plan or study help provide opportunities and address sustainability of the natural environment? (*Planning projects*)?
6. **Sustainability.** Will the project's location or design support the organization's sustainability plan? What ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan?
7. **Readiness to proceed.** How soon after the grant is approved can the project begin?
8. **Predominately natural.** Is the project site in a predominately natural setting? (ORV applicants do not answer this question.)
9. **Project support.** To what extent do users and the public support the project?
10. **Cost-benefit.** Do the project's benefits outweigh its costs?

Scored by RCO Staff

11. **Matching shares.** What percentage of the total project cost is the applicant contributing?
12. **County population density.** Is the project site in a county with a population density greater than 250 people per square mile?
13. **Population proximity.** Is the project site within 30 miles of a city with a population of 25,000 people or more?
14. **Growth Management Act preference.** Has the applicant⁵ made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?⁶

⁵ County, city, town, and special district applicants only. This question does not apply to nonprofit organizations or state and federal agency applicants.

⁶ Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Growth Management Act-preference required)

Waterfront Construction, Inc. Inspection Report

John White Bulkhead Assessment, 3/13/2023

Mr. John White (Forest Ledge Mansion)

14645 25th SW, Burien, WA 98166

To Whom it may concern,

On Wednesday, March 8th, Paul Wilcox and myself, responded to a request from the property owner John White, to visit the site and assess the current condition of the bulkhead and his waterfront property. Paul Wilcox is the founder and CEO of Waterfront Construction, Inc. and has built the company from the ground up over the last 50+ years and specializes in all aspects of the marine construction field.

Synopsis of current structure & site conditions:

Mr. John White's property, along with the neighboring properties, have been and are currently experiencing significant amounts of erosion. Once we arrived on-site, that erosion was certainly evident from the waterward leaning trees, large deposits of colluvium material along the beach, in addition to the visible landslide characteristics all throughout the upland hillside. These elements and events have partially buried Mr. John White's pre-existing bulkhead/seawall in various portions along his property, while other areas have been dislodged entirely and resettled in different locations and some portions of the bulkhead have been untouched and are consistent with the bulkhead's initially intended purpose.

The property consists of a 30' long waterfront shoreline with an existing log (Lincoln log style) bulkhead that runs parallel to water's edge. This log bulkhead consists of notched/stacked ends, steel connecting rods (to secure stacked ends onto each other), as well as horizontal log bracing that run perpendicular to the water's edge and are carefully placed in notches within the parallel main bulkhead logs. We also noticed on the north end of the property that there was a wood wall that was knocked on its side due to the sliding earth material from the upland hillside. That wood wall consisted of rectangular wood beams with vertical steel connecting rods.

Conclusion & recommendations:

I feel that it is necessary to state my level of concern with regards to the existing state of the property and the importance of retaining/reconstructing the existing bulkhead to provide adequate protection in a proactive manner to ensure the longevity of Mr. John White's property to minimize the long-term risk of continual ground/soil movement which in time, has the potential to jeopardize his primary residential structure. I strongly believe that if the existing bulkhead is left untouched, further damage to bulkhead would result in even greater erosion of the shoreline barrier and allow erosion to

the upland hillside. Given the projected sea-level rise within the next 30 years and the current level of exposure to the marine environment, along with the frequency of water reaching the bulkhead area during high tide and regular storm events and the geological makeup of the upland hillside, retaining and refortifying the existing bulkhead is necessary to prevent further imminent damage.

Based on our site assessment, it is my opinion that hard armoring is the only effective approach that will prevent wave erosion at the base of the shoreline and would ensure the protection from continued hillside retreat that could threaten Mr. John White's existing residential home.

Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Geoff Spain

Waterfront Construction, Inc.
Vice President, Project Manager

Cell: (206) 940-5367

Office: (206) 548-9800

Email: Geoff@WaterfrontConstruction.com



From: [John White](#)
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Re: Update email with spelling corrected
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:25:25 AM

External Email

Julia,

We ask the board to review these two videos of how Eagle Landing came to be and current condition of the stairs:



How Bad Are The Eagle Landing Stairs? Should We Spend \$800,000 dollars tearing them out? No!
[youtu.be](#)



The Story Of Eagle Landing Park, Burien, Washington
[youtu.be](#)

Part 1

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 16, 2023, at 3:29 PM, McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

The next board meeting will be on April 25th and we have a brief section on the agenda where you can provide general public comment. This public comment must be limited to three minutes, so I would suggest providing written comment ahead of time. The meeting is located in Olympia, Washington at the Natural Resources Building. Additional resources can be found on our website,

but we haven't published our upcoming meeting agenda yet.

[Meetings - RCO \(wa.gov\)](#)

Julia McNamara (she/her)

Board Liaison

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

T 360-902-2956 | TDD call 711 | <https://rco.wa.gov> <!--[if !vml]-->

<image002.png>

<!--[endif]-->

From: John White <forestledge@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:49 PM

To: McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov>

Subject: Re: Update email with spelling corrected

External Email

Hello Julia, thanks for the fast response. Yes, I will write up something for the board. When is the next board meeting because we would like to come down and attend.

