

Location In-person: Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location will allow the public to provide comments 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 (Meeting Day Only):

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_awLGiSLPRsqYjj3pevh0bg

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 837 1365 0676

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 comments are 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: Masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. If you are feeling ill, the zoom format is reliable resource for home viewing

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 789-7889 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2024

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Chair Shiosaki

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Agenda (**Decision**)
- Chair remarks

9:10 a.m.

1. Consent Agenda (**Decision**)

Chair Shiosaki

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - July 24-25, 2024
 - August 7, 2024
- B. Time Extensions
 - City of Seattle, Arboretum Waterfront Trail Redevelopment, 16-1869
 - City of Tukwila, Chinook Wind Public Access, 18-2033
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife, Back Rock Lake Shrub-Steppe Restoration, 18-1900
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sekiu Boating Access, 18-2259
 - Department of Natural Resources, Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration II, 18-1894
 - Department of Natural Resources, Lacamas Prairie Natural Area 2020, 20-1334
 - Ferry County, Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 5, 18-1959
 - King County, Foothills Trail Development 252nd Ave and Mud Mountain Road, [16-1362](#)
 - Pierce County Parks and Recreation, Chambers Creek Canyon Trail Development, 18-1267
 - State Parks and Recreation Commission, Lake Wenatchee Launch Improvements, 18-2558
 - Town of Winthrop, Mack Lloyd Park Water Access, 18-1854
- C. Advisor Recognition (1)
- D. Standing Calendar
- E. 2025 Meeting Dates

Resolution 2024-11

9:20 a.m.

2. Director's Report

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

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

9:40 a.m.

General Public Comment (limit 3 minutes please)
for issues not identified on the agenda.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

9:50 a.m.

3. Road Usage Charge

Adam Cole

10:35 a.m.

BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

10:50 a.m.

4. Request to Waive Aquatic Lands Enhancement Eligibility Requirement for Replacement Property : City of Issaquah, Sammamish Cove, 93-9817

Myra Barker

Resolution 2024-12

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

11:10 a.m.

5. Request to Reduce the Non-state, Non-federal Match: Columbia Land Trust, Trout Lake Valley Agricultural Easement Phase 4, 19-1539

Andrea Hood

Resolution 2024-13

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

11:40 a.m.

6. Grant Program Framework

Marguerite Austin

12:00 p.m.

LUNCH

1:00 p.m.

**7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Outdoor Recreation Account: Approval of
Ranked Lists for 2025-27**

A. Local Parks	2024-14
B. State Lands Development	2024-15
C. State Parks	2024-16
D. Trails	2024-17
E. Water Access	2024-18

*Rachelle Lim
Dan Haws
Russell Malburg
Jesse Sims
Butch Lovelace*

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

1:40 p.m.

**8. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Habitat Conservation Account: Approval of
Ranked Lists for 2025-27**

A. Critical Habitat	2024-19
B. Natural Areas	2024-20
C. Riparian Protection	2024-21
D. State Lands Restoration	2024-22
E. Urban Wildlife Habitat	2024-23

*Andrea Hood
Karen Edwards
Kim Sellers
Brian Carpenter
Karl Jacobs*

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

2:20 p.m.

**9. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farm and Forest Account: Approval of Ranked
Lists for 2025-27**

A. Farmland Preservation	2024-24
B. Forestland Preservation	2024-25

*Kim Sellers
Andrea Hood*

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

2:40 p.m.

**10. Community Forests Program: Approval of
Ranked List for 2025-27**

Karen Edwards

Resolution 2024-26

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

2:55 p.m. **11. Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF): Approval of Ranked Lists for 2025-27** *Lan Nicolai*

Resolution 2024-27

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

3:10 p.m. **BREAK**

3:25 p.m. **12. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA): Approval of Ranked List for 2025-27** *Karl Jacobs*

Resolution 2024-28

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

3:40 p.m. **13. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Approval of Final Ranked List and Delegation Authority for Awarding Grants for 2025-2027** *Henry Smith*

Resolution 2024-29

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

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

4:00 p.m. **14. State Agency Partner Reports**

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

Jon Snyder
Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn
Peter Herzog
Amy Windrope

4:25 p.m. **ADJOURN**

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – January

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: August 7, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building; 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Michael Shiosaki, Chair	Seattle	Bob Bugert	Leavenworth
Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Trang Lam	Camas	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kitty Craig	Seattle	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.

All board members participated virtually.

Call to Order:

Chair Michael Shiosaki called the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. Member Windrope was absent at the time of roll call.

Motion: Move to Approve **August 7, 2024**, Agenda

Moved By: Member **Burgess**

Seconded by: Member **Lam**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Operating and Capital Budget Requests for 2025-2027

Brock Milliern, Policy Director, summarized the budget presentation from the July meeting which highlighted the pressures on the budget from the uncertainty of Climate Commitment Act funding; necessary updates to the Western State Hospital; and the Washington Department of Transportation Culvert Injunction. Notably, the current bond capacity projection increased slightly since the July forecast from \$4.6 billion to \$4.61

billion. RCO will submit budget requests to the Office of Financial Management in September.

Member Windrope joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

In July, Mr. Milliern presented the board with five request options for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The board decided not to pursue options two and three. The remaining options are:

- Option One – per capita investment: \$128 million. In July, this number was the lowest end of the budget the board was interested in considering.
- Option Four – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition advocacy number: \$150 million. In July, this amount was the highest end of the budget the board was interested in considering.
- Option Five – 2.99 percent of bond capacity: \$138 million.

All three options would have an administrative rate of 3.74 percent that is set by state statute.

Members discussed how the options address the need for funding and **Member Lam** wanted to ensure the requests for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and Youth Athletic Facilities did not compete too much against each other for funding. Mr. Milliern noted that legislators are interested in programs that are happening in their districts and last session he highlighted for legislators that there would likely be an increased Youth Athletic Facilities request. Although there is always competition between Youth Athletic Facilities and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Programs, they are distinctly separate asks.

Member Burgess expressed hesitation for a large request and preferred Option Five due to unknowns in the capital budget this year.

Member Herzog noted that while Option Four is a large number, it still does not address the existing need that, on top of recreation, includes protecting natural lands and resources.

Member Bugert asked how frequently the board's request aligned with what the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition's advocated for. Mr. Milliern answered they have not always aligned and noted a benefit in having a singular message over aligning on requests.

Christine Mahler, Executive Director of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, was available to answer questions on the request amount the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is advocating. Ms. Mahler explained the rationale behind advocating for \$150 million, highlighting the increase for need in both recreation and conservation. On top of the regular and historical increase in demand, the impacts from the pandemic have dramatically increased the need for a higher request. Ms. Mahler emphasized that with the upcoming changes in the November election, having a unified voice will be more impactful than ever.

Members **Bugert, Craig, Herzog, Lam,** and **Ohlson-Kiehn** felt Option Four was appropriate with a justifiable rationale.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-11
Moved By: Member **Bugert**
Seconded by: Member **Ohlson-Keihn**
Decision: **Approved**

Chair Shiosaki and Members Bugert, Craig, Herzog, Lam, Ohlson-Kiehn, and Windrope all voted to approve Resolution 2024-11. Member Burgess voted "nay".

Public Comment

None.

Youth Athletic Facilities

Mr. Milliern shared that RCO received \$44.5 million in funding requests. In July, he highlighted the Youth Athletic Facilities program changes made in October 2023, responding to growing need. The changes included allowing acquisition-only projects, Youth Athletic Facilities can no longer match athletic components with Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks, and increased grant limits from \$75,000 to \$350,000 in the small category and from \$350,000 to \$1.5 million in the large category. Additionally, in the spring, RCO launched the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program, which received \$160 million in requests. Both programs highlight the need for youth athletic facilities in communities around the state.

Mr. Milliern shared the number of applications for Youth Athletic Facilities Small and Large categories over the past five biennia. Of note, in previous biennia, all or almost all projects were funded.

Year	Youth Athletic Facilities – Large	Youth Athletic Facilities – Small	Total Applications	Funding Requested
2016	19	0	19	\$4.1 million
2018	57	6	63	\$16 million
2020	37	9	46	\$11.4 million
2022	43	2	45	\$12.6 million
2024	49	10	59	\$44.5 million

Mr. Milliern shared two funding request options for Youth Athletic Facilities, based on the \$44.5 million in requests RCO received for the program. Both options represent a significant increase over what was requested in the previous biennium.

- Request 75 percent for \$33.38 million.
- Request 50 percent for \$22.25 million.

Member Herzog asked how much match was included with the requests, and **Director Duffy** answered there was \$74 million in match for YAF this round.

During board discussion, Mr. Milliern clarified the options were intended as a range for the board to consider and they could explore a number between the options, noting that somewhere between 50 and 75 percent would make the program competitive, and that a higher number may be unrealistic. Members felt that a request between the two options was appropriate.

Member Herzog requested the context behind the origins of the program. Mr. Milliern explained that the program was originally created in 1997 when Lumen Field was bonded through a citizen’s initiative with the intention of additional revenues to go to Youth Athletic Facilities. The program went unfunded for several years and in the 2010s there was a request to bring the program back to address the need for facilities. Although the program does not exist in statue, the board has adopted policies for it to operate as a standalone program.

Member Lam motioned to approve **Resolution 2024-12** with a \$27 million request.

- Motion:** Move to Approve Resolution 2024-12
- Moved By:** Member **Lam**
- Seconded by:** Member **Burgess**
- Decision:** **Approved**

Public Comment

None.

As requested by the board, Mr. Milliern will provide more metrics at the next budget meeting in two years.

Dedicated Account Programs

There are four programs with dedicated funding sources for which the board provides support. The numbers are based on projections and the resolution requests authority for the director to adjust the requests if the projections change so that the programs get the funding they need.

- Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Account - requesting \$13.8 million from a percentage of the state’s fuel tax.
- Aquatic Land Enhancement Account - will receive \$7.4 million from geoduck sales.
- Firearm and Archery Range Recreation program - requesting \$682,000 from gun permits.
- Boating Facilities Program - requesting \$18.9 million from a percentage of the state’s fuel tax.

Agencies must have authority to spend federal funding and staff requested federal spending authority for three programs:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund - requesting \$20 million.
- Recreational Trails Program - requesting \$5 million.
- Boating Infrastructure Grants - requesting \$5 million.

Mr. Milliern noted that in the materials the resolution was numbered 2024-12 and needed to be corrected to 2024-13.

Member Bugert motioned to approve the resolution as amended to 2024-13.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-13

Moved By: Member **Bugert**

Seconded by: Member **Craig**

Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment

None.

ADJOURN: 10:42 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 29 and 30, 2024, at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501.

DRAFT

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: July 24, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Columbia Pointe Ballroom, Hampton by Hilton, 486 Bradley Boulevard, Richland, Washington and online via Zoom

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Michael Shiosaki, Chair	Seattle	Bob Bugert	Leavenworth
Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Trang Lam	Camas	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kitty Craig	Seattle	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Call to Order:

Chair Michael Shiosaki called the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 9:00 AM and **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call, determining quorum. **Members Burgess** and **Windrope** were present via Zoom. **Member Ohlson-Kiehn** was absent.

Motion: Move to Approve July 24, 2024, Agenda

Moved By: Member **Bugert**

Seconded by: Member **Lam**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Shiosaki noted that the consent agenda includes the April 16, 2024, meeting minutes, three time-extensions, one project cost increase, and a match reduction policy technical change.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-06, Consent Agenda

Moved By: Member **Herzog**

Seconded by: Member **Lam**

Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy noted the Salmon Recovery grant round was underway and had a couple hundred projects submitted. The Recreation and Conservation grant round received 310 applications requesting a total of \$308 million in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Boating Infrastructure Grant, Community Forests Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and Youth Athletic Facilities programs.

To give a sense of the operating environment, Director Duffy noted pressures on the budget, federal funding, bipartisan infrastructure law, and a new governor with new priorities following the upcoming election.

The Recreation and Conservation team is fully staffed with the addition of outdoor grants managers Rachelle Lim and Butch Lovelace.

RCO staff are developing an internal equity training program for staff. Staff are also working with a consultant to develop a training for the board.

The Recreational Impacts Group of Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and RCO engaged with Tribes to discuss the recreational impacts on cultural resources. They will continue to meet and have had positive momentum.

Grant Management Report

Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager, shared an overview of the programs included in the 2024 Spring Grant Cycle and the timeline on the process. The programs include the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#), [Boating Infrastructure Grant](#), [Community Forests Program](#), [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#), [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#), and [Youth Athletic Facilities](#). Details on each program are included in the [meeting materials](#).

RCO's office programs, [Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities](#), and [Local Parks Maintenance](#) have grant rounds underway.

The 2024 Fall Grant Cycle begins in August with application webinars for the [Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities](#) and [Recreational Trails Program](#), [Boating Facilities Program](#), and [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#). The board will award grants for these programs in June 2025.

General Public Comment

None.

Item 3: Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities Policy

Adam Cole, Policy Specialist, provided an overview of the Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities program and funding breakdown (found in [Manual 14](#)), timeline, and public comment survey summary, detailed in the [meeting materials](#).

The purpose of raising grant limits is to align grant amounts to reflect inflation since 2016; maintain project impact over time; and allow applicants the ability to bundle multiple requests into a single application. These recommendations are based on staff and stakeholder feedback.

Director Duffy approved Nonhighway Off-road Vehicle Activities evaluation process changes, creating a hybrid evaluation consisting of a written evaluation and a virtual ten-minute question and answer session.

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, explained how allocation of the 10 percent “competitive dollars” works. The funds are distributed to the highest-ranking alternates based on a list that is created following the evaluation process and allocation funds to the Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-Road Vehicle categories. Staff use three board-adopted supplemental criteria and the number of unfunded projects to create this list. Ms. Austin plans to share more about the competitive dollars at the April 2025, meeting when the ranked list is available. The 10 percent to competitive dollars is in statute, but the board could change how those funds are allocated. Ms. Austin noted the current process for allocation of the ten percent was chosen following a rigorous process and has been working well.

Member Craig asked whether changes in the fuel tax as a funding source for this program were anticipated. Mr. Cole answered that the fuel tax will likely remain stable if no changes are made to the fuel tax system.

Member Herzog would like block grants to be considered in the future as they could create efficiencies for applicants.

Staff recommend raising grant limits for maintenance and operations projects to keep pace with inflation. This maintains project impact over time and would allow applicants to bundle multiple grant requests into a single application. Staff recommend not raising grant limits for capital projects which include planning, acquisition, and development projects.

Public Comment

Ted Jackson, Washington ATV Association, commented that the off-road vehicle registration fee has not had a cost-of-living adjustment since its inception in the late 1970's, and wanted a change to be considered. Mr. Jackson also shared that neighboring states offer season passes for Washingtonians to ride their trail systems, the proceeds of which helps to support the use of the trails in those states.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-07

Moved By: Member **Craig**

Seconded by: Member **Bugert**

Decision: **Approved**

BREAK: 10:00 A.M. – 10:16 A.M.

Item 4: Mitigation Costs: Department of Fish and Wildlife, Point Whitney Access Redevelopment

Please note this item was presented after Item 6.

Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager, explained that in 2017, the board approved Boating Facilities Program funds for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Fish and Wildlife) improvements at their Point Whitney Access site ([RCO #16-2308](#)) on Dabob Bay. The plan is to build a new boat ramp, renovate the restroom, improve parking and trailer turn around, move fencing, and replace an interpretive kiosk. All elements have been completed except the installation of the prefabricated boat ramp. During the process of securing permits for the boat ramp, Fish and Wildlife was informed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps of Engineers) that mitigation would be required and would be a one-time payment of \$250,000 to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council In-Lieu Fee program, which will fully satisfy the mitigation obligations for the placement of the boat ramp necessary for Fish and Wildlife to proceed with securing permits. While payment does not guarantee permits will be issued, Fish and Wildlife expect they will be.

Fish and Wildlife does not have a secondary source of funding for this amount, and it is more than the original funding would cover. Staff proposed three options for the board to consider. Details for each option can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

- Option One: approve paying the mitigation costs, increase the grant amount, and provide a one-year time extension.