Sincerely,

John

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 16, 2023, at 12:37 PM, McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

Would you like to type up written correspondence for me to provide to our board?

You're also still welcome to chat with Marguerite, who is much more knowledgeable on the subject. We would just need your phone number.

Respectfully,

Julia McNamara (she/her)

Board Liaison

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

T 360-902-2956 | TDD call 711 | <https://rco.wa.gov>

<image003.png>

From: John White <forestledge@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 9:21 AM
To: McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update email with spelling corrected

External Email

Julia, we are beyond this step. We are trying to avoid a class action law suit. We need the attention at your level.

We understand completely that the RCO was miss led during the initial grant application and was later lied to regarding years of closure of beach access. We understand completely the grant obligations that the city of Burien failed to conform to. We also understand that the Shannon and Wilson report was in error, falsely claiming there was no bulkhead on this property during the initial purchase. We have contacted the individual that stamped the document and he is willing to correct his mistake and has a duty to do so or he could lose his license. We are trying to move forward in a peaceful, constructive manner, but delays and back door deals without the approval of the Burien city Council, or the citizens of Burien is not going to stand. We ask that you do a complete investigation of the situation starting from the day the grant was applied for the Eagle Landing property. We are reporting to you millions of dollars in damages that continues. Action now is warranted.

John White
Primary stakeholder
Eagle Landing Coalition

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2023, at 8:35 AM, McNamara, Julia (RCO)
<julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov> wrote:

Good morning John,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns. I'm connecting you with Marguerite Austin. She can better assist you with your concerns as the recreation and conservation grants section manager.

Kindly,

Julia McNamara (she/her)
Board Liaison
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
T 360-902-2956 | TDD call 711 | <https://rco.wa.gov>
<image003.png>

From: John White <forestledge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 11:02 PM
To: McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: Update email with spelling corrected

External Email

[Download full resolution images](#)
[Available until Apr 13, 2023](#)

March 14, 2023

Julia, forgive me for not proofreading my earlier email. Here is a more clear version of what we are trying to say.

Please be advised that we live next door to Eagle Landing Park.

A city storm drain was dumping millions of gallons of water onto this park, causing the bottom stairs and bulkhead to wash out. The seawall on that property broke in 2013. We informed the City of Burien that the bulkhead, by law, must be repaired. No action was taken. The seawall broke and the bottom piers of the stairs failed due to erosion, closing the public to beach access. In 2020, the city finally fixed the storm drain. Since the storm drain was installed, the slope has completely stabilized. However, the bulkhead has not been repaired.

We have been waiting for many years now for the city to repair the broken bulkhead. Instead of repairing it, the city refused to admit there is a bulkhead. We did not understand why until we read the grant conditions, which forbids bulkheads. Looking through the grant documents, the city purchased the property with RCO funds, claiming there was no bulkhead on that property. This was false.

We have tried to explain this error to the RCO but up to this letter, the RCO is not aware their grant was approved under false reporting of a claim of no bulkhead. Our property is now damaged due to the RCO not requiring the city of Burien to maintain their bulkhead which connects to our bulkhead. In addition, this lack of maintenance has led to the partial destruction of a million dollar staircase built with public tax dollars.

The RCO documents required our city to sign a deed never to build a bulkhead. However, at the time that deed was signed, the RCO was given a false document, stamped by a licensed engineer from Shannon and Wilson, claiming there was no bulkhead on the property. Your grant forbids the city from installing a bulkhead but that was under a false document claiming no bulkhead existed. The city is required to repair a bulkhead if it threaten structures. The stairs are structures and our home is a structure.

Please see the attached report proving there was and still is a bulkhead on this property.

Clearly, the RCO was mis-informed during the initial grant process. This does not mean the RCO can ignore the bulkhead failure or refuse to fix it.

We request the RCO to repair the broken bulkhead to protect the stairs and prevent further damage to our property.

We request a meeting with the RCO and with the City of Burien to resolve these mistakes and take responsibility for not repairing their broken bulkhead in a timely fashion. We ask that this bulkhead be repaired immediately because failure to do so threatens structures, mainly the Eagle Landing stairs and our home.

Lastly, we understand that the RCO was given documentation, claiming that the slope is unstable, but none of those documents expose the existence of a bulkhead, nor do they expose that the erosion was not caused by natural disasters but caused by a storm drain that was dumping millions of gallons of water on top of the park.

We view any geotechnical memos from Geo Engineers to be grossly negligent, and we believe that they should be held responsible for failing to report a bulkhead to the RCO. Furthermore, under this false and misleading information, the RCO made the decision to change the grant requirements, eliminating stair beach access to the beach. These decisions were made without mentioning the failure of the bulkhead in any of the documents. Furthermore, these decisions were made without consulting with the primary stakeholders, meaning the property owners surrounding this park. We have been harmed by scope change.

Please read the attached report proving that there is a bulkhead, and that it has failed.