- Option Two: approve paying the mitigation costs, remove the boat ramp from the project scope, provide a six-month time extension, and Fish and Wildlife could apply for a future grant for the boat ramp.
- Option Three: Down scope the project to only include already completed elements, and Fish and Wildlife could apply for a future grant for the mitigation, permits, and boat ramp.

Staff recommends Option One, which would approve the \$250,000 mitigation payment included in the total project cost increase of \$345,000, which would increase the grant total from \$540,000 to \$885,000; and a one-year time extension to complete the project as originally scoped. This would be the best use of already invested time and resources and keep the project from becoming more expensive if construction of the boat launch is delayed.

Member Windrope, Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife, noted Fish and Wildlife does not have the budget to cover the mitigation cost themselves and recognized the challenges of the request as it is expensive and there is uncertainty with the permits. Moving forward, this mitigation cost will be part of doing work in the intertidal zone in the Puget Sound and is something the board will need to navigate as Fish and Wildlife is not the only organization experiencing the new [Salish Sea calculator](#). The calculator determines the cost of the mitigation because there is no on-site mitigation that Fish and Wildlife can provide. Fish and Wildlife pays the mitigation cost to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, which uses the money to create restoration projects and satisfies the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, allowing Fish and Wildlife to move forward with permitting.

Member Bugert noted that the process has certainty with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration but not the Corps of Engineers. **Don Ponder**, Fish and Wildlife Lead Engineer, noted that when the funding satisfies the calculator, it will satisfy the Corps of Engineers as well. Fish and Wildlife expressed confidence in receiving permits from the Corps of Engineers once mitigation funding is secured, and Jefferson County has been kept aware of the situation to minimize additional delays once permits are acquired.

Member Burgess expressed concern with setting a precedent by approving Option One and asked if the mitigation was anticipated or if the level of mitigation was unexpected. Member Windrope answered that mitigation requirements have changed since the project was funded. Member Burgess also asked if other projects could benefit from the returned funds that would have been used for the cost increase. **Marguerite Austin** noted that staff reviewed the list of unfunded alternates and considered whether it is

better to complete a project that is underway or fund another project from the start. In this case, staff concluded, it is better to request approval for the cost increase for the funded project.

Member Craig noted the new calculator could potentially impact the cost of other projects and asked if it affects existing RCO policies. **Director Duffy** replied that Puget Sound Partnership has a better understanding of the calculator and a discussion with them is needed before looking at whether this impacts existing RCO policies. Fish and Wildlife noted there were other boating projects in the Puget Sound in various phases that could be impacted by the calculator.

Member Burgess asked if Fish and Wildlife retain the mitigation funds if the permits are not approved. **Derric Lowery**, Fish and Wildlife, answered that the mitigation funding goes to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and would stay in the mitigation bank for future mitigation work within the Hood Canal watershed. Member Burgess requested the resolution be revised to clarify what happens to the mitigation funds if the permits are not approved and that Fish and Wildlife could not ask for grant funding for mitigation under \$250,000 for future projects until those mitigation dollars are used up.

Director Duffy requested a break to reword the language in the resolution.

BREAK: 11:26 AM – 11:38 AM

The resolution was revised with additional language: *If the permits are not approved Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will reduce their requests for future mitigation payments from the Boating Facilities Program grant applications until they have repaid the program the \$250,000.*

Member Bugert requested a revision to the original motion so that it reads: ... *hereby approves a cost increase of \$345,000, which includes a request for a mitigation payment of \$250,000, and a one-year time extension...*

Member Windrope recused herself from the vote.

Motion: Move to Approve **Resolution 2024-08** as amended

Moved By: Member **Bugert**

Seconded by: Member **Lam**

Decision: **Approved as revised.**

Public Comment

None.

Item 5: Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program: Review Project

Please note this item was presented after Item 3.

Karl Jacobs provided an overview of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) (LWCF), Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program. To participate in LWCF, states must adopt a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and develop an open project selection or evaluation process. Congress established LWCF in 1965 with the passage of the LWCF Act, authorizing financial assistance to the states for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The National Park Service distributes funding to states based on population and land area, referred to as "LWCF Stateside." Additionally, Congress set aside a separate appropriation for the nationally competitive LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, referred to as "LWCF Legacy." LWCF Legacy operates within the context of the LWCF Stateside program but focuses on projects that will benefit disadvantaged urban communities. Details on LWCF policies, schedule, and funding can be found on [RCO's LWCF web page](#).

RCO received one eligible application for the national competition, from the City of Kent for the Kent Uplands Playfield and Spray Park ([RCO #23-1910](#)). The project will redevelop an underutilized green space in downtown Kent, which is within walking distance to multifamily affordable housing, businesses, and transit. Unused baseball fields will be transformed into a spray park and play area with a picnic shelter, restroom, entry plazas, and paths. The City of Kent is the eighth most diverse city of its size in the nation with over 130 languages spoken in the Kent School District and 63 percent of residents are people of color. Mr. Jacobs noted that not only is the project census tract disadvantaged, but so are six of the nearby census tracts.

Member Craig asked what the timeline for the next grant round was and if outreach could be improved for more applications. Mr. Jacobs explained that the program is expected to be available in 2025, but there is often short notice from the National Park Service to provide advanced outreach and the criteria can vary each grant round. **Chair Shiosaki** asked if eligible areas have been mapped statewide to target outreach to potential applicants. Mr. Jacobs noted that a [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) is available and could be used to identify areas for outreach.

Additionally, more upfront readiness work is needed for LWCF Legacy projects. **Director Duffy** noted this upfront readiness can be challenging for certain jurisdictions to have

prepared ahead of applying. The National Park Service will likely hold conversations with states on the challenges they face.

Member Bugert asked if there was any connection between LWCF Legacy and the new Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program, and Mr. Jacobs answered that they are separate programs, but Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities funds could be used as match for LWCF Legacy.

Public Comment

None.

Item 6: Boating Infrastructure Grant Program: Review Projects

Please note this item was presented after Item 9.

Karl Jacobs provided an overview of the [Boating Infrastructure Grant](#) program and highlighted the program's two main goals: to provide facilities for transient recreational boats that are twenty-six feet or larger; and to provide boater information and educational materials. The Boating Infrastructure Grant Program is a federally funded program managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Funding for the program comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and is shared with the Clean Vessel Act program. Revenue comes from excise taxes, motors, import duties, a portion of gasoline tax, and interest earned on the trust fund. More details on program policies, grant schedule, and funding can be found on RCO's [Boating Infrastructure Grant web page](#).

In Washington State, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program has funded nineteen Tier One development projects and seventeen Tier Two projects, supporting local agencies, nonprofits, and private facility operators. To date, this program has established over 5,000 feet of moorage, 241 boat slips, four restroom and laundry facilities, and dockside utilities to serve boaters.

In the latest grant round, RCO received four eligible applications:

Tier One:

- Guest Dock Fire Suppression ([RCO #24-1984](#)): Requested \$192,000.
- Port Ludlow Piling Replacement ([RCO #24-2182](#)): Requested \$116,250.

Tier Two:

- Des Moines Marina Charging Floats ([RCO #24-2120](#)): Requested \$1,400,000.

- Port of Chinook Dock Renovations([RCO #24-2177](#)). Please note, the Port of Chinook, withdrew their application.

Additional details on the applications can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

Public Comment:

None.

LUNCH: 11:45 A.M. – 12:46 P.M.

Item 7: 2025-2027 Budget

Brock Milliern, Policy Director, provided an overview of the operating budget for the 2025-2027 biennium. The current estimated bond capacity is \$4.6 million. The outcome of school construction needs and the uncertainty of the Climate Commitment Act, which will be voted on in November, create pressure and uncertainty in the upcoming budget. Additionally, there will be a new governor elected in November with potentially different priorities. In August, the board will decide on a budget to be submitted in September. Between when budgets are due and when Governor Inslee finalizes his budget, the November election will occur, which will have an impact on the state budget and priorities, The Governor's Budget is expected in mid-December. For more details on the budget, see the [meeting materials](#).

Mr. Milliern reviewed the historical funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and provided funding options for the board to consider ahead of the August meeting.

Member Windrope returned at 12:53 p.m.

- Option One: set funding level based on per capita investment; \$128 million.
- Option Two: set funding level based on percentage of applications received; \$94 million.
- Option Three: set funding level at amount where a main account would have all projects funded; \$170 million. This funding is divided in statute as follows:
 - Farm and Forest Account – 10 percent
 - Habitat and Conservation Account – 45 percent
 - Outdoor Recreation Account – 45 percent
- Option Four: set funding level at Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition advocacy number; \$150 million.
- Option Five: set funding level at average percent of bond capacity of the last ten years; 2.99 percent of bond capacity or \$138 million.

Of note, the board makes a resolution concerning administrative funds from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program based on an average of the last five biennia costs. In 2022, it was 4.14 percent; in 2023, it was 4.09 percent; and in 2024, it was 3.74 percent. There is an option in the statute that allows RCO to put forward a number that is different from the average of the last five biennia, but staff do not think it is necessary now.

The Youth Athletic Facilities program received \$44.5 million in requests, an increase of \$32.1 million from 2022. In 2023, the board approved allowing acquisition only projects in the Youth Athletic Facilities program; decided that Youth Athletic Facilities projects cannot match athletic components with the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Local Parks program in the same cycle; and significantly increased grant limits from \$75,000 to \$350,000 in the small category, and from \$350,000 to \$1.5 million in the large category. Additionally in 2023, RCO created the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program from Lumen Field bond funding that can be used as match for Youth Athletic Facilities. Mr. Milliern emphasized the requests from previous biennia increased from around \$12 million to over \$200 million for athletic facilities.

Funding level options for Youth Athletic Facilities are:

- Request 75 percent of request amount for \$33.38 million.
- Request 50 percent of request amount for \$22.25 million.

Members discussed competitiveness among funding requests for grant programs. Mr. Milliern noted that people took advantage of the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program and the changes made to the Youth Athletic Facilities program, which are competitive but not at a one-to-one rate.

The board has authority to set funding authority levels over programs with dedicated funding – Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Account, Aquatic Land Enhancement Account, Firearm and Archery Range, and Boating Facilities Program are all dedicated accounts. Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Account will receive \$13.8 million, seeing an increase of around \$100,000 from off-road vehicle permits. RCO is vigilant in monitoring the state fuel tax as it provides tens of millions of dollars in yearly recreation investments. Staff are doing what they can to make sure legislators are aware of how important fuel revenue is to outdoor recreation. Firearm and Archery Range will receive \$682,000 and see about \$195,000 less as funding was transferred to the Department of Natural Resources. The Boating Facilities Program will receive \$18.9 million, around \$180,000 less than the previous biennium. Dedicated funding for the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account is primarily funded through geoduck sales and is undetermined.

The board provides approval for federal spending authority and RCO plans to request \$20 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund, \$5 million to the Recreational Trails Program, and \$5 million for Boating Infrastructure Grants.

In August, the board will decide on the program funding level and administrative percentage for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program and funding level for Youth Athletic Facilities, dedicated account programs, and federal authority. A detailed budget overview is in the [meeting materials](#).

Public Comment

Christine Mahler, Executive Director of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, encouraged the board to adopt Option Four: \$150 million. This option accounts for the fiscal realities, leadership changes to come, and demand for outdoor recreation. Ms. Mahler also provided written comment provided in the [meeting materials](#).

The board discussed the options provided for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and agreed that \$138 million should be the minimum request. Mr. Milliern will provide more detail in August on options one, four, and five for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and both options for Youth Athletic Facilities.

Item 8: Technical Assistance Program

Leah Dobey, Policy Specialist, and **Caroline Morin**, Equity Coordinator, provided background information on a Technical Assistance Program inspired by a [2022 equity review](#), which recommended RCO “proactively build applicant capacities to attract and support equity-driven sponsors and projects.” The [2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan \(SCORP\)](#) includes the need to “develop, improve, and maintain technical assistance resources to address statewide priorities and goals” in its Unified Strategy. Technical Assistance provides capacity building, application assistance, and implementation assistance and is included in [Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.005](#) as part of the board’s mission.

Currently, RCO provides technical assistance through application webinars, potential client advising, technical review, successful applicant workshops, current applicant advising, conference presentations and sessions, and attending and tabling at conferences but there are still gaps which the technical assistance program intends to fill. The technical assistance program could potentially offer application and writing support, direct project consultation, passive assistance resources, conferences and convening events, and expanding community outreach.

Next steps for this program include connecting with partner organizations and conducting community outreach; scoping budget and funding; and program design including eligibility requirements, structure of services to be provided, application process, and applicant selection.

Director Duffy noted RCO will likely submit an operating request related to this item and thus it will not be included in the August budget meeting decisions.

BREAK: 2:22 PM – 2:41 PM

Item 9: Eligibility for Acquisition: City of Kent, Uplands Extension Property, 24-1776

Please note this item was presented after Item 5.

Karl Jacobs explained the City of Kent's (city) request to waive a policy prohibiting acquisition of land already managed for public outdoor recreation. The city has leased the 1.33-acre Uplands Extension Property (property) from the Union Pacific Railroad (railroad) since the 1990s and built and maintains a skatepark and open lawn on the site. The parcel to the west of the property is owned by Puget Sound Energy on which the city and King County have limited use permits to manage the property for outdoor recreation.

The railroad recently reassessed the year-to-year lease and indicated that the rate could increase from \$3,000 per year to as much as \$100,000 per year. If the city is unable to purchase the property, the lease would likely be terminated, and the skatepark would need to be removed and the property would no longer be used for outdoor recreation. A similar situation happened with property across the street from the skatepark when the railroad increased the cost of the lease from \$1,500 per year to \$25,000 per year. The city terminated that lease and removed the leased area from the park.

According to [Manual 3: Acquisition Projects](#), established outdoor recreation areas developed under ownership or management of a public agency are ineligible for acquisition. The city is asking the board to waive the policy so that it can seek acquisition grant funding to avoid the loss of an existing park and make future improvements. A policy waiver would not guarantee funding but rather would allow the city to compete for funds. The City of Kent submitted a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks application in the 2024 grant round for this acquisition pending the board's decision on this eligibility request. Staff recommends approving Resolution 2024-09.

Member Herzog asked if the policy needs to be revised. Mr. Jacobs answered the policy is worth reconsidering and policy specialist Nick Norton has plans to review [Manual 3: Acquisition Projects](#) over the next year.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-09
Moved By: Member **Herzog**
Seconded by: Member **Craig**
Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment

None.

Item 10: Non-State, Non-Federal Match Waiver Request: Okanogan Land Trust, Teas Ranch, 20-1619

Karen Edwards presented the board with a request to waive a portion of the required 10 percent non-state, non-federal match for Okanogan Land Trust’s Teas Ranch ([RCO #20-1619](#)). In 2021, the board approved Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Farmland Preservation funding to acquire a conservation easement at Teas Ranch, which will protect 445 acres of prime farmland and extinguish twenty development rights, ensuring the land remains in agricultural production in perpetuity. Sponsor match for the project came from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Services and non-state, non-federal funds.

Project Costs	Original	Proposed
WWRP – Farmland Preservation	\$109,265 (45%)	\$109,265 (27%)
Sponsor Match*	\$133,547 (55%)	\$290,728 (73%)
Total Project Cost	\$242,812	\$399,993

*Sponsor Match	Original	Proposed
Natural Resources Conservation Services	\$109,266 (45%)	\$280,500 (69%)
Non-State, Non-Federal	\$24,281 (10%)	\$10,228 (4%)
Total Match	\$133,547 (55%)	\$290,728 (73%)

In 2022, the board approved Resolution 2022-05 which eliminates the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement for 2022 and 2024 applications only. Factors included in the request for a partial match waiver include unprecedented land value increases, increased overall match from Natural Resources Conservation Services, and no necessary cost increase.

Staff recommends approving the non-state, non-federal match waiver request.

Motion: Move to Approve Resolution 2024-10

Moved By: Member **Bugert**

Seconded by: Member **Lam**

Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment

None.