We write this letter, wishing to work with the city of Burien, and with the RCO to come up with a solution. That solution includes admitting that the bulkhead was not disclosed, admitting that the storm drain was the source of the water that caused the damage to the eagle landing stairs, move to repair the bulkhead as required, because it is threatening structures, including our home, and to work together, to restore the stairs to their original condition.

We thank the RCO for providing the grant to build this park and provide the city of Burien with its second beach access. It is unfortunate that the RCO was given false information. That false information has been given to the RCO to change the scope grants of this park. Mistakes have been made but we can work together to solve these problems. The solution cannot be to allow the bulkhead to go un repaired. Please read the recommendations provided by Waterfront construction.

John L. White

[Click to Download](#)

Eagle Landing Stairs 2012.pdf
0 bytes


<image001.jpg>

[Click to Download](#)

Shannon & Wilson geotech.pdf
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Sent from my iPhone

How Eagle Landing Park Was Funded



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office

Eagle Landing Park Acquisition

Project Description

This project will acquire one parcel consisting of 6.27 acres of 90-year old, second growth forested upland, along with 247 feet of shoreline on Puget Sound and 2 acres of first class tidelands (containing offshore eelgrass beds) and nearshore habitat in the City of Burien. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified spawning grounds for Surf Smelt and Sand Lance on this property, both of which are listed as Washington State priority species. The undeveloped land on this property provides sediment important to the overall health of Puget Sound. Feeder bluffs supply sediment for natural littoral drift processes in the longest drift cell in King County. As such, the site has considerable habitat value for sustaining the beach ecosystem. Acquisition of this property will help protect the existing riparian buffer, first class tidelands with vital and productive eelgrass beds, the mature second growth forest, and the natural processes of the "feeder bluff". No water control structures are located directly on the site. Ivy exists on the site. Controlled public access will be provided. The City of Burien is committed to maintaining the site in as near undeveloped condition as possible while providing access and will only be considering low-impact development design options. Public access will be controlled through the use of entrance gates. The grantee acknowledges that the primary function of the site is as a feeder bluff, migratory corridor, and spawning habitat for salmon, and shall manage the site as such in the future, including if necessary, restricting or outright excluding public access if other options are not effective in avoiding habitat degradation. To ensure this, the City agrees to put the site under a conservation easement affixed to the deed that prohibits any bulk-heading or other actions that retard the natural erosion process. The site is expected to support educational programming. The Marine Environmental Science Center Foundation intends to use the new passive park as a "classroom" to educate the community, students, and at-risk youth. Also, the People for Puget Sound and the Highline Marine Technology Program intend to use the site to perform research and monitoring.

Project Sponsor: Burien Parks & Recreation Department

Project Contact: Michael Lafreniere
michaell@burienwa.gov
(206) 988-3703

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Karen Edwards
karen.edwards@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-3019

Lead Entity: Green, Duwamish, and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9)
Lead Entity

		Actual Acquisition Acres	Actual Acquisition Cost	Funding	
Project Contact:	Michael Lafreniere	0.33	\$35,000	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Acct:	\$269,000
	michaell@burienwa.gov	7.94	\$890,000	Total RCO Grant:	\$269,000 (29%)
	(206) 988-3703	0.00	\$0	Sponsor Match:	\$656,000 (71%)
		8.27	\$925,000	Total Agreement:	\$925,000 (100%)

Amounts may not be complete

Waterfront Construction, Inc. Inspection Report

John White Bulkhead Assessment, 3/13/2023

Mr. John White (Forest Ledge Mansion)

14645 25th SW, Burien, WA 98166

To Whom it may concern,

On Wednesday, March 8th, Paul Wilcox and myself, responded to a request from the property owner John White, to visit the site and assess the current condition of the bulkhead and his waterfront property. Paul Wilcox is the founder and CEO of Waterfront Construction, Inc. and has built the company from the ground up over the last 50+ years and specializes in all aspects of the marine construction field.

Synopsis of current structure & site conditions:

Mr. John White's property, along with the neighboring properties, have been and are currently experiencing significant amounts of erosion. Once we arrived on-site, that erosion was certainly evident from the waterward leaning trees, large deposits of colluvium material along the beach, in addition to the visible landslide characteristics all throughout the upland hillside. These elements and events have partially buried Mr. John White's pre-existing bulkhead/seawall in various portions along his property, while other areas have been dislodged entirely and resettled in different locations and some portions of the bulkhead have been untouched and are consistent with the bulkhead's initially intended purpose.

The property consists of a 30' long waterfront shoreline with an existing log (Lincoln log style) bulkhead that runs parallel to water's edge. This log bulkhead consists of notched/stacked ends, steel connecting rods (to secure stacked ends onto each other), as well as horizontal log bracing that run perpendicular to the water's edge and are carefully placed in notches within the parallel main bulkhead logs. We also noticed on the north end of the property that there was a wood wall that was knocked on its side due to the sliding earth material from the upland hillside. That wood wall consisted of rectangular wood beams with vertical steel connecting rods.

Conclusion & recommendations:

I feel that it is necessary to state my level of concern with regards to the existing state of the property and the importance of retaining/reconstructing the existing bulkhead to provide adequate protection in a proactive manner to ensure the longevity of Mr. John White's property to minimize the long-term risk of continual ground/soil movement which intime, has the potential to jeopardize his primary residential structure. I strongly believe that if the existing bulkhead is left untouched, further damage to bulkhead would result in even greater erosion of the shoreline barrier and allow erosion to

the upland hillside. Given the projected sea-level rise within the next 30 years and the current level of exposure to the marine environment, along with the frequency of water reaching the bulkhead area during high tide and regular storm events and the geological makeup of the upland hillside, retaining and refortifying the existing bulkhead is necessary to prevent further imminent damage.

Based on our site assessment, it is my opinion that hard armoring is the only effective approach that will prevent wave erosion at the base of the shoreline and would ensure the protection from continued hillside retreat that could threaten Mr. John White's existing residential home.

Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Geoff Spain

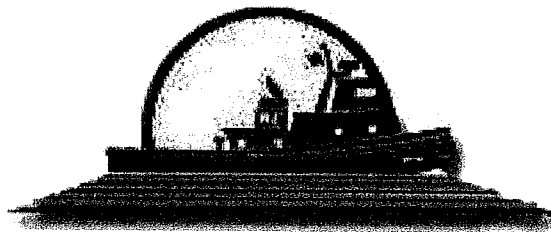
Waterfront Construction, Inc.

Vice President, Project Manager

Cell: (206) 940-5367

Office: (206) 548-9800

Email: Geoff@WaterfrontConstruction.com



March 18, 2002

Mr. Scott Thomas
Burien Parks Department
425 SW 144th Street
Burien, WA 98166

**RE: EVALUATION OF MASS WASTING, BRANSON PROPERTY,
BURIEN, WASHINGTON**

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This report presents our observations and conclusions regarding mass wasting processes on the Branson Property in Burien, Washington. We understand that the City of Burien is proposing to purchase a portion of the Branson property, and requires an understanding of the contribution of sediment from the upland part of the site to the beach along Puget Sound.


The scope of our services included (1) review of an existing geologic map; (2) reconnaissance of the site on March 15, 2002; and (3) the preparation of this letter report. No subsurface explorations were performed for this evaluation, except for shallow hand shovel holes 4 to 12 inches deep. The reconnaissance was performed with the aid of a topographic map prepared by the City of Burien Public Works Department. Mr. Laprade's familiarity with the subject hillside comes from his work on residential and municipal projects in the vicinity over the past 29 years, including Seahurst Park and the Erickson property, just north of the Branson property.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property is located on a steep hillside bordering Puget Sound, on the western edge of Burien, as indicate on the Vicinity Map, Figure 1. It is just north of the western end of SW 149th Place. It is reached by walking along a footpath maintained by the Seahurst Community Club that extends from SW 149th Place down to the beach. South of the Branson property are

continuously developed residential properties for a long distance. North of the Branson property, the shoreline is undeveloped for more than a mile, except for the Erickson residence, which is a few hundred feet north of the north edge of the Branson property. The waterfront dimension of the property is 247 feet, as approximately shown on the Site Sketch, Figure 2.

As shown on the Site Sketch, the property is a steeply sloping, west-facing hillside at the toe of which is the shoreline of Puget Sound. The site can be divided topographically into two parts. The southern 3/5 of the site is very steep (80 to 100 percent) and about 10 to 15 feet high at the toe, where it borders the beach. Above this steep area, the slope rises up to the east at about 70 percent to about elevation 70 feet, above which it then becomes steeper (80 to 100 percent). On the northern 2/5 of the site, the ground rises gently up from the beach at about 20 to 40 percent to about elevation 45 feet, above which it then rises steeply at 70 to 80 percent.



On the subject property, the shoreline is unprotected; however, a number of logs, ranging from 6 to 36 inches in diameter lie on the upper margin of the beach, offering some protection to the toe of the slopes. Just south of the property, a 4-foot-high rock bulkhead protects the shoreline around a concrete stormwater energy dissipator. This property is owned by the Seahurst Community Club. To the south of this strip of land, private residences are protected by concrete bulkheads. As indicated on Figure 2, a high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline traverses the hillside on the Seahurst Community Club's property. That property also contains the community foot trail that provides access to the shoreline.

Vegetation on the slope is comprised mostly of deciduous trees with dense undergrowth. In the southern 3/5 of the site, the entire slope is covered with alders and maples that are slightly to severely bowed in a downhill direction. Adjacent to the beach, the trees are either leaning over the very steep slope or are missing due to erosion of the shoreline bank. In the small creek near the southern property line, even a 4-inch-diameter alder is severely bowed downhill due to the movement of soil in which it is growing. The bowing of trees (sometimes referred to as "pistol-butting"), is generally agreed to be indicative of soil creep, which is the imperceptible movement of the upper few feet of soil on a slope.

On the northern 2/5 of the site, the lower-gradient portion of the hillside within about 30 to 40 feet of the beach, is a wetland with soft, wet ground. The alders in this area are either bowed severely or tipped over toward the beach. The trees upslope of the wetland are also moderately to severely bowed downhill.