Item 11: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Review: Themes and Issues

Nick Norton, Policy Specialist, gave a brief overview of the review and discovery process of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Farmland Preservation grant. Three themes came out of the discovery process and are detailed in the [meeting materials](#): Land access and affordability, Farmland and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and Current Operating Environment.

Member Craig asked if there was a need to highlight dynamics between Eastern and Western Washington farmland. Mr. Norton answered that in terms of match, the disparity is more evident on the eastern than western side of the state, particularly with Whatcom, Skagit, and King Counties in Western Washington having dedicated conservation futures. Staff could look at providing the right criteria and structure for advisors to compare projects like a small acreage vegetable farm on the west side with thousands of acres of rangeland on the east side.

Mr. Norton noted that easements create challenges, and staff are looking at providing more pathways to entry by updating the easement template, providing guidebooks, and considering options that are not easements. **Member Bugert** highlighted the opportunity to address language related to easements and work with land trusts and the possibility of land leases. Mr. Norton noted there could be challenges with combining match with other programs that have different goals and purposes, such as recreation, but it is worth exploring working with land trusts.

Mr. Norton shared the current evaluation criteria and explained issues that were uncovered in the discovery process that need to be addressed. The criteria are listed in the [meeting materials](#) by current approach, the issue uncovered, and the issue priority level. Evaluation process and criteria include oral versus written evaluation process, site viability, threat to the land, access to markets, on-site infrastructure, building envelope, benefits to the community, community support, and match.

Member Craig asked if there was an opportunity to make structural changes to the program. Mr. Norton answered there was an opportunity and shifting the focus to affordability may require a more frequent grant round structure.

Item 12: State Agency Partner Reports

Governor's Office

Jon Snyder was not present and did not provide a written report.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn was absent from the meeting and did not provide a written report.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Member Peter Herzog shared the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) met on July 18 to discuss their budget requests and will make a \$122 million capital budget request and \$282 million operating budget request.

The Commission completed their Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program evaluation to rank projects that align with the agency's mission. The ranked list will be incorporated into a broader review by an advisory committee.

The Recreation Impacts Process (process) continued to meet with good participation from Tribal partners. The process created a working charter with a vision, structure, organization, and principles which will be used for the process and adapted when necessary. Additionally, Tribal capacity to participate is limited and the process is working on ways to help increase their capacity.

Lastly, next October the Commission will decide on the future of the Camma Beach State Park cabins which were closed last winter due to issues with the sewer infrastructure. The cabins are located at an archaeological site overlaid by a historical site and are facing damage by increasing king tides and sea level rise.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Amy Windrope shared that Fish and Wildlife is in the middle of their budget planning season and plans to ask for an increase in funding for priorities including safety; \$16 million for the next step in the biodiversity package to focus on non-hunted and fished species; an increase in the enforcement program which is a key piece of conservation; and an increase in land stewardship.

Member Windrope highlighted a partnership called Writing the Land, a collaboration with Washington poets to write about climate change on Fish and Wildlife land, the works of which will be published next year.

RECESS: 3:56 PM

DRAFT

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: July 25, 2024

Place: Site Tour – Benton County, Tri-Cities Area

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Michael Shiosaki, Chair	Seattle	Bob Bugert	Leavenworth
Shiloh Burgess	Wenatchee	Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Trang Lam	Camas	Amy Windrope	Designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kitty Craig	Seattle	Peter Herzog	Designee; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting.

Call to Order:

Chair Michael Shiosaki called the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) tour portion of the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call. Members Bugert, Herzog, and Lam were present. Members Burgess, Craig, Ohlson-Kiehn, and Windrope were absent. The quorum was not met and Chair Shiosaki adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURN: 9:02 AM

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501 and virtual via Zoom.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

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 listed in Attachment A.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Resolution: 2024-11 (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 policy elements are the sponsor's responsibility to complete a funded project promptly and meet the milestones outlined in the grant agreement. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director may give an applicant up to four years (from the award date) to complete a project. Extensions beyond four years require board action.

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

General considerations for approving time extension requests include:

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

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

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

Attachment

A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

City of Seattle

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1869 Development	Arboretum Waterfront Trail	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Trails	\$713,312 (83%)	12/31/2024	12/31/2026

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The City of Seattle will use this grant to renovate, rebuild and replace portions of the floating boardwalk trail system on Foster Island in Washington Park Arboretum.

This grant became active in October 2018, and the sponsor applied for their US Army Corps of Engineers permit that same month. The sponsor completed 100 percent designs in December 2022. The sponsor is still waiting to receive their US Army Corps of Engineers permit. Section 106 was completed in August 2024, marking recent progress. The only remaining step before permit issuance is National Marine Fisheries Service consultation. US Army Corps of Engineers permitting is especially challenging for the Seattle, because the US Army Corps of Engineers considers and prioritizes permits on a city-by-city basis, so Seattle park projects often end up waiting in line behind major Seattle infrastructure projects.

The sponsor is requesting a two-year extension so that they have two more fish windows to construct the project, in case the permit is not received by the 2025 fish window.

City of Tukwila

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-2033 Development	Chinook Wind Public Access	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$124,426 (79%)	10/31/2024	2/28/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The City of Tukwila will use this grant to develop a trailhead and walking path with viewpoints of the Duwamish River.

This project was delayed due to issues with the contractor. Construction started in March 2024, but was stopped in April 2024, when the sponsor became aware that the contractor's license was suspended due to a pending lawsuit. The lawsuit was resolved, the contractor's license was reinstated, and construction was re-started in August 2024.

The sponsor expects to complete construction by November 2024. Given the challenges with the contractor, the sponsor is requesting a four-month extension to provide a buffer in case of delays.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-1900 Restoration	Back Rock Lake Shrub- Steppe Restoration	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Restoration	\$70,175 (33%)	12/31/2024	12/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received grant funds to restore 178 acres of native grass and forbs to support grouse breeding habitat in the Big Bend Wildlife Area in Douglas County. To date, WDFW has restored 136 acres.

WDFW is requesting another year to allow a spring 2025 herbicide treatment and fall 2025 seeding on the remaining forty-two acres that are infested with bulbous bluegrass, an especially hard to eradicate nonnative. Delays on the remaining forty-two acres relate to a needed change in restoration methods from a chemical fallow field approach to a more selective approach of removing the nonnative grasses while preserving the native perennial forbs. The more selective approach uses contact herbicide only, which has limited presence on the landscape and allows for a healthy native forb community to thrive while herbicide treatments are ongoing. The more complex method takes more time for self-sustaining native species to out-compete nonnatives.

WDFW is requesting a one-year time extension to complete this work on the remaining forty-two acres.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-2259 Acquisition	Sekiu Boating Access	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$940,098 (94%)	12/31/2024	6/30/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) received grant funds to acquire a portion of a private fishing resort at Sekiu in Clallam County. The acquisition includes approximately two and a half acres of uplands, tidelands, and an easement for ingress/egress; a four-lane boat ramp; and two parking lots. Once acquired, this will provide the only public boat ramp for saltwater fishing and recreational boating access to the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Port Angeles and Neah Bay.

After working with the current landowner to clear title, the property was appraised in March of 2023 for \$3,380,000, far exceeding the remaining grant funds. Through a 2024 supplemental capital budget request, WDFW secured the additional funds to acquire this property.

WDFW is currently under a purchase and sale agreement with the landowner with an anticipated closing date of April 30, 2025. Survey work to complete a complicated boundary line adjustment is currently underway.

WDFW is requesting a six-month time extension, which matches the expiration date of their supplemental funding.

Department of Natural Resources

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-1894 Restoration	Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration II	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Restoration	\$68,393 (58%)	12/31/2024	12/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received grant funds for restoration of 220 acres of forest and wet meadow habitats through ecological thinning, prescribed burning, invasive plant control, and planting native vegetation on the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve in Chelan County.

DNR has performed approximately twelve acres of invasive plant control; scoped and drafted a prescribed burn plan; completed most of the planning and permitting activities for forest thinning; and completed cultural resource review for all project components.

Early delays were caused by COVID-19 restrictions on field work and travel, loss of staff due to the vaccine mandate, which compounded DNR staff's workload, along with permitting agencies lack of capacity at that time. Additionally, the level of complexity and requirements for planning, permitting, cultural resources, prescribed burning, and forest thinning all increased after the project was put under agreement.

DNR is performing manual treatment for invasive plant control and hydrologic restoration this fall. Planning and permitting for forest thinning and prescribed burns will be completed by spring 2025. DNR expects implementation of this work in late 2025 during the open work window for prescribed burns. Although the cultural resources work is complete, there is ongoing communication with interested tribes on the scheduling of remaining restoration activities.

DNR is requesting a twelve-month extension to finish the remaining scope items.

Department of Natural Resources

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
20-1334 Acquisition	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	WWRP-Natural Areas	\$8,252,263	10/31/2024	6/30/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is purchasing 622 acres, which constitutes the largest remaining private inholding at the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area in Clark County. Acquisition of this property (currently in agricultural use) will expand DNR's natural area ownership from 11 percent to 50 percent. This acquisition, which protects oak and riparian forest and wetlands, has a rare remnant of the Willamette Valley wet prairie along with the second largest of twenty known populations of Bradshaw's Lomatium. Also, it will increase protected habitat for seven state sensitive species including the rare Slender-billed White Breasted Nuthatch.

Initially, the landowner considered selling several hundred acres to DNR. Negotiations were initiated in early 2019 but were extensive given the seller's need for time to phase out the agricultural operation. DNR applied for grant funds in 2018 and 2020 as part of a multi-phased acquisition strategy. It became apparent in mid-2023 that merging grant funds and acquiring all the property under a single transaction was desired by both parties and is a more cost-efficient approach.

The appraisal process is now complete and DNR is finalizing the terms of the sale and entering a purchase and sale agreement. If this time extension is approved, DNR anticipates closing by the end of 2024 and completing all post-closing work (fencing and noxious weed control) and grant close-out by June 2025.

Ferry County

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-1959 Development	Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 5	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Trails	\$260,574 (69%)	12/31/2024	12/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Ferry County received grant funds to develop the final nine-mile phase of the Ferry County Rail Trail, which totals twenty-five miles and connects Republic to Danville. Set in the middle of the overall trail, Phase 5 connects trail segments constructed in previous phases. This phase includes site preparation, trail surfacing, installation of a prefabricated bridge, and enhancement of a trailhead with a vault toilet and information kiosk.

Ferry County has completed approximately five and a half miles of trail surfacing; ordered the vault toilet; finished the bridge design; prepared the cultural resources study; and has now completed the cultural resources' consultation process.

Earlier delays were caused by COVID-19 and limited staffing availability. In addition, cultural resources approvals required additional review and analysis, which has taken longer than anticipated. That work has been largely completed and Ferry County is waiting for the Recreation and Conservation Office to issue a notice to proceed with the final construction elements.

The physical geography of Ferry County results in some of the earliest freezing conditions and deepest snow, which makes the trail attractive for cross-country skiing but also makes for shorter construction windows. Ferry County is requesting a twelve-month extension to ensure adequate time to complete the remaining development work and project close-out.

King County

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
16-1362 Development	Foothills Trail Development 252nd Avenue Mud Mountain Road	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Trails	\$1,595,262 (57%)	12/31/2024	3/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks received a grant to construct 0.9 miles of the Foothills Regional Trail, including renovation of the existing historic bridge over Boise Creek. This trail segment is the final piece to complete over twenty miles of continuous trail, connecting the communities of Puyallup, McMillin, Orting, South Prairie, Buckley, and Enumclaw.

Construction is substantially complete, and the trail was opened to the public in September. Mitigation planting is the only remaining project activity. The contractor requested approval to move the planting deadline from September 4, 2024, to February 28, 2025. The original deadline was mismatched with permit requirements because planting was not allowed to start until October due to the risk of drought and high plant mortality rates.

The sponsor is requesting a three-month extension to allow sufficient time to complete the mitigation planting and close out the grant.

Pierce County Parks and Recreation

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-1267 Development	Chambers Creek Canyon Trail Development	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Trails	\$592,097 (84%)	12/31/2024	04/30/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Pierce County Parks and Recreation received grant funds to develop 1.2 miles of pedestrian trail through Chambers Canyon. This trail construction will connect and improve existing trail segments on both sides of the canyon, add a small footbridge across Peach Creek, 1,970 linear feet of boardwalk, and a trailhead along Zircon Drive.

This project has been delayed for three primary reasons. First, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on staffing availability meant projects had to shift between Pierce County's project managers. Second, increasing costs due to inflation and supply chain issues revealed the need for value engineering. Finally, after completing the value engineering and considering available financial resources for the project, Pierce County requested a scope change to remove a 140-foot pedestrian bridge from the project. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director approved this request on July 2, 2024.

Pierce County has completed permitting, design, and has received cultural resources clearance. RCO issued a notice to proceed with construction on July 8, 2024. While construction started in July and is proceeding according to schedule, Pierce County is requesting an extension to allow for slower construction during the rainy season. Although the work can be completed during the winter, the ravine is steep and environmentally sensitive, and a slower pace of construction will prevent unnecessary wear and tear in the canyon.

The remaining work is scheduled for completion by February 28, 2025. Pierce County is requesting a four-month extension to finish the project and close out the grant.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-2558 Planning	Lake Wenatchee Launch Improvements	Boating Facilities Program: State	\$82,403 (19%)	12/31/2024	12/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

State Parks received grant funds to plan and design improvements that will enhance the efficiency, capacity, and circulation at the Lake Wenatchee State Park boat launch in Chelan County.

The primary cause for the delay can be attributed to impacts associated with COVID-19, including resignations due to the vaccine mandate. Loss of staff with historic knowledge and expertise put State Parks at a disadvantage and filling vacant positions has proven to be difficult.

A secondary cause is related to the highly sensitive archeology of Lake Wenatchee State Park. The cultural resources review process has taken longer because State Parks wants to ensure that the planned development does not have a negative impact on cultural resources.

State Parks is making progress. The design plans are now 60 percent complete, the archeological review is progressing, and the 100 percent plans are expected this spring. State Parks will submit a Boating Facilities Program grant application this fall to secure funds for the development phase. If State Parks receives development funds in 2025, they will implement the construction phase in 2026.

State Parks is requesting a one-year time extension to complete this planning project.

Town of Winthrop

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
18-1854 Development	Mack Lloyd Park Water Access	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Water Access	\$133,450 (75%)	12/30/2024	8/31/2025

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Town of Winthrop was awarded a grant to develop a water access site in Mack Lloyd Park along the Methow River. Development includes installation of a boat ramp, restoration of native vegetation along the riverbank, renovation of restrooms, and parking.

This project was delayed due to the cultural resources survey taking longer than expected. Construction will begin in October 2024, during the low-water work window. The sponsor expects to complete construction by spring 2025.

Given the challenges of winter weather, the sponsor is requesting an eight-month extension to provide a buffer in case of delays and to allow time for grant close-out.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Recognition of Advisor Service

Prepared By: Tessa Cencula, Grant Coordination Specialist

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-11

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the proposed recognition.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) 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 RCO in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants. The following individual has completed their service after providing valuable analysis and excellent program advice. Outdoor recreationists in Washington will enjoy the results of their hard work and vision for years to come. Staff applaud their exceptional service and recommends approval of the attached resolution via Resolution 2024-11 (consent).

Boating Programs Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Tami Hayes	Local Agency Representative	6

Attachments

- A. Individual Service Recognition



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Tami Hayes

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

WHEREAS from 2018 to 2024, Tami Hayes 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 recreation projects for funding; and

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. Hayes' dedication and excellence in performing these services, the Recreation and Conservation Funding 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. Hayes.