GEOLOGIC CONDITIONS

The soils previously mapped on and in the vicinity of the subject slope were deposited during the last glaciation of the central Puget Lowland. The geology in this area was mapped by Mr. Howard Waldron of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the "Geology of the Des Moines Quadrangle, Washington" (1962). This map indicates that the entire slope is underlain by Vashon-age (last glaciation of the central Puget Lowland) advance outwash deposits; however, the underlying glacial deposits are covered with colluvium. Colluvium is the loose, heterogeneous deposit of soil emplaced due to gravity on steep hillsides. Such a deposit can form in-place due to root loosening, freeze-thaw action, animal burrowing or from landslide or erosion deposits that originate at higher elevations. Colluvium ranges from 2 to 20 feet thick on slopes in the Puget Lowland.

On the slopes of the Branson site, no undisturbed glacial soils were observed, because they are covered with colluvium. However, based on exposures at Seahurst Park and the relationships known about the geology in this area, it is likely that Vashon advance outwash deposits overlie glaciolacustrine clay/silt, with the contact between the two geologic units at about 40 to 65 feet elevation. This assumption is based on the presence of springs at those elevations at this site, as shown on Figure 2. The glaciolacustrine deposit consists of hard, gray, clay/silt with fine sand lenses. This is only exposed on the beach, about 75 feet west of the shoreline. The advance outwash is a very dense, brown to gray, clean to silty, sand or gravelly sand. There is commonly a transition zone of interbedded sand and silt layers about 20 feet thick at the contact between the two geologic units.

As with nearly all slopes in the Puget Lowland, colluvium blankets the ground surface. The colluvium on the steeply sloping portions of this site consists of very loose to loose, silty to clean, gravelly, fine to medium sand, with some incorporated organics. The gravel ranges from ¼ to 3 inches. Colluvium in the wetland on the northern 2/5 of the site is comprised of very loose, fine sandy silt with numerous organics.

The beach deposits are comprised of a 2- to 3-inch-thick lag deposit of ¼- to 3- inch-diameter rounded gravel, underlain by sandy gravel with shell fragments. The thickness of the beach deposit is unknown, but it thins to nothing about 75 feet west of the shoreline. At that point, the hard, gray silty clay is exposed on the beach.

Groundwater was observed at about elevation 65 feet at the head of a small chute near the southern property line. The springs form a small creek that runs down the chute to the shoreline. In the central portion of the site, at about elevation 40 feet, springs emerge from the hillside in an area about 40 feet wide. Their waters coalesce and flow to the shoreline in a small creek. Near the north property line, diffuse water emerges from the gentle slope at about elevation 25 feet. This water flows to the beach in two places, as shown on Figure 2.

Mass movement (slope instability) is apparent in three forms at this site.

- (1) At the south edge of the site, a debris chute is present. Such a chute empties periodically, depositing soil at the toe of the chute. A debris deposit is present at site A, as indicated on Figure 2. The debris deposit is comprised of a fan of very loose, silty, gravelly sand. The toe of the deposit is being eroded by storm waves. There is evidence that such a process has also occurred at the head of the central springs, but no debris deposits remain at the toe of the slope, presently. However, the presence of gravel throughout the length of the small creek indicates that gravel is delivered occasionally to the beach.
- (2) At site B, which appears to be a thick landslide deposit, the toe of the slope is oversteepened and cut by arcuate bowl-shaped slumped areas. These features are indicative of local undercutting by storm wave action and/or slumping due to local seepage pressures. The materials that comprise this very steep bank are clean to slightly silty, gravelly sand.

Mr. Scott Thomas
Burien Parks Department
March 18, 2002
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SHANNON & WILSON, INC.

- (3) At sites C and D, the spring-fed creeks are actively carrying silt, fine sand and fine organics to the beach. In some cases, the fine sediment is temporarily blocked by logs on the beach, but this material is then periodically entrained by storm waves.

CONCLUSIONS

In our opinion, the subject site is not a large supplier of sediment to the beach environment, such as some large "feeder bluffs" in other parts of the Puget Sound; however, there is no doubt that the Branson slope is a regular and consistent supplier of coarse and fine sediment due to mass movement processes. The sand and gravel on the beach are a reflection of the materials that are on the slope to the east of the beach. The coarse sediment is primarily supplied by debris flows in the chute on the south edge of the property and from periodic erosion of the toe of the very steep slope just north of the debris chute. As the colluvium moves inexorably downhill and the debris fan deposit is eroded, this material is incorporated into the beach deposits, which is comprised of sand and gravel.

Fine sediment (fine sand and silt) is delivered to the beach environment by spring runoff on the northern 2/5 of the site, and also by its separation out of the coarse deposits on the southern 3/5 of the site.

CLOSURE

The conclusions presented in this letter are based on observed site conditions as they existed at the time of our site visit. It is not possible to fully define the geologic conditions at the site based on our limited observations. This work was done in accordance with generally accepted geologic practice in this area at this time. No other warranty is made, either expressed or implied.

We have prepared an enclosure, "Important Information About Your Geotechnical Report," to assist you in the use of this letter.

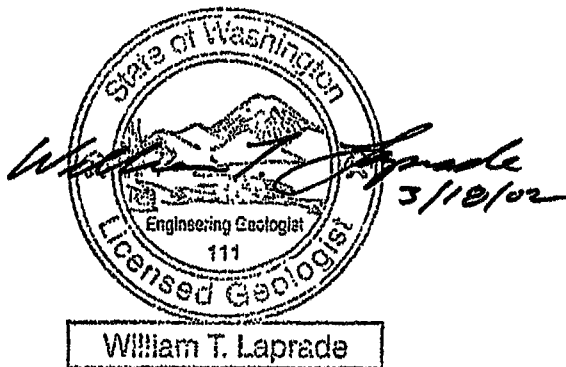
Mr. Scott Thomas
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SHANNON & WILSON, INC.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 206-695-6891.

Sincerely,

SHANNON & WILSON, INC.

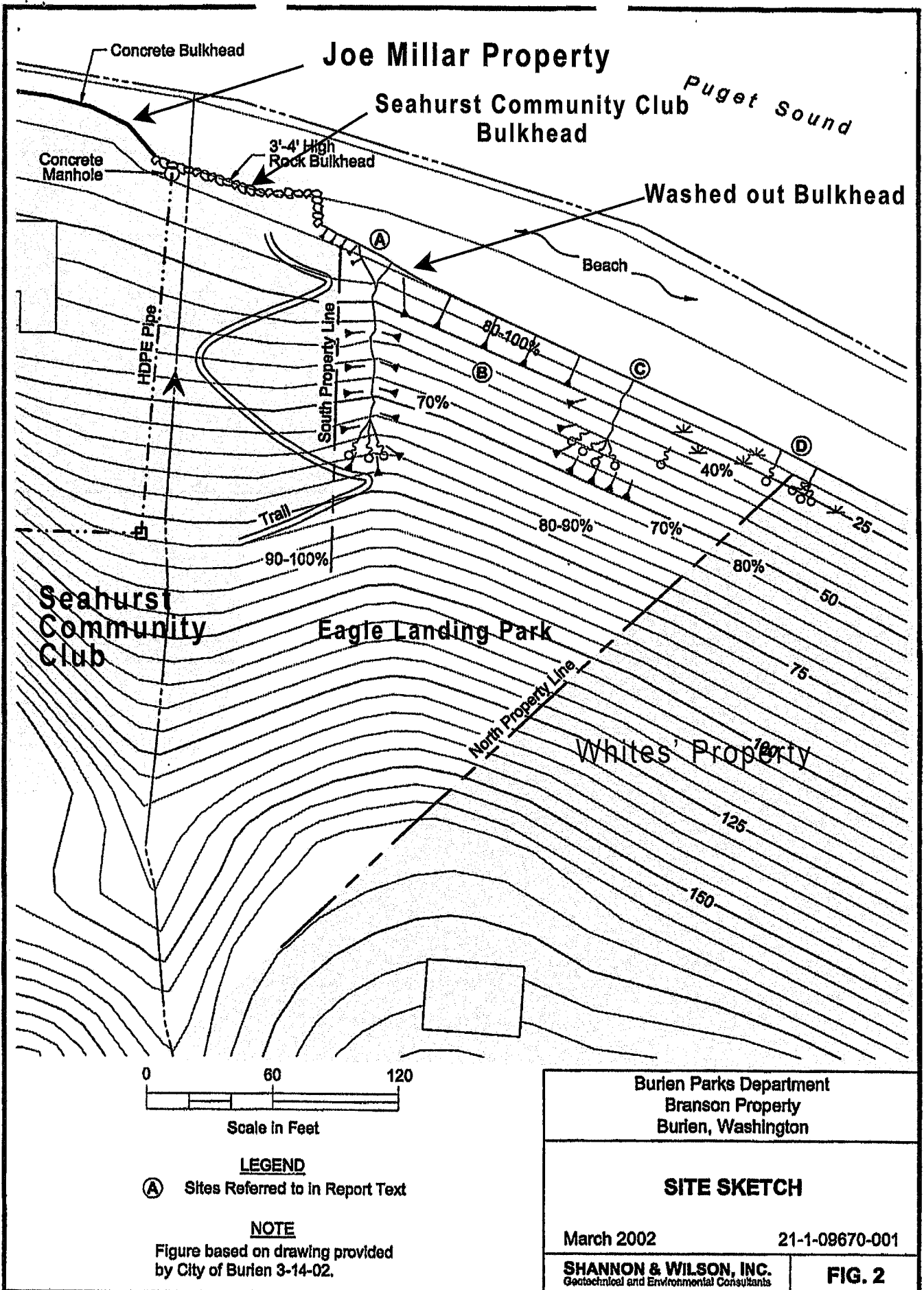


William T. Laprade, C.E.G.
Vice President

WTL/wtl

Enclosures: Figure 1 – Vicinity Map
Figure 2 – Site Sketch
Important Information About Your Geotechnical Report

File: I:\Drafter\21109670-001\21-1-09670-001 Fig 2.dwg Date: 03-15-2002 Author: LR



Current Stake Holder's Property owners as of Feb 2023 shown.