Approved by the Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board in Olympia,
Washington
on October 29, 2024

Chair Michael Shiosaki

Board Standing Calendar

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board	
Even	Odd (Retreat Year)
January: 4 th Tues and Wed of the month	January: 4 th Tues and Wed of the month
April: 4 th Tues and Wed of the month	April 4 th Tues and Wed of the month
July: 4th Tues and Wed of the month	June: 4th Tues and Wed of the month
August: 1 st Wednesday of the month	
October: 4 th Tues and Wed of the month	October: 4th Tues and Wed of the month

Note: Travel is highlighted

Recreation and Conservation Board 2025 Meetings

- X RCFB
- X RCFB Travel
- Holiday

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	30	31	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	3	4	5	6	7	

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	31	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	1	2	

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	28	29	30	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30	1	2	3	4	

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	30	1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31	1	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	28	29	30	31	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	1	2	3	

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	29	30	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	1	2	3	4	5	

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31	1	2	

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-11
October 29, 2024 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 29, 2024 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2024-11

Consent Agenda (*Decision*)

- A. Board Meeting Minutes
 - July 24-25, 2024
 - August 7, 2024
- B. Time Extensions
 - City of Seattle, Arboretum Waterfront Trail Redevelopment, 16-1869
 - City of Tukwila, Chinook Wind Public Access, 18-2033
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife, Back Rock Lake Shrub-Steppe Restoration, 18-1900
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sekiu Boating Access, 18-2259
 - Department of Natural Resources, Camas Meadows Forest and Rare Plant Restoration II, 18-1894
 - Department of Natural Resources, Lacamas Prairie Natural Area 2020, 20-1334
 - Ferry County, Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 5, 18-1959
 - Pierce County Parks and Recreation, Chambers Creek Canyon Trail Development, 18-1267
 - State Parks and Recreation Commission, Lake Wenatchee Launch Improvements, 18-2558
 - Town of Winthrop, Mack Lloyd Park Water Access, 18-1854
- C. Advisor Recognition (1)
- D. Standing Calendar
- E. 2025 Meeting Dates

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by:

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Approved Date:

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

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

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

Summary

This memo summarizes key agency activities.

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

No Child Left Inside Applications Coming Due

Applications for Washington's grant program that provides outdoor recreation and education experiences for underserved, underrepresented, and historically excluded youth are due October 31. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's No Child Left Inside grant program has funded 276 projects, serving nearly 154,500 youth, providing them with more than 5.3 million hours of time spent outside or learning about the outdoors. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) published a new interactive dashboard that shows how many projects are funded statewide or by county and the details of each of those projects. The dashboard also includes live data about the number of applications. As of early October, 115 applications have been submitted for next year's funding. Check out RCO's [grant web page](#) to view the dashboard.



Trail, Boating Applications Coming Due

RCO is accepting applications until October 31 for the following grant programs:

- [Boating Facilities Program](#): Grants for projects that acquire, develop, and renovate facilities for motorized boats and other watercraft, including launching ramps, guest moorage, and support facilities. Grants also may be used for preconstruction activities, such as completing permits, design, and cultural resources assessments.
- [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation](#): Grants for projects that acquire, develop, and renovate firearm ranges, and archery training and practice facilities.
- [Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities](#): Grants for projects to develop and manage recreation opportunities for such activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles. A portion of the funding also is available for [education and enforcement](#) programs that encourage environmentally responsible use of the outdoors and for helping to minimize conflict between visitors through positive management techniques.
- [Recreational Trails Program](#): Grants for projects that rehabilitate and maintain trails offering a backcountry experience.



Employee News

Marissa Dallaire joined the Invasive Species Council as an intern. She has a bachelor of arts in anthropology from Pacific Lutheran University and is working towards a master's degree in marine biology. In her down time, she enjoys taking care of her nearly one hundred tropical plants.



Marc Duboiski, manager of the Salmon Grants Section, announced he will retire on October 31 after twenty-five years at RCO and more than thirty-two years in state government. Marc joined RCO in 1999 as an outdoor grants manager for the salmon section and became manager of the section in 2021. His team manages grants for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program, Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, Chehalis Basin Strategy, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and



the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative. Before coming to RCO, he was the shorelines and watershed planner for Lewis County and a transportation planner for the Washington Department of Transportation. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in geography from Western Washington University.

Dawn Pullin, a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, is RCO's new tribal affairs director. She came to RCO after working as the tribal liaison for the Washington State Patrol, where she focused on the missing and murdered indigenous people crisis for nearly four years. Before that, she was the Spokane Tribe's chief executive officer, its director of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and a contracting officer for Indian Health Services, an agency within the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Dawn's personal interest in health and wellness has led her to teach fitness classes at Gonzaga University. Dawn also started the nonprofit, Tribal Nation Building, to support tribal sovereignty and nation building and independence. Dawn is a member of the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition Board and the Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative Board. She has a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Eastern Washington University and a master of business administration degree from the University of Phoenix. She lives in Spokane.



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** will meet November 20.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met September 12. Meeting topics included an update on the European green crab long-term management plan, emerald ash borer preparedness efforts, chronic wasting disease detection, poison hemlock control in King County, the Safeguard our Shellfish campaign, and quagga and zebra mussel prevention.

The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** met September 24-25 and awarded about \$52 million in grants for restoration projects across the state. In addition, the board approved another \$23.8 million in projects that will be funded if the Climate Commitment Act remains after the November elections, and another \$148 million in projects that are pending approval by the Legislature next year. When all combined, the board approved an unprecedented nearly \$224 million in potential salmon recovery projects. The board also approved a monitoring grant program to be separate from its regular grant program and the grant calendar for next year.

Policy and Legislative Update

Staff will provide updates to the board on the biennial budget request that was submitted on September 12, 2024. This will include an overview of the budget, summary

of next steps, and how the board will be kept informed during the 2025 legislative session.

Grant Management Section

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership

The National Park Service (NPS) approved an award of \$3.15 million for the City of Kent’s Uplands Playfield and Spray Park (23-1910) project. In the single largest grant investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund’s Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, the NPS awarded \$254 million to twenty-four states for fifty-four projects. The national review panel believes the City of Kent’s project will significantly improve access to outdoor recreation in a densely populated community with limited recreational resources. Kent plans to use grant funds to renovate a small downtown park that serves a racially diverse, multi-family, low-income neighborhood. Construction will include a spray park, playground, picnic shelter and restrooms. The total project cost is \$6.3 million.



Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities

The Community Athletic Facilities Advisory Committee has scored and ranked 114 applications requesting almost \$92 million in grant funds. Applicants submitted project proposals to acquire land or develop and renovate athletic facilities that primarily serve youth. The program priority is to improve meaningful access to outdoor athletic facilities statewide for communities that lack recreational opportunities, have underserved populations, and possess limited financial resources. The Legislature allocated \$12 million for this program as part of the 2023-25 capital budget. RCO’s Director will award grants in the next few weeks. The table below shows the make-up of each region, funds requested, and funds available.

Regions	Counties	Projects	Funds Requested	Funds Available
North Sound Region	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties	17	\$14,346,701	\$2,013,445

Northeast Region	Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties	19	\$14,996,469	\$1,212,051
South Sound Region	King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties	29	\$24,169,950	\$5,429,403
Southeast Region	Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima Counties	22	\$17,199,136	\$1,377,838
Western Region	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties	27	\$21,252,246	\$1,967,263
		114	\$91,964,502	\$12,000,000

As part of the 2023-25 budget, the Legislature projected \$12.5 million for the Community Outdoor Athletic Facilities program in as 2025-27 capital budget, and staff plans to share the ranked lists and total funds requested with legislators to emphasize the need for additional funding.

Trails Conference

Megan Duffy welcomed attendees to the [2024 Washington State Trails Conference](#) in Wenatchee on October 4. More than 150 people attended the three-day conference that attracts governmental entities, consultants, recreational user groups, and various recreation and transportation professionals from all over the state. "Moving Trails Forward" was the theme for the October 3-5 conference, which provided an opportunity for participants to share insights, celebrate successes, focus on enhancing partnerships with tribes, and discuss plans for new and improved trails.

Nick Reinhardt, Policy Intern, did a presentation on the Washington State Trails Database and described how this tool can be used for planning and management to meet the diverse needs of trail communities. The conference was hosted by the Washington State Trails Coalition. Outdoor Grants Manager Jesse Sims serves on that board and coordinated RCO's display booth and distribution of information to hundreds

of people interested in trails. Plans are underway for a Trails Caucus in 2025 that will be conducted in partnership with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

Spring Cycle Evaluations Are Complete

Staff wrapped up the spring grants cycle where thirteen director-appointed advisory committees participated in reviewing and evaluating over 280 grant applications submitted by 120 local, state, and tribal governments, and nonprofit conservation and recreation organizations. RCO staff hosted six pre-evaluation meetings for written evaluation processes and fifteen days of virtual meetings for programs that use an “in-person” presentation process. Staff will ask the board to approve preliminary ranked lists of projects for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and the Youth Athletic Facilities Program. The board will review the ranked list for the Community Forests Program and be asked to approve the final ranked list for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Following board approval, staff will share the ranked lists with the Governor and Legislature for funding consideration. For more information, see items seven through thirteen.

Fall Grant Cycle is Underway

Staff kicked off the fall grant cycle on August 1 with three application webinars focusing on the Boating Facilities Program, Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, and the Recreational Trails Program. Dan Haws conducted two webinars: one for individuals interested in grants for motorized boating access and a second for those considering improvements to shooting ranges. Jesse Sims and Karen Edwards conducted a webinar for the backcountry trails programs. Scott Robinson welcomed applicants to the three virtual sessions and encouraged working closely with their outdoor grants managers to get the information needed to submit complete applications. In each webinar, staff described the grant program, eligibility requirements, deadlines, program changes, and the application process. Staff hosted a question-and-answer session at the end of each webinar to make sure applicants were prepared for submitting their proposals.

Project Administration

Staff administer outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, working lands, and education projects as summarized in the table below. Active projects are under agreement and in the implementation phase. Board-approved and director-approved projects include grant awards made by the board or 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	Board and Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	31	0	31
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	52	0	52
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)	6	0	6
Community Forests Program (CFP)	7	0	7
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	9	0	9
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	35	5	40
Local Parks Maintenance (LPM)	31	2	33
No Child Left Inside (NCLI)	97	0	97
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	96	0	96
Outdoor Learning Grants (OLG)	27	0	27
Planning for Recreation Access (PRA)	46	2	48
Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	4	1	5
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	37	1	38
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	241	6	247
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	42	3	45
Total	761	20	781

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between July 1 and September 30, 2024. The recreation and conservation grants team closed fifty-two projects. Select the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, photos, maps, reports, etc.

Grant Services Section

Advisory Committees

Applicant and advisory committee surveys for the spring and summer grant programs have been sent. The surveys were updated to include specific questions related to evaluation criteria and policy updates for many of the recreation grant programs. Survey summaries and analysis will be presented to the board in the summer of 2025.

With spring and summer grant program evaluations now complete, staff are focused on preparing for the next batch of grant program evaluations that will begin in February 2025. This includes filling vacancies on the following advisory committees (follow links for current committee rosters):

- [Boating Programs](#);
- [Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities](#);
- [Recreational Trails Program](#);
- [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation](#);
- [No Child Left Inside](#);
- [Outdoor Learning Grants](#).

Compliance

For the second year in a row, RCO was awarded a National Park Service administrative grant for the agency's work on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The grant will provide matching salary support for the agency's LWCF Compliance and Stewardship Grant Manager, continued development and enhancements of the PRISM Compliance Workbench, and funding for agency staff to participate in national LWCF trainings throughout the year.

Compliance staff are also finalizing the development of a new PRISM feature

that will automate elements of the sponsor notification process for long-term obligations. These notifications will provide specific project lists for organizations of their grant awards and include any documented compliance issues.

Cultural Resources

Agency archaeologists conducted early reviews of grant applications submitted during the spring and summer grant programs. This technical assistance to applicants included providing review comments on the risks to cultural resources associated with the project location and scope, as well as guidance on developing an appropriate cultural resources budget for site assessments, surveys, monitoring, or mitigation.

The RCO Cultural Resources team co-hosted the [Cultural Resource Protection Satellite Summit](#) on October 9, 2024. This convening promotes collaborative learning and was attended by tribal historic preservation officers, tribal cultural resource professionals, state and federal agency archaeologists, tribal liaisons and private consultants. The summit facilitates open discussions about the intersection between cultural resources and land use. This year's satellite summit theme was "Agencies in Action" and included

cultural resources management updates from six state agencies. RCO is proud to be the first state agency to host this event.

Youth Outdoor Programs

Staff will present updates on the current [No Child Left Inside](#) application cycle and provide a general overview on the active youth outdoor education and recreation grant programs at the October board meeting.

Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025, actuals through August 31, 2024 (Fiscal Month 14). Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3 percent. The "Budget" column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Grant Program	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	Includes Re-appropriations 2023-2025	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Grant Programs							
ALEA	\$18,419,570	\$15,762,883	86%	\$2,656,687	14%	\$3,496,313	22%
BFP	\$38,408,800	\$36,341,813	94%	\$2,066,987	5%	\$6,364,713	18%
BIG	\$7,368,760	\$7,368,760	100%	\$0	0%	\$882,359	12%
FARR	\$1,188,923	\$1,188,923	100%	\$0	0%	\$448,435	38%
LWCF	\$41,238,500	\$41,238,500	100%	\$0	0%	\$5,978,961	14%
NOVA	\$23,161,190	\$20,721,833	89%	\$2,439,357	11%	\$4,249,543	21%
RTP	\$10,692,100	\$8,340,320	78%	\$2,351,780	22%	\$1,702,704	20%
WWRP	\$251,290,070	\$238,246,866	95%	\$13,043,204	5%	\$31,515,140	13%
RRG	\$5,514,230	\$5,216,184	95%	\$298,046	5%	\$1,216,002	23%
YAF	\$35,630,470	\$30,689,095	86%	\$4,941,375	14%	\$5,345,966	17%
Subtotal	\$432,912,613	\$405,115,177	94%	\$27,797,436	6%	\$61,200,136	15%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	\$13,053,797	\$13,053,797	100%	\$0	0%	\$6,601,972	51%
Grand Total	\$445,966,410	\$418,168,974	94%	\$27,797,436	6%	\$67,802,108	16%
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, 2023-June 30, 2025, actuals through July 31, 2024 (Fiscal Month 13).
 Percentage of biennium reported: 54.2 percent

Program	Biennial Forecast		Collections
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$18,661,000	\$9,892,499	53.0%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$13,569,181	\$7,568,327	55.8%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$649,939	\$341,744	52.6%
Total	\$32,880,120	\$17,802,570	54.1%

Revenue Notes:

- BFP revenue is from the un-refunded marine gasoline taxes.
- NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads, and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits.
- FARR revenue is from \$2.16 of each concealed pistol license fee.
- These figures reflect the most recent revenue forecast in June 2024. The next forecast will be in September 2024.

WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	\$388,731,942	\$337,216,500	87%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$248,700,947	\$219,952,330	88%
Department of Natural Resources	\$219,336,807	\$168,284,661	77%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$185,745,417	\$157,820,653	85%
Nonprofits	\$69,633,990	\$50,644,431	73%
Conservation Commission	\$14,839,070	\$4,208,162	28%
Tribes	\$2,307,431	\$1,834,606	80%
Other			

Special Projects	\$735,011	\$735,011	100%
Total	\$1,130,030,615	\$940,696,354	83%

Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2024

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Data current as of June 18, 2024.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding	90%	72%	●	194 of 269 agreements have been mailed on time this fiscal year.
Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding	95%	79%	●	220 of 277 projects were under agreement within 180 days.
Progress reports responded to within 15 days	90%	92%	●	Board staff received 766 progress reports and responded to them in an average of 5 days.
Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date	85%	65%	●	118 of 182 projects have closed on time.
Projects in Backlog	5	41	●	There are 41 board projects in the backlog needing to be closed out.

Attachments

Attachment A: Table of Closed Projects from July 1 to September 30, 2024

Projects Completed and Closed from July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
20-1463	Restoration	Bellingham	2020 Little Squalicum Estuary Restoration	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	8/16/2024
18-2424	Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Glen Williams Access Redevelopment	Boating Facilities Program: State	8/9/2024
16-2494	Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Stanwood Hamilton Landing Access Development	Boating Facilities Program: State	9/18/2024
14-1588	Planning	Port of Port Townsend	Point Hudson Jetty Replacement	Boating Infrastructure Grant: Tier 2	7/3/2024
23-1634	Maintenance	Aberdeen	Aberdeen Parks Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/30/2024
23-1597	Maintenance	Anderson Island Park District	Andy's Park and Tennis Court Repair and Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/19/2024
23-1627	Maintenance	Burien	Picnic Shelter Reroof and Tennis Court Resurface	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/13/2024
24-2188	Maintenance	Burien	Tennis Court Resurfacing	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/11/2024
23-1760	Maintenance	Clallam County	Trail Equipment and Salt Creek Restroom Repair	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/16/2024
23-1730	Maintenance	Columbia County	Equipment Purchase, Tree Trimming, Metal Roof	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/14/2024
23-1602	Maintenance	Elma	Gladys Smith Lloyd Murray Park Deferred Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/18/2024
23-1679	Maintenance	Ephrata	Ephrata Parks and Recreation Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/16/2024
23-1707	Maintenance	Forks	Tillicum Park Ballfields Restroom Building Repair	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/16/2024
23-1534	Maintenance	Hoquiam	Hoquiam Parks Deferred Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/2/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
23-1551	Maintenance	Jefferson County	ADA Camp Tables, Clean Five Roofs	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/17/2024
23-1750	Maintenance	Klickitat County	Trout Lake Park Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/28/2024
23-1569	Maintenance	Makah Tribe	Neah Bay Parks	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/24/2024
23-1770	Maintenance	Mattawa	Hund Memorial Park Maintenance Equipment	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/16/2024
23-1671	Maintenance	Morton	Backstrom Park Maintenance and Repairs	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/6/2024
23-1642	Maintenance	Moses Lake	Surf 'n Slide Deferred Maintenance Items	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/16/2024
23-1563	Maintenance	Mount Vernon	Mount Vernon Deferred Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/1/2024
23-1628	Maintenance	Mountlake Terrace	Sonics Basketball Court Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/19/2024
23-1674	Maintenance	Pacific	Pacific Playground, Bench, and Table Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	7/24/2024
23-1695	Maintenance	Pasco	Pasco Parks Basketball Court Resurfacing	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	8/28/2024
23-1610	Maintenance	Port of Mattawa	Port of Mattawa Maintenance Vehicle Replacement	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	9/17/2024
23-1622	Maintenance	Republic	Republic City Parks Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 1 Multiple-Sites	7/29/2024
23-1633	Maintenance	Benton City	Tennis Courts Maintenance	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 2 Single-Site	9/16/2024
23-1591	Maintenance	Centralia	Borst Park Uplift	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 2 Single-Site	8/26/2024
23-1651	Maintenance	Chewelah	Restore Entrance Surface and Fall Protection	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 2 Single-Site	8/28/2024
23-1712	Maintenance	Prescott Park and Recreation District	Resurface Prescott Pool	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 2 Single-Site	9/17/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
23-1565	Maintenance	Tukwila	Crystal Springs Park Lighting Replacement	Local Parks Maintenance: Tier 2 Single-Site	8/8/2024
22-2235	Education	Kiwanis Camp Wa-Ri-Ki	Counselor-in-Training Program, Washougal Washington	No Child Left Inside Tier 1	8/19/2024
22-2268	Education	Sahale Outdoors	Belong Outside	No Child Left Inside: Tier 2	9/3/2024
20-1966	Education	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Central Zone Backcountry Education and Enforcement 2022-23	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Education and Enforcement	9/9/2024
20-2229	Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest	Colville National Forest Facility M&O	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Nonhighway Road	9/19/2024
16-2793	Development	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Greenwater Lakes Trail Bridge Replacement	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Nonmotorized	9/19/2024
16-2834	Development	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Greenwater Lakes Trail Bridge Replacement Phase 2	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Nonmotorized	9/30/2024
20-2134	Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Methow Valley Ranger District Trail Maintenance 2022-2023	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Nonmotorized	9/25/2024
20-2082	Maintenance	Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance	Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance 2-Track Heavy Maintenance Crew-Department of Natural Resources	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities: Off-Road Vehicle	9/5/2024
22-2457	Planning	Burien	Hilltop Park Schematic Design	Planning for Recreation Access	9/18/2024
22-2523	Planning	Chelan	Chelan Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan	Planning for Recreation Access	9/13/2024

Project Number	Project Type	Sponsor	Project Name	Program	Closed On
20-2135	Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Methow Valley Ranger District Mixed Use Deferred Trail Maintenance	Recreational Trails Program: General	9/25/2024
16-1333	Acquisition	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Mid Columbia Grand Coulee 2016	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Critical Habitat	7/26/2024
22-1496	Acquisition	Vancouver	Fenton Community Park	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Local Parks	9/19/2024
18-1446	Development	Department of Natural Resources	Raging River State Forest Phase 3 Trail System Expansion	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Development	9/13/2024
18-1457	Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Nisqually River Water Access Redevelopment	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Development	9/18/2024
18-1951	Development	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Ebey Island Recreation Access Development	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Development	8/27/2024
20-1521	Restoration	Department of Natural Resources	South Sound Prairie, Bald, and Oak Restoration	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Lands Restoration	9/4/2024
20-1223	Acquisition	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Deception Pass Hoehn Road LLC Property	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: State Parks	8/7/2024
22-1266	Acquisition	Lynnwood	Sprague's Pond Park Addition	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Water Access	9/23/2024
22-1302	Development	Harmony Sports Association	Harmony Sports Complex Turf Field	Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants	9/30/2024

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Road Usage Charge

Prepared By: Adam Cole, Policy Specialist

Summary

This is an overview of the state's effort to implement a Road Usage Charge in Washington and potential impacts to Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and agency programs currently funded by the gas tax.

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 2012, the Legislature directed the [Washington State Transportation Commission](#) (Commission) to form a [multi-stakeholder steering committee](#) to conduct an assessment of Road Usage Charging and determine its feasibility in Washington state. Through publications for and briefings to the legislature, it appears a [road usage charge \(RUC\)](#) is feasible and will out-produce the gas tax in terms of revenue given the increasing fuel efficiency of cars and the introduction of electric vehicles.

A RUC is a per mile charge drivers would pay for the use of the roads, as opposed to paying by the gallon of gas. If enacted, a RUC would be collected on a small portion of the fleet on a voluntary basis – likely starting with cars currently paying little to no gas tax. A decade-long transition would take place and during this time, the gas tax will be kept in place to ensure current programs and funding are not disrupted. Drivers would pay either a RUC or gas tax, but not both. Those on the RUC program who drive gas-powered cars will see the gas taxes paid applied as a credit towards their RUC charges to ensure they are not “double taxed”. Ultimately, the gas tax would likely be phased out. This system exists in a few other states and is being explored in several others.

Because the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities](#) and [Boating Facilities Program](#) are funded by a small

percentage of the state's gas tax revenues, these programs may be affected by a change from a gas tax to a RUC depending on whether revenue distributions change or stay the same under a RUC program. Additionally, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission directly receive gas tax revenues to support their backcountry recreation programs and investments. These natural resource agencies with representatives on the board are referred to as Board Agencies in this memo.

Although the Commission has not proposed agency legislation, over the last few biennia legislators have submitted bills for consideration that begin phasing in a RUC, although none have been adopted into law.¹ Similar bills are expected to be introduced in the 2025 regular session. While a RUC is being explored, the gas tax continues to be the primary means of funding the state's highway system.

Further, by 2035, Washington state will require that all new vehicles must be plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) or zero emission vehicles (ZEV). At that time, the state is anticipated to see a potential 45 percent reduction in revenue currently funded by the gas tax.²

WSTC and RCO Efforts to Date

The Commission and its Steering Committee have spent the last twelve years evaluating key policy issues about whether there is a business case to be made for a RUC as opposed to the gas tax, identifying implementation issues and risks.³ The Commission and the Steering Committee have also done an equity assessment, developed privacy policy proposals, and performed technology and payment simulations.

For the latest complete suite of RUC recommendations made to the legislature, see the [WA RUC Pilot Project: Final Report, Recommendations 2020](#). As part of that report, the following recommendations (15 and 16) provide support for maintaining gas tax "refund" programs during a RUC phase-in period:

¹ [The Future Takes Transportation: Why an Equitable Road Usage Charge is Key to Our Transportation Future](#), Transportation Choices, Mar 21, 2024

² [Washington State Road Usage Charge \(WA-RUC\) | Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) \(waroadusagecharge.org\)](#), see "Why is a RUC Needed"

³ [Washington State Road Usage Charge Assessment, Washington Transportation Commission, 2012-2013 Materials, January 23, 2013](#)

R15 Expenditures of RUC revenue should be made subject to Amendment 18 (restricted to highway purposes).⁴

R16 Current programs that receive gas tax refunds attributable to non-highway activities should continue receiving their same share of funding during the transitional period to RUC, since the state gas tax will remain in place during this transition. (expected to be at least 10 to 25).⁵

Over the last four years, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff have attended Committee meetings to hear RUC agenda items, submitted agency comments on Steering Committee reports, and informed legislative members about the connection between gas tax revenues and outdoor recreation. RCO staff meet with Board Agency staff to coordinate these educational efforts.

RUC – Board Nexus

A road usage charge, as currently scoped, is a per-mile charge drivers would pay based on how much they use Washington’s public road system or “highways.” The state’s “highway” road system consists of state and county highways, and streets that provide public transportation in counties, cities and towns. Nonhighway roads, by contrast, are those owned by a public agency but do not benefit from the state’s gas tax. Examples of nonhighway roads in Washington are access roads on state and federal recreation lands, and park roadways owned by local governments. These nonhighway roads may be paved, gravel, or dirt roads. The board’s NOVA program and the direct allocation of gas tax revenues to Board Agencies, which are a statutory fuel tax “refund” to nonhighway road drivers, fund recreation sites accessed by these nonhighway roads.⁶

The following is a breakdown of statutorily prescribed board programs funded by the gas tax and direct allocations to Board Agencies (see Attachment A. for applicable RCW’s). The Board’s

[Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Grant Program \(NOVA\)](#) Advisory Committee and the board’s NOVA Plan inform NOVA grant making as well as the spending of gas tax revenues allocated to the Board Agencies.⁷

1. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Programs

⁴ The constitutional definition of “Highway Purposes” includes statutory refund programs like NOVA, BFP, State Parks Winter Recreation, and direct allocations to Board Agencies.

⁵ [WA RUC Pilot Project: Final Report, Recommendations 2020](#), Appendix-24, December 17, 2019

⁶ [RCW 46.09.310](#) Definitions, and [State Constitution Amendment 18](#)

⁷ Except for State Parks’ Winter Recreation Sports Program.

- a. [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Grant Program \(NOVA\) \(RCW 46.09.520 \(2.d\)\)](#). This is a competitive grant program administered by the board to invest in backcountry recreation sites accessed by nonhighway roads. The program funds [maintenance and operations activities, development of new and renovation of existing infrastructure, acquisition of recreation lands, education, and law enforcement activities](#). User groups that benefit from these investments include hikers, mountain bikers, ORV riders, equestrian recreationists, campers, rock climbers, and those who picnic, and sightsee. The program receives about \$10 million dollars each biennium, which is roughly 0.6 percent of total gas tax revenues over that period. The Board approves around 70 NOVA projects per biennium
 - b. [Boating Facilities Program \(BFP\) \(RCW 79A.25\)](#). BFP is a competitive grant program administered by the board. BFP grants make investments on marine land and waters in the form of motorized recreational boating infrastructure. BFP funds are equally split between state and local agency applicants. BFP receives about 1 percent of gas tax revenues, totaling around \$14 million per biennium and the board approves between ten to twenty projects per biennium.
2. Board Agencies' Direct Allocation ([RCW 46.09.520 \(2a-c\)](#))
 - a. WDFW, DNR and State Parks receive a direct allocation of the gas tax, about 0.4 percent in total, of all gas tax revenues. These funds support recreation areas accessed by a non-highway road and nonhighway road maintenance.⁸
3. State Parks and Recreation Commission's Winter Recreation Program ([RCW 46.10.510-530](#))
 - a. The [Winter Sports Program](#) provides grants for services at Washington State Sno-Parks. Funds can be used for the acquisition, development, operation, and planning and maintenance of Sno-Park facilities including snowmobile trail grooming. The program is funded through gas tax revenues equal to one hundred thirty-five gallons of fuel per registered snowmobile. The amount of gas tax revenue dedicated to this effort is just over \$1 million per biennium on average.

⁸ Although the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission may not use its allocation for road maintenance.

Next Steps

At its October 29 meeting, staff will provide the board with more details on how gas tax is allocated to board and Board Agency recreation programs and how a RUC may impact these efforts. Staff will give an overview on how we may interact with legislators and stakeholders on this issue during the 2025 legislative session and ask for the board's direction on assessing and informing efforts to establish a RUC in the state.

Attachment

- A. Statutes for board and Board Agency Gas Tax Revenue Programs

Statutes for Board and Board Agency Gas Tax Revenue Programs

RCW [46.09.340](#)

Nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee.

(1) The board shall establish the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee to provide advice regarding the administration of this chapter. The committee consists of governmental representatives, land managers, and a proportional representation of persons with recreational experience in areas identified in the most recent fuel use study, including but not limited to people with off-road vehicle, hiking, equestrian, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing experience.

(2) 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](#).

(3) At least once a year, the board, the department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife, and the state parks and recreation commission shall report to the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities advisory committee on the expenditures of funds received under RCW [46.68.045](#) and [46.09.520](#) and must proactively seek the advisory committee's advice regarding proposed expenditures.

(4) The advisory committee shall advise these agencies regarding the allocation of funds received under RCW [46.09.520](#) to ensure that overall expenditures reflect consideration of the results of the most recent fuel use study.

RCW [46.09.370](#)

Statewide plan.

The board shall maintain a statewide plan which shall be updated at least once every third biennium and shall be used by all participating agencies to guide distribution and expenditure of funds under this chapter.

RCW [46.09.520](#)

Refunds from motor vehicle fund—Distribution—Use.

(1) From time to time, but at least once each year, the state treasurer must refund from the motor vehicle fund one percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax revenues collected under chapter [82.38](#) RCW, based on: (a) A tax rate of: (i) Nineteen cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005; (ii) twenty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; (iii) twenty-one cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009; (iv) twenty-two cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011; (v) twenty-three cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2011, through July 31, 2015; (vi) thirty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from August 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016; and (vii) thirty-four and nine-tenths cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2031; and (b) beginning July 1, 2031, and thereafter, the state's motor vehicle fuel tax rate in existence at the time of the fuel purchase, less proper deductions for refunds and costs of collection as provided in RCW [46.68.090](#).

(2) The treasurer must place these funds in the general fund as follows:

(a) Thirty-six percent must be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the department of natural resources solely for acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities, and information programs and maintenance of nonhighway roads;

(b) Three and one-half percent must be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the department of fish and wildlife solely for the acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities and the maintenance of nonhighway roads;

(c) Two percent must be credited to the ORV and nonhighway vehicle account and administered by the parks and recreation commission solely for the acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities; and

(d) Fifty-eight and one-half percent must be credited to the nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities program account to be administered by the board for planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities and for education, information, and law enforcement programs. The funds under this subsection must be expended in accordance with the following limitations:

(i) Not more than thirty percent may be expended for education, information, and law enforcement programs under this chapter;

(ii) Not less than seventy percent may be expended for ORV, nonmotorized, and nonhighway road recreation facilities. Except as provided in (d)(iii) of this subsection, of this amount:

(A) Not less than thirty percent, together with the funds the board receives under RCW [46.68.045](#), may be expended for ORV recreation facilities;

(B) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonmotorized recreation facilities. Funds expended under this subsection (2)(d)(ii)(B) are known as Ira Spring outdoor recreation facilities funds; and

(C) Not less than thirty percent may be expended for nonhighway road recreation facilities;

(iii) The board may waive the minimum percentage cited in (d)(ii) of this subsection due to insufficient requests for funds or projects that score low in the board's project evaluation. Funds remaining after such a waiver must be allocated in accordance with board policy.

(3) On a yearly basis an agency may not, except as provided in RCW [46.68.045](#), expend more than ten percent of the funds it receives under this chapter for general administration expenses incurred in carrying out this chapter.

(4) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the NOVA account to the department of natural resources to install consistent off-road vehicle signage at department-managed recreation sites, and to implement the recreation opportunities on department-managed lands in the Reiter block and Ahtanum state forest, and to the state parks and recreation commission. The legislature finds that the appropriation of funds from the NOVA account during the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium for maintenance and operation of state parks or to improve accessibility for boaters and off-road vehicle users at state parks will benefit boaters and off-road vehicle users and others who use nonhighway and nonmotorized recreational facilities. The appropriations under this subsection are not required to follow the specific distribution specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys from the NOVA account to the department of natural resources to support programs that benefit ORV, nonhighway road[,], and nonmotorized recreational facilities.

RCW [46.10.510](#)

Refund of snowmobile fuel tax to snowmobile account.

From time to time, but at least once each biennium, the director shall request the state treasurer to refund from the motor vehicle fund amounts which have been determined to be a tax on snowmobile fuel, and the treasurer shall refund such amounts determined under RCW [46.10.530](#), and place them in the snowmobile account in the general fund.

RCW [46.10.520](#)

Snowmobile fuel excise tax nonrefundable.

Motor vehicle fuel used and purchased for providing the motive power for snowmobiles shall be considered a nonhighway use of fuel, but persons so purchasing and using motor vehicle fuel shall not be entitled to a refund of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax paid in accordance with the provisions of *RCW [82.36.280](#) as it now exists or is hereafter amended.

RCW [46.10.530](#)

Amount of snowmobile fuel tax paid as motor vehicle fuel tax.

From time to time, but at least once each four years, the department shall determine the amount of moneys paid to it as motor vehicle fuel tax that is tax on snowmobile fuel. Such determination shall use one hundred thirty-five gallons as the average yearly fuel usage per snowmobile, the number of registered snowmobiles during the calendar year under determination, and: (1) A fuel tax rate of: (a) Nineteen cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005; (b) twenty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; (c) twenty-one cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009; (d) twenty-two cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011; (e) twenty-three cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2011, through July 31, 2015; (f) thirty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from August 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016; and (g) thirty-four and nine-tenths cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2031; and (2) beginning July 1, 2031, and thereafter, the state's motor vehicle fuel tax rate in existence at the time of the fuel purchase.

RCW [79A.25.080](#) (Boating Facilities Program)

Recreation resource account—Distribution of moneys transferred.

(1) Moneys transferred to the recreation resource account from the marine fuel tax refund account may be used when appropriated by the legislature, as well as any federal or other funds now or hereafter available, to pay the office and necessary administrative and coordinative costs of the recreation and conservation funding board established by RCW [79A.25.110](#). All moneys so transferred, except those appropriated as

aforesaid, shall be divided into two equal shares and shall be used to benefit watercraft recreation in this state as follows:

(a) One share as grants to state agencies for (i) acquisition of title to, or any interests or rights in, marine recreation land, (ii) capital improvement and renovation of marine recreation land, including periodic dredging in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, if needed, to maintain or make the facility more useful, or (iii) matching funds in any case where federal or other funds are made available on a matching basis for purposes described in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection;

(b) One share as grants to public bodies to help finance (i) acquisition of title to, or any interests or rights in, marine recreation land, or (ii) capital improvement and renovation of marine recreation land, including periodic dredging in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, if needed, to maintain or make the facility more useful. A public body is authorized to use a grant, together with its own contribution, as matching funds in any case where federal or other funds are made available for purposes described in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection. The board may prescribe further terms and conditions for the making of grants in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) For the purposes of this section "periodic dredging" is limited to dredging of materials that have been deposited in a channel due to unforeseen events. This dredging should extend the expected usefulness of the facility for at least five years.

(3) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the recreation resource account to the state parks and recreation commission for maintenance and operation of parks and to improve accessibility for boaters and off-road vehicle users. This appropriation is not required to follow the specific distribution specified in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Request to Waive Aquatic Lands Enhancement Eligibility Requirement for Replacement Property: City of Issaquah, Sammamish Cove, 93-9817

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Unit Manager

Summary

The City of Issaquah is requesting a waiver of the location requirement for replacement property for a partial conversion at an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) funded project.

One replacement property requirement is that the replacement property is eligible in the original grant program. Replacement property for conversion of an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) project must be located on a navigable waterbody.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution 2024-12

Purpose of Resolution: Approve waiving the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account project location requirement for replacement property.

Summary

The City of Issaquah (City) approved construction of an underground stormwater pipeline at Sammamish Cove Park, RCO #93-9817A, to serve areas outside of the park. Impacts from the pipeline construction will create a partial conversion of approximately 0.88-acres of the 19-acre property, requiring replacement land.

Replacement must meet eligibility requirements for the grant program that funded the original project. Projects eligible in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)

grant program must be located on navigable waters of the state¹. The location criterion states "All marine waters are, by definition, navigable, as are portions of rivers influenced by tides. Navigable rivers and lakes are those determined by the judiciary, those bounded by meander lines, or those that could have been used for commerce at the time of statehood."²

Replacement property criteria are described in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 286-13-160. The board has the authority under 286-13-160 (3) (c) (iv)³ to waive the original grant program eligibility criterion for replacement property. (Attachment A)

The City is requesting the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approves waiving the requirement that replacement property is located on a navigable waterbody for the conversion at Sammamish Cove Park.

Background and Considerations

Sammamish Cove Park is located north of I-90 and adjacent to Lake Sammamish State Park (Attachment B). King County was awarded a Wetlands Stewardship/Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant in 1993 to acquire the 19-acre property. The property consists of wetlands, a portion of Tibbets Creek, and Lake Sammamish shoreline. The purpose of the grant was to protect wetlands and provide access to Lake Sammamish. The county transferred the property to the city in 2007. The property is managed as open space and has a natural-surface trail.

Lake Sammamish is the only navigable waterbody within the city's jurisdiction⁴ (Attachment B). The lake shoreline includes Sammamish Cove Park, Lake Sammamish State Park, and single-family residences.

Replacement Options

¹ Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account projects must be associated with navigable waters of the state as defined by Washington Administrative Code 332-30-106, Revised Code of Washington 79.105, and Article 17 of the State Constitution.

² Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Manual 21

³ Washington Administrative Code 286-13-160 (3)(c)(iv) Be eligible in the same grant program account or category from which funds were originally allocated, unless otherwise approved by the board.

⁴ The City consulted with Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Resources Manager and received a determination that the only navigable waterbody in the city's jurisdiction is Lake Sammamish.

The City explored options for replacement property located on Lake Sammamish. Those included:

- Privately-owned property within homeowner associations. Homeowner associations were contacted about willingness to sell. None were interested in allowing public use.
- Acquiring a single-family residence/lot. This option is economically unfeasible due to the average home price of \$1,515,000 along west Lake Sammamish.

The City has determined there are no reasonable options for acquiring replacement property adjacent to Lake Sammamish. The City began exploring options on non-navigable waterbodies as potential replacement.

Issaquah Creek and East Issaquah Creek are located within the city's jurisdiction. The city is identifying land adjacent to these creeks as potential replacement. These types of properties would protect wetland and riparian areas. Acquiring these lands is supported by the city's parks plan to expand open space along creeks.

Although the creeks are not navigable waterbodies, preserving riparian areas and providing new opportunities for public access to the water are consistent with the goals of the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA).

Next Steps

If the board approves the request, the City will seek replacement properties adjacent to a creek that could provide public access, viewpoints, and interpretive pathways. The City will proceed with meeting all other conversion and replacement requirements.

Resolution 2024-12 is provided for board consideration.

Attachments

Attachment A: Washington Administrative Code 286-13-160

Attachment B: City of Issaquah Aerial Location Map and City Boundary

Attachment C: Sammamish Cove Park Photo and Grant Boundary

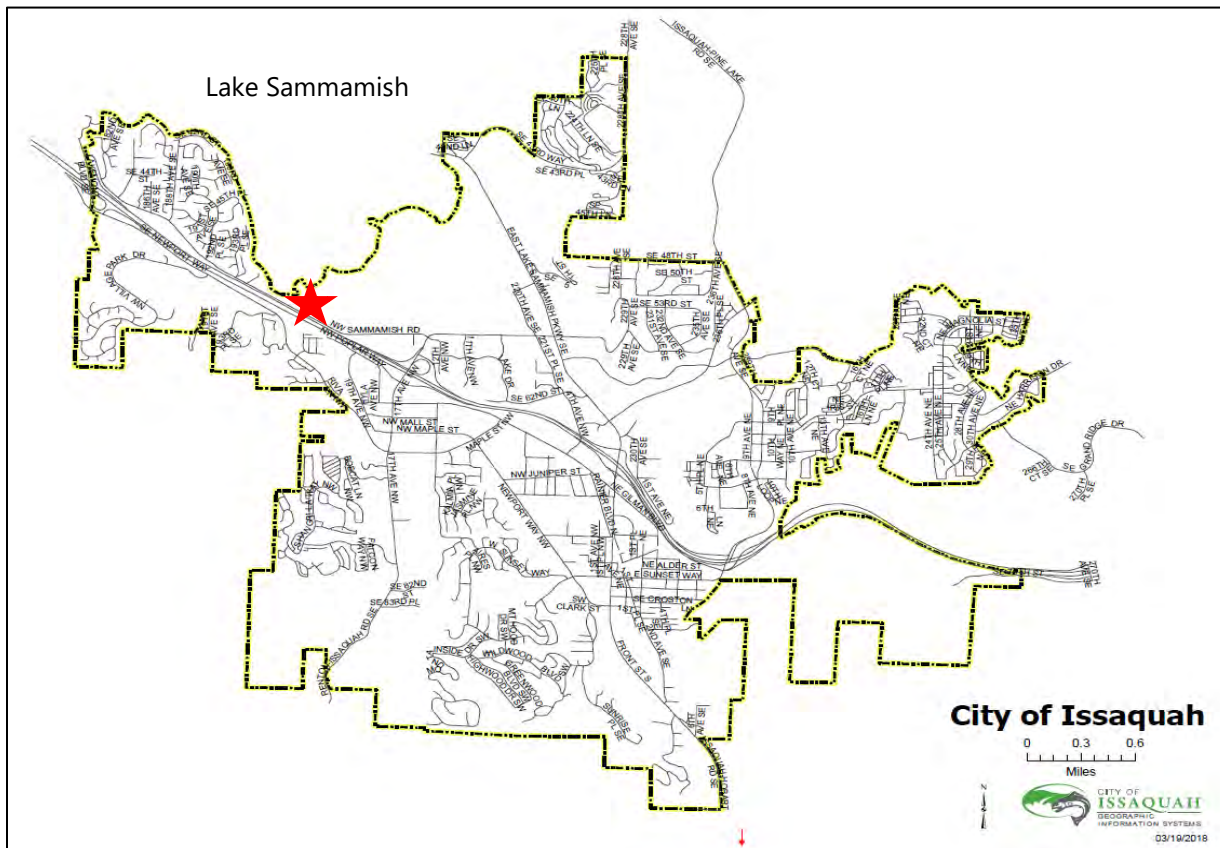
Attachment D: Resolution 2024-12

Washington Administrative Code 286-13-160

Long-term obligations for acquisition projects.

- (1) The project area may not, without prior approval of the board or director, be converted to a use other than that for which funds were originally approved.
- (2) Projects impacted by a reversion order by the Interstate Commerce Commission under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 United States Code 1247(d), are not considered a conversion by the board. Substitution or replacement with interest in real property, facilities or moneys which are of at least equal market value at the time of replacement may be required.
- (3) The board may only approve a conversion when the sponsor:
 - (a) Demonstrates the need to convert the project area including all efforts to consider practical alternatives, how they were evaluated, and the reasons they were not pursued;
 - (b) Provides 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
 - (c) Commits to provide another interest in real property to serve as a replacement. The replacement must:
 - (i) Be of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location;
 - (ii) Be administered by the same sponsor unless otherwise approved by the board;
 - (iii) Satisfy need(s) identified in the sponsor's current plan as described in WAC [286-13-035](#) or other relevant local or statewide plan;
 - (iv) Be eligible in the same grant program account or category from which funds were originally allocated, unless otherwise approved by the board;
 - (v) Be interest in real property of at least equal current market value to the converted property; and
 - (vi) Satisfies the conversion without grant assistance from the board.

Samamish Cove Park Location Map / City Boundary



Sammamish Cove Park Photo / Grant Boundary



**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-12
Approve Waiver of Replacement Property Location Requirement
City of Issaquah Sammamish Cove Park**

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 Washington Administrative Code 286-13-160 (3) (c) (iv) authorizes the board to approve waiving the grant program eligibility requirement for replacement property; and

WHEREAS eligible replacement property for a conversion of an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) must be located on navigable waterbodies; and

WHEREAS Lake Sammamish is the only navigable waterbody within the City of Issaquah; and

WHEREAS the City of Issaquah has determined replacement property on Lake Sammamish is not feasible; and

WHEREAS the City of Issaquah is asking the board to waive the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account project location requirement for replacement property; and

WHEREAS approval of this waiver request supports the board’s goal to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves waiving the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) location eligibility requirement for replacement property for the conversion of a portion of Sammamish Cove Park.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Request to Reduce the Non-state, Non-federal Match: Columbia Land Trust, Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement, 19-1539

Prepared By: Andrea Hood, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

The Columbia Land Trust seeks Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approval to waive a portion of the required 10 percent non-state, non-federal match for their Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement ([19-1539](#)) project, funded with a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category grant.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2024-13

Purpose of Resolution: Approve reducing the non-state, non-federal match for the Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 project.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) accepted Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Farmland Preservation Category applications in 2018. Because of the limited number of proposals, not all anticipated funding for the 2019-21 biennium was used. At its January 2019 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) agreed to conduct a supplemental grant cycle to solicit more project proposals.

During this supplemental cycle, Columbia Land Trust applied for funding to purchase four development rights via three agricultural conservation easements to permanently protect 101 acres of prime farmland in Klickitat County. The board approved the final ranked list and grant award for this project at its October 2019 meeting. The funding is from the WWRP Farm and Forest Account.

When preparing the Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 grant application, Columbia Land Trust based their conservation easement budget on 2018 comparable sales. The estimated cost for the easements was \$454,500. After adding in incidental and administrative costs, the original agreement amount was \$554,000, with \$277,500 (50 percent) in grant funds and \$277,500 (50 percent) in sponsor match, certified by Columbia Land Trust on September 4, 2019, as a landowner donation. This match amount and source of funds met the 10 percent non-state, non-federal requirement. Although Columbia Land Trust certified match from a landowner donation, they also applied for grant funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which they received in 2022. The three conservation easements were appraised in 2022, and their value came in \$862,500 higher than the original estimate.

In January 2023, Columbia Land Trust requested, and the board approved a \$862,500 cost increase for this project. Half of the funds for the increase (\$431,250) were from the WWRP Farm and Forest Account and the other half (\$431,250) from sponsor match. The request was one of three farmland cost increases approved via Resolution 2023-03.

Applicants are asked to provide (in advance of a grant award or cost increase) written assurances regarding the availability of their matching resources per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 286-13-040(3). With the cost increase in place, the current agreement amount is \$1,416,500, with \$708,250 in grant funds and \$708,250 in sponsor match. Columbia Land Trust submitted a match certification on December 1, 2022, and indicated the sources of funds as a federal grant and donated cash. The federal grant of \$658,500 is from the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. With the updated agreement total for this project, the 10 percent non-state, non-federal amount equals \$141,650; however, the December certification shows the federal funds and \$49,750 in donated cash.

On May 7, 2024, Columbia Land Trust submitted a bill requesting that RCO release grant funds into escrow to meet their May 16, 2024, closing date with the landowner. The request was for payment of most of the grant funds but did not account for meeting the required 10 percent non-state, non-federal match of \$141,650. When asked, Columbia Land Trust communicated that they forgot about this requirement. Although Columbia Land Trust acknowledged that this came with a risk that they might have to pay back funds to meet their non-state, non-federal match requirement, RCO released into escrow the grant amount needed to complete the transaction on the scheduled closing date.

Project Status

In May 2024, Columbia Land Trust completed its purchase of the agricultural conservation easements and submitted required acquisition documents to RCO. To date, Columbia Land Trust has contributed local match amounting to about 3.5 percent of the total project costs. To meet the full 10 percent non-state, non-federal match amount (\$141,650), Columbia Land Trust would need to provide another 6.5 percent.

Analysis

Ten Percent Non-State, Non-Federal Match Policy

The primary purpose of the WWRP Farmland Preservation Category is to acquire conservation easements on farmland in Washington to ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices. A secondary goal is to enhance or restore ecological functions on farmland.

The category receives 90 percent of the funds allocated to the WWRP Farm and Forest Account. The remaining 10 percent funds projects in the Forestland Preservation Category. By law, applicants must provide a one-to-one or 50 percent match. WAC 286-13-045(4) says, *"The board may require the applicant to provide a portion of its matching resources in local resources."* In support of this WAC, board policy for this program requires a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs in the form of a local contribution (non-state, non-federal). In addition, the board-adopted evaluation criteria rewards applicants that provide match above the minimum required.

At its [April 2022](#) meeting, the board eliminated the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement for Farm and Forest Account applications submitted in 2022 and 2024.¹ This change was considered a high priority by respondents to outreach efforts conducted by RCO in preparation for the 2022 grant cycle. This approval was designed to help eliminate barriers to applicants when considering unprecedented increases in land prices since the COVID-19 pandemic, which had made it increasingly difficult for applicants to secure match.

Since the Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 project was funded in 2019, the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement is in effect. Columbia Land Trust, however, requested a reduction of the required non-state, non-federal match in June 2024, because they received enough federal funds to cover the cost of purchasing the agricultural easements, therefore eliminating the need for additional local funds. Also,

¹ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2022-05

the board had approved eliminating the non-state, non-federal match policy for the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles.

Alternatives Considered

- Ask the landowner to donate the remaining funds needed to meet the ten percent non-state, non-federal match requirement.
- Work to secure other donations or private funds to satisfy the requirement.
- Request board approval of a waiver to reduce the percentage requirement from 10 percent to 3.5 percent.

After considering the alternatives, Columbia Land Trust decided to ask the board for a waiver.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request supports goals and objectives in the [board's strategic plan](#). Specifically, to "Provide partners with funding to protect and enhance working farm and forest lands." with a goal to "deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management."

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends board approval of this non-state, non-federal match reduction per Resolution 2024-13.

Next Steps

If the board approves this request, the non-state, non-federal match amount for this project will be reduced from 10 percent to 3.5 percent. Staff will proceed with documenting the approval and closing the project. If the board denies the request, staff will proceed with collecting the overpayment of grant funds before closing the project.

Attachment

- A. Resolution 2024-13, *Approve Reducing of the Non-state, Non-federal Match: Columbia Land Trust, Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement, 19-1539*
- B. Letter from Columbia Land Trust

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-13**

**Approve Reducing the Non-State, Non-Federal Match for Columbia Land Trust,
Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement, 19-1539**

WHEREAS the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) awarded a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Farmland Preservation Category grant to Columbia Land Trust for the protection of 101 acres of prime farmland in Klickitat County; and

WHEREAS cities, counties, and nonprofit nature conservancies that receive a WWRP grant must provide a minimum one-to-one match as specified in statute; and

WHEREAS board policy requires non-state applicants to provide a minimum of 10 percent of the total cost of the project in the form of a local contribution, meaning not from a state or federal source (non-state, non-federal match); and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture contributed a federal grant award for the acquisition of the Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 conservation easements; and

WHEREAS Columbia Land Trust certified match including a local contribution of 3.5 percent in non-state, non-federal match for the project; and

WHEREAS these funds combined with the United States Department of Agriculture contribution, covers the full 50 percent matching share for the project; and

WHEREAS the Columbia Land Trust is asking the board to reduce the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement and approve the use of 3.5 percent in local funds combined with the federal grant to meet the full matching share; and

WHEREAS consideration of this request supports the board’s strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance agricultural farmland opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the non-state, non-federal match reduction request for the project referenced above and delegates authority to RCO’s Director to continue the project close out process per the terms of the grant agreement.

<i>Resolution moved by:</i>	
<i>Resolution seconded by:</i>	

<i>Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)</i>	
<i>Date:</i>	

HEADQUARTERS
850 OFFICERS' ROW
VANCOUVER, WA 98661



CONTACT
TEL: 360.696.0131
FAX: 360.696.1847

September 27, 2024

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, Washington 98501

RCO Board:

This letter is to request a reduction of the 10% non-federal/non-state match requirement for the Trout Lake Valley - Phase 4 farmland preservation project completed on May 23, 2024.

Columbia Land trust is requesting the reduction for the following reasons:

1. **WWRP funding has been matched at 50%.** Columbia Land Trust and the farmer landowners on this project procured 50% match to WWRP funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at significant financial cost. The local match requirement does not further conservation by bringing additional funding to the project.
2. **There is no source of local match available in Klickitat County.** Because Klickitat County does not have a Conservation Futures program, there is no public source of local match for this project. And in 20+ years of implementing conservation easements in Klickitat County, Columbia Land Trust has not been able to procure a private foundation source of conservation easement funding. *As the result, the only way to meet this 10% match requirement is by asking farmers to relinquish a portion of the value of their easements.* These farmers already give generously through their time, willingness to sell easements, and willingness to reimburse a portion of Columbia Land Trust's transaction costs (NRCS does not pay for transaction costs).
3. **The 10% local match requirement has been waived in the Farmland Preservation category for the past 2 bienniums.** The local match requirement was well- intentioned as a tool to incentivize additional farmland preservation funding programs in the state, but it did not effectively serve this outcome. The requirement was removed in 2020 due to recognition of the extraordinary burden and cost to conservation that it created, especially in counties that do not have Conservation Futures or other county-level funding programs.
4. **Allowing the farmer/landowners to retain the 10% furthers farmland**

HEADQUARTERS

850 OFFICERS' ROW
VANCOUVER, WA 98661



Columbia Land Trust

CONSERVING THE NATURE YOU LOVE

CONTACT

TEL: 360.696.0131
FAX: 360.696.1847

conservation. The farmers have committed the 10% local match by accepting only 90% of their conservation easement value. This donation undermines their ability to conserve more farmland. The farmers are reinvesting the proceeds from the sale of the conservation easements into the purchase of additional farmland in Trout Lake where farmland is selling for \$20,000/acre; a price that is out of reach from farming revenue. Selling conservation easements is the only way they can afford to purchase farmland and prevent it from being developed. Making it harder for farmers to purchase additional farmland and keep farmland in production by paying a match requirement that has been waived for other projects is contradictory to the purposes of the Farmland Preservation category.

In summary, a reduction in the non-state/non-federal match requirement on this project is well-aligned with the purposes for removing the requirement for all projects in recent bienniums, and most importantly, directly advances the goals of the Farmland Preservation program.

Thank you for considering this local match requirement reduction request. Please let me know if you need more detail or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nate Ulrich
Conservation Lead

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024
Title: Grant Program Framework
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

At its October 2024 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will be asked to adopt the ranked lists of projects for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and Youth Athletic Facilities. The board must submit these lists to the Governor by November 1, 2024, for consideration in the biennial budget. In addition, the board will review the ranked list for the Community Forests Program and determine its readiness for submittal to the Governor and Legislature for further consideration. This memo summarizes the grant process and outlines the decisions that the board will be asked to make.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

Grants for the Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), Community Forest program (CFP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), and Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) programs are used to purchase, develop, renovate, or restore athletic fields, open spaces, parks, trails, water access sites, farms, forests, and habitat areas. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) accepted applications for these programs during the 2024 spring grants cycle. A summary of the cycle is shown in this graphic and details about the process are described in the following sections.

Even-numbered year:

- *Staff accepts applications
- *Advisory committees review, evaluate and rank projects
- *Board approves and submits lists to Governor and Legislature.

Odd-numbered year:

- *Legislature and federal gov't determines funding
- *Board awards grants
- *Staff issues agreements, announces next grant cycle, and seeks volunteers for the advisory committees.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Accounts

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

RCO staff will brief the board on the funding requests for each program or category during the program specific presentations.

Preparing for the 2024 Grant Cycle

Planning

Some of RCO's grant programs require that the applicant have a valid outdoor recreation or habitat conservation plan in place. In early 2023, staff sent notices to potential applicants with expired planning eligibility, reminding them to update their comprehensive plans if they wished to apply for grant funding during the 2024 LWCF and WWRP grant cycle.

RCO's Director approved Planning for Recreation Access (PRA) grants for fifty-three applicants in 2023. Three of those applicants completed and submitted comprehensive plans to establish eligibility for board programs, and also submitted applications this grants cycle. Six other PRA grant recipients submitted applications to develop park facilities after using their PRA grants to complete the designs needed for their project proposals.

Advisory Committee Recruitment

Advisory Committee recruitment began in early 2023 with emails, social media posts, press releases, phone calls, and information on RCO's Web site. Stakeholders and other interested organizations supported our efforts by including the notices in their communications. Staff recruited committee members to conduct project reviews and evaluations for this grant cycle.

Altogether, 137 committee members helped with the spring 2024 grant cycle. Committee members included federal, state, and local agency representatives, citizens, scientific experts, and representatives of organizations interested in parks, trails, farms, forests, and habitat conservation.

Our advisory committees provide an amazing service to the citizens of Washington State. The time (estimated at over two thousand hours) and expertise committed to reviewing and evaluating RCO grants helps ensure a fair, open process and excellent funded projects.

Announcement of 2024 Grant Cycle

In fall 2023, RCO staff began advertising the 2024 grant cycle. Staff issued press releases and posted notices on the agency website and various social media platforms. Additionally, the director and outdoor grants managers spoke to many interest groups and potential applicants were notified via email, newsletters, and personal contact.

Application and Evaluation Process

Application Webinars

On February 14, 2024, staff conducted four application webinars to introduce grant programs offered this spring. The webinars were designed for applicants interested in specific grant programs and categories. These included webinars for:

- Habitat Conservation: WWRP Habitat Conservation Account
- Parks: ALEA, WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account, YAF
- Federal Funded Programs: LWCF and LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership
- Working Lands: CFP and WWRP Farm and Forest Account

During the webinars, staff outlined the types of grants available, described the application, review, and evaluation processes, and answered questions. Over four hundred individuals attended the live virtual workshops. In addition, all four webinars were recorded and available on the agency's website for later viewing.

Hosting these webinars aligns with one specific equity goal:

“Conduct a series of webinars before the start of each granting cycle, with in-depth and practical content that addresses challenging aspects of project proposals (e.g., cost estimates, project design, environmental procedures, need assessment, presentations) and describes successful examples of past proposals from each grant program sub-account. A portion of the webinar should be devoted to Q and A and content should be shaped by applicant feedback from the previous cycle.”

Additional Outreach

RCO's policy and grants teams conducted additional outreach this year to help applicants learn more about new board adopted evaluation criteria intended to improve opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical access in communities that have less access to parks and open space. Policy Specialists Leah Dobey and Ben Donatelle conducted a *Criteria Changes* online webinar on April 24 and hosted an in-person *Updates to Key Evaluation Criteria* session on May 22 at the Washington Recreation and Park Association Conference in Vancouver.

These outreach efforts were specifically designed to help prepare for and participate in RCO’s competitive grant cycle.

Grants Manager Site Visits

Beginning in the summer of 2023 until the project review and evaluation meetings in August 2024, grants managers met with applicants on site and online to review their projects and discuss eligibility and grant program requirements. In some instances, staff has or will conduct formal pre-application inspections for LWCF projects.

Application Deadline

RCO received 310 grant applications requesting over \$308 million by the May 1 deadline. This represents a 17 percent increase in the number of grant applications received this year compared to two years ago. The funds requested increased by 43 percent.

Grant Program	Project Proposals	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Project Cost
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	15	\$7,195,708	\$32,152,163	\$39,347,871
Community Forests Program	15	\$37,037,459	\$31,300,665	\$68,338,124
Land and Water Conservation Fund	27	\$36,908,240	\$61,711,741	\$98,619,981
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	194	\$182,587,462	\$172,004,579	\$354,592,041
Youth Athletic Facilities	59	\$44,500,148	\$78,690,906	\$123,191,054
	310	\$308,229,017	\$375,860,054	\$684,089,071

Update for 2024

The key changes for this grant round were the use of new board adopted criteria for six grant program categories, increased grant limits for YAF projects, adoption of a cost increase policy for ALEA, and adoption of a policy to guide the use of unspent WWRP funds for cost increases during exceptional economic times. Staff will highlight other relevant changes during the presentation of the ranked lists at the October meeting.

Project Review Meetings

RCO staff and advisory committees held technical review meetings in May and June. These meetings gave applicants an opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback on the technical merits of the proposal and suggestions about ways to refine

the project scope, design, cost estimates, and presentation. The reviews were done via online meetings.

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

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

Project Evaluation Meetings

During the months of July, August, and September, advisory committee members evaluated 281 proposed projects. As the process moved forward, twenty-nine projects were withdrawn by applicants or disqualified by RCO staff because they were ineligible, missed established deadlines, or were not ready to proceed.

Evaluations in some programs or categories (CFP, WWRP Farmland Preservation, WWRP Forestland Preservation, WWRP Natural Areas, WWRP State Lands Development and Renovation, WWRP State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, and YAF) were conducted through a written process, while all others were online meetings. During the online evaluations, applicants had twenty to thirty minutes to present their project by responding to board-adopted evaluation criteria and answering advisory committee questions. Advisory committee members scored each criterion for each project.

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

Public Comments

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

Staff have provided links to each project proposal that allows the board to review public correspondence, received by RCO in advance of the October meeting, expressing support or concern for grant applications. While some of the public comments are for

WWRP grant applications, in many instances the same correspondence applies to matching grants submitted for the ALEA, LWCF, or the YAF grant programs.

Attachment B includes public correspondence that will be attached to the ranked lists sent to the Governor's Office. The first set of letters includes correspondence from county commissioners following conferral with WWRP applicants purchasing property within their jurisdiction. The second set of letters are from elected official supporting WWRP acquisitions. An additional opportunity for public comment will occur at the October board meeting.

Board Action Required in October 2024

In October, staff will ask the board to approve the ranked list for each program (a total of 281 projects).

By law, the board must approve ranked lists of WWRP projects for each of the funding categories and submit the lists to the Governor no later than November 1, 2024. The ALEA, CFP, and YAF lists are also submitted to the Governor for consideration. Staff also include the lists in the capital budget request that is submitted to the Office of Financial Management. Because there are federal funds available for the LWCF Program, staff will be asking the board to approve the ranked list and delegate authority to the director to award grants following National Park Service (NPS) approval of RCO's applications for federal funds for each project.

Ranked Lists and Alternates

Items seven to thirteen on the October agenda present preliminary ranked lists of projects for each grant program, information about the program and evaluation, and a summary of each proposal. The ranked lists include the project number, name, applicant, total score, grant request, match amount, and total amount.

Policy states that the board will submit alternate projects for each WWRP category. The alternates must total fifty percent of the dollar amount requested for each category, with no fewer than six alternates when possible. The amount of funding for the 2025-27 biennium is unknown, so projects are not marked as alternates on the preliminary ranked list.

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

Next Steps

WWRP Legislative Approval

The Governor submits the list of WWRP projects to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the list. The 2025 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation level and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the Governor but cannot add to or re-order the list.

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

Final Approval in 2025




Following adoption of the state capital budget next year, staff will ask the board to approve the final lists of projects and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Until the appropriation is known, it is difficult to predict which projects will receive funding. All parties are cautioned not to consider the lists approved by the board at the October 2024 meeting to be final.

Attachments

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

Allocation of Funds Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Allocation by Account and Category (Set by Statute 79A.15)¹

<p style="text-align: center;">45% Habitat Conservation Account</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">45% Outdoor Recreation Account</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">10% Farm and Forest Account</p> 
Categories		
<p>35% Critical Habitat</p> <p>25% Natural Areas</p> <p>15% Riparian Protection</p> <p>10%* State Lands Restoration and Enhancement</p> <p>15% Urban Wildlife Habitat</p> <p><i>*or \$3 million, whichever is less</i></p>	<p>30% Local Parks <i>40%-50% must be acquisition</i></p> <p>10%* State Lands Development and Renovation</p> <p>30% State Parks <i>40%-50% must be acquisition</i></p> <p>20% Trails</p> <p>10% Water Access <i>75% must be acquisition</i></p>	<p>90% Farmland Preservation Category</p> <p>10% Forestland Preservation Category</p>

¹ Chapter 79A.15 Revised Code of Washington was revised and adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 2016.

Letters Regarding Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Acquisition Project Proposals

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

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

Letters for Projects in Ranked Order by Category: County Commissioners

Critical Habitat Category

- 24-1336A Hoffstadt Hills 2024 Cowlitz County Rank 8

Farmland Preservation Category

- 24-1691A Heifer Farm Clallam County Rank 1
- 24-1694A Cameron Farm Estates Clallam County Rank 3
- 24-1931A Trout Lake Phase 5 Klickitat County Rank 6
- 24-1798A Luna Gulch Agricultural Easement Klickitat County Rank 10

Local Parks Category

- 24-1503A Mill Hill Acquisition Okanogan County Rank 24
- 24-1888C City Park Trail Phase 1 Thurston County Rank 35

Natural Areas Category

- 24-1461A Stavis Natural Area 2024 Kitsap County Rank 3
- 24-1548A Dabob Bay Natural Area Jefferson County Rank 4

Riparian Protection Category

- 24-1997A White Salmon River Conservation Lands Acquisition Klickitat and Skamania Counties Rank 2
- 24-1338A Canyon Creek Klickitat County Rank 6

State Parks Category

- 24-1763A Green River Gorge Icy Creek King County Rank 3
- 24-1823A Pearrygin Lake State Park Yockey Property Acquisition Okanogan County Rank 5

Water Access Category

- 24-1339A Yakima River Camp Access Kittitas County Rank 1

Letters in Ranked Order by Category from Tribal Chairs and Elected Officials

Farmland Preservation Category

- 24-1922A Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Rank 2
- 24-1867A Doubletree Farms: Thrasher-Soodak Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Rank 4
- 24-1908A Christianson Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Rank 5
- 24-1885A Foothills Farm Agricultural Easement State Representative Tom Dent Rank 8

Forestland Preservation Category

- 24-1886A Canyon Creek Forest Nooksack Indian Tribe Rank 1
- 24-1983A Maple Falls Forest Nooksack Indian Tribe Rank 2

Local Parks Category

- 24-1770A Illahee Preserve Watershed Park Phase 1 Port of Illahee Rank 64

Riparian Protection Category

- 24-1997A White Salmon River Conservation Lands Acquisition City of White Salmon Rank 2

State Parks Category

- 24-1417A Riverside State Park Glen Tana Acquisition Spokane Tribe of Indians Rank 1
- 24-1763A Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge Phase 3 King County Council Rank 3

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

- 24-1779A Riverside State Park
Glen Tana Acquisition
Spokane Tribe of Indians Rank 1
- 24-1909A PLU Prairie Protection Site
Congressman Derek Kilmer Rank 6
- 24-1777A Illahee Preserve Phase 3
Heart of the Park
Port of Illahee Rank 7



Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners

Critical Habitat RCO#24-1336 Rank 8

COMMISSIONERS
Arne Mortensen, District 1
Dennis P. Weber, District 2
Richard R. Dahl, District 3

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Kelly Dombrowsky

July 2, 2024

Daren Hauswald
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
5525 South 11th Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642

RE: Notice of Property Acquisition in Cowlitz County RCO Grant Application #24-1336A - Hoffstadt Hills

The Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners has reviewed WDFW's Hoffstadt Hills project and supports approval of their request.

This phased acquisition project is designed to protect and enhance the critical winter elk range, approximately 17 miles of stream and riparian habitat that encompasses ESA listed steelhead and coho spawning and rearing areas. The project also provides an important migratory corridor for elk between their winter and summer ranges.

This area is extremely popular for wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Public access will be a benefit of this project, as the wildlife area currently has limited public access.

Based on the parameters, goals, and expectation noted above, the Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners fully support WDFW's Hoffstadt Hills project.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Dahl, Chairman
Cowlitz County Board of Commissioners



MARK OZIAS, District 1
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
MIKE FRENCH, District 3, CHAIR

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2233 Fax: 360.417.2493
Email: commissioners@clallamcountywa.gov

Todd Mielke, County Administrator

April 30, 2024

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

RE: Grant Funding for RCO projects #24-1691 and 24-1694

Dear Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office:

The Board of Clallam County Commissioners wish to share our support of North Olympic Land Trust acquisitions 24-1691 and 24-1694 to acquire conservation easements on Heifer Farm and Cameron Farm Estates, WA, Clallam County.

Conserving the 133-acre Heifer Farm, currently under two separate ownerships, is integral to the operation of one of two remaining dairies in the area, Maple View Farm. Permanent preservation of this property will conserve an iconic and scenic working farm

Conservation of the 39-acre Cameron Estates will ensure its 100% prime farmland soil remains available for agriculture into the future. The property is the heart of a greater agricultural landscape and is adjacent to No Goat Farm, conserved with support of the Conservation Futures Program.

Thank you for considering the property acquisition grant.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten signature of Mark Ozias in blue ink.

Mark Ozias

Handwritten signature of Randy Johnson in blue ink.

Randy Johnson

Handwritten signature of Mike French in blue ink.

Mike French, Chair



KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, 115 WEST COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612

JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1
LORI ZOLLER, DISTRICT #2
DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3

July 16, 2024

State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
111 Washington Street, S.E.
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Re: Trout Lake Phase 5 Agricultural Easement – RCO Project #24-1931

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO):

The Klickitat County Board of Commissioners strongly supports funding for RCO project 24-1931 to purchase agricultural conservation easements on 256 acres of productive farmland in the Trout Lake Valley.

The Klickitat County Commissioners have consistently supported preservation of agricultural and forest lands through zoning, comprehensive planning, and through the use of agricultural and forest conservation easements. In Trout Lake, local farmers and Columbia Land Trust have worked together for over two decades to protect productive farmland of statewide importance that is managed as organic dairies. These dairies provide important economic opportunity, jobs, and dairy products to our region.

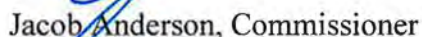
The addition of 256 acres under conservation easements is an important next step to ensuring the viability of agricultural production in the Trout Lake valley, thereby aiding in the preservation of farmland for future generations. We respectfully encourage consideration for Columbia Land Trust's grant application for the Trout Lake Phase 5 project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (509) 773-4612.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington


Lori Zoller, Chairman


Dan Christopher, Commissioner


Jacob Anderson, Commissioner

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2024

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Klickitat County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, 115 WEST COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612

JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1
LORI ZOLLER, DISTRICT #2
DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3



July 16, 2024

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The Klickitat County Commissioners are pleased to support the Washington State Conservation Commission and Central Klickitat Conservation District application of the Luna Gulch Conservation Easement for funding from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation (VWRP-FP) grant. If awarded, this grant will be used to purchase an easement on approximately 1,300 acres of property in the Central area of Klickitat County. We support the landowner's work with Central Klickitat Conservation District and the Washington State Conservation Commission to conserve farmland in a region that is currently seeing rapid population growth, subdivision of working lands and development in the form of residential housing and industrial solar energy projects. We commend the landowner for his willingness to step forward to preserve working lands that support the regional economy as well as the agricultural and ranching heritage of this community.

As County Commissioners and stewards of Natural Resources, we strongly support farmland conservation, especially those that protect working lands and foster continued production of food and fiber for our nation. We also support the conservation of natural resources that go hand in hand with the stewardship of working lands. This conservation easement not only protects agricultural property, but it also conserves over a mile of Luna Creek with ESA listed steelhead present. The proposed conservation easement is a significant milestone for not only agriculture but for the county and the state in protecting natural resources and food resources for our citizens.

We support RCO's VWRP funding this valuable conservation opportunity.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington


Lori Zoller, Chairman


Jacob Anderson, Commissioner

Dan Christopher, Commissioner



OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Chris Branch
Commissioner District 1
Andy Hover
Commissioner District 2
Jon Neal
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

April 30, 2024

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

RE: WWRP Property Acquisition Grant Application – Town of Twisp

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office,

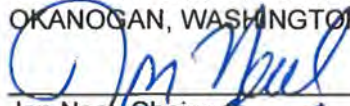
Okanogan County received notice that the Town of Twisp is seeking to apply for a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to acquire the popular "Mill Hill" property located immediately adjacent to Twisp's municipal jurisdiction, in Okanogan County. If awarded, the grant would allow the Town of Twisp to acquire the 144-acre non-forested Mill Hill property for the purposes of maintaining and enhancing non-motorized recreation opportunities for town and county residents, protecting Twisp's rural character viewshed, and conserving wildlife habitat.

This letter is to express Okanogan County's support of the project acquisition for the purposes laid out in the 2024 Addendum to Twisp Parks and Recreation Plan (2022). We feel the Mill Hill area has long been popular with walkers, joggers, and snowshoers. The potential opportunity for connectivity to, and careful development of, this area adjacent to the Town of Twisp would provide a geographical focal point in the Methow Valley. The Mill Hill purchase would make a network of trails and destinations on the east side of the river, connected to the main part of town and to new adjacent housing developments on the east side, a viable vision for the town.

We, the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners, thank you for considering a grant award for this project and we appreciate your ongoing dedication to serving the diverse needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON



Jon Neal, Chairman



Andy Hover, Vice Chairman

ABSENT

Chris Branch, Member



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carolina Mejia
District 1

Gary Edwards
District 2

Tye Menser
District 3

Wayne Fournier
District 4

Emily Clouse
District 5

Director Megan Duffy
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Director Duffy:

We are writing to share our strong support for the City of Tenino ("The City") in its pursuit of funding to enhance infrastructure and trails at the City of Tenino Park.

The critical need for enhanced infrastructure at the park is extensively increasing as the City anticipates adding over 60 acres of horse, biking, and hiking trails to their already large and well-used park. This need will continue to increase as the City's Quarry Pool re-opens this summer after significant recent investments into repairs and improvements. As the only recreation-oriented park in South Thurston County, it is crucial that the infrastructure meet the demands of the visitors and frequent users. This park serves a crucial function to promote healthy activity and lifestyles for the residents of Tenino and much of the surrounding area, with the next nearest park being 30 minutes away, and nearest summer pool option being closer to an hour away.

Tenino has seen increased use of all its parks the last few years, and the City has shown its commitment to the South Thurston County community with both financial and time allocations to the parks and recreational activities. The City's major investments include one-of-a-kind pump-tracks, 60 acres of new park space, and improvements to the historic quarry pool. The City is a strong partner to the County and will be able to continue its dedicated commitment to Thurston County residents with this grant funding.

The City's funding request will focus on making its park accessible year-round for all members of the community. The ultimate objective is to ensure that all citizens in Thurston County will be able to continue using this growing park and that the City will have the financial resources to meet operational needs. As County Commissioners, we are proud of the work that has been accomplished and are excited for the continued partnership between our city, county, and state partners.

We appreciate the opportunity to share my strong support of Tenino's grant request and look forward to the continued partnerships of parks in Thurston County.

Very truly yours,

Tye Menser
Chair

Wayne Fournier
Vice-chair

Carolina Mejia
Commissioner

Gary Edwards
Commissioner

Emily Clouse
Commissioner

Attest:
County Manager



KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Efficient, accessible and effective county services

April 22, 2024

Christine Rolfes
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido
DISTRICT 2

Katherine T. Walters
DISTRICT 3

Curt Pavola, Natural Areas Program Manager
Recreation and Conservation Division
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Olympia, WA

RE: NRCA – Riparian Protection Proposal – Stavis Bay

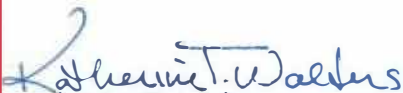
The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners is writing to strongly support the proposal for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to acquire land within the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA).

The DNR proposes to acquire approximately 169 acres of important riparian and nearshore habitat within the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The NRCA is located along Hood Canal near Seabeck in Kitsap County. The priority property is currently at risk of conversion in an urbanizing area and its addition to the NRCA will support wildlife and protect Puget Sound nearshore habitat, mature upland forest, and critical wetlands complexes.

The Stavis Natural Area, a combination of the NRCA and the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve (NAP), provides high quality and regionally diminishing wildlife habitat, making up a crucial part of a larger landscape of forest lands on the western Kitsap Peninsula. The project area provides biodiversity conservation in the Puget Trough, containing WDFW priority habitats that include freshwater wetlands, instream and riparian habitat, estuaries, and marine/estuarine shoreline, along with mature and old-growth forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you need additional information, please contact us at (360) 337-7080 or Eric Baker, Deputy County Administrator, at ebaker@kitsap.org.

Sincerely,

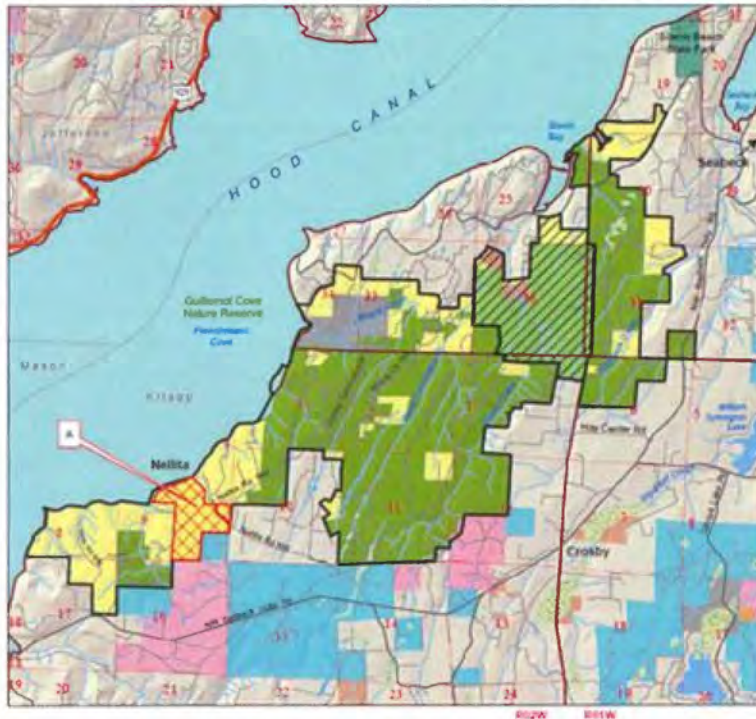

Katherine T. Walters


Charlotte Garrido


Christine Rolfes

Chair

**Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area
Stavis NRCA Riparian Protection 2024/24-1461**

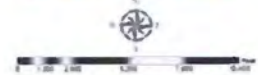


For Grant Presentation Purposes Only

Puget Trough Ecoregion

MAP LEGEND

- Priority Parcels for Acquisition
- Natural Area Preserve
- Natural Area Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve
- Natural Resource Conservation Area
- Lands Eligible for Inclusion
- Granted Trust Lands
- Forest Board Trust Lands
- Other DNR-Managed Lands
- WA State Parks
- WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- County, Municipal or Other Lands



Disclaimer: Efforts were made during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Conservation Lands - Melrose - April 2022



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES**
HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

RECEIVED Board of County Commissioners

1820 Jefferson Street

PO Box 1220

Port Townsend, WA 98368

APR 29 2024

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



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

April 22, 2024

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Recreation and Conservation colleagues,

We are writing in support of RCO Grant Application #24-1548A in which Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to acquire 19 acres of shoreline and mature upper forest property located within the Dabob Bay Natural Area.

The Dabob Bay Natural Area is located in Jefferson County, within the Hood Canal