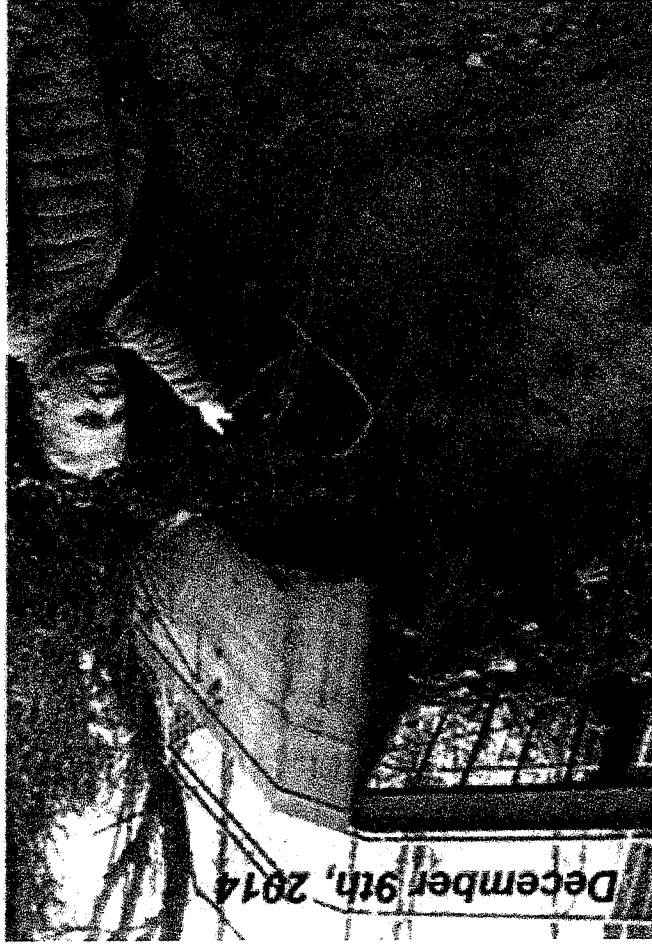


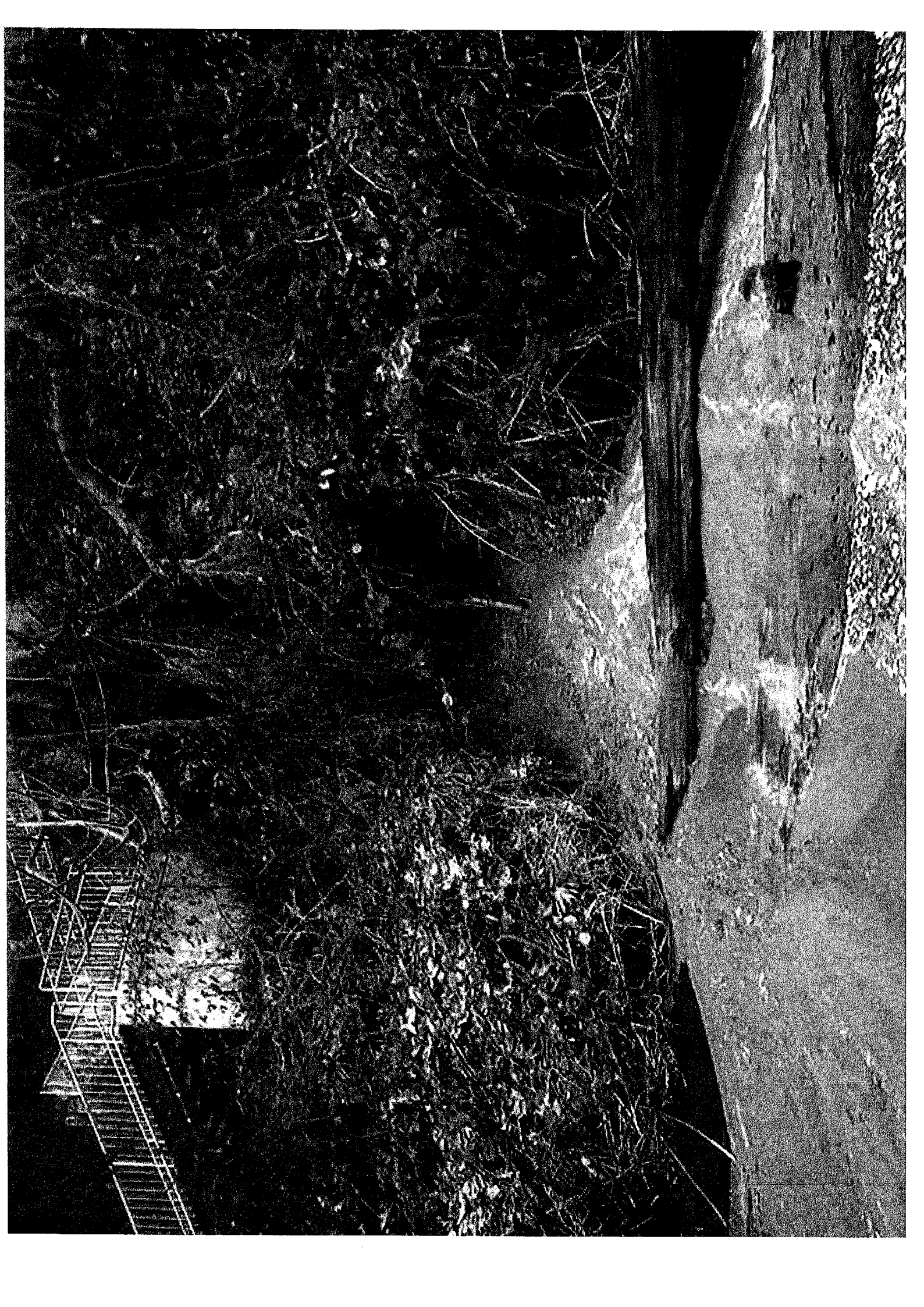
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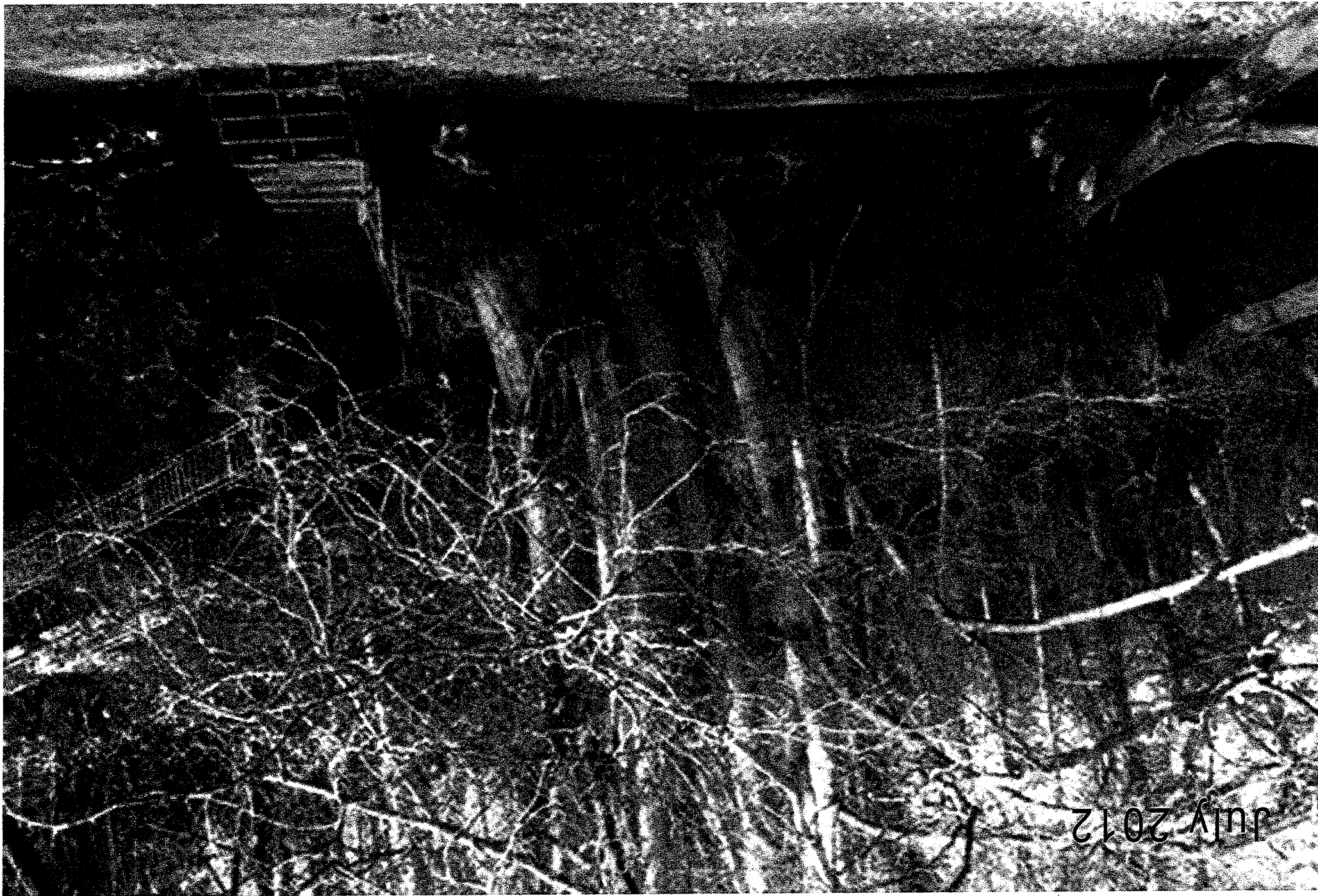


After

Was there a bulkhead at Eagle Landing?
Photos prove beyond a doubt that a
Bulkead was there and it failed due to
slide up slope.







July 2012

Photo January 2010 by Gregory Renmke

Engineered bulkhead with tiebacks

Photo before "bulkhead" was washed out by slides above. Stairs built right over the top of the bulkhead in plain site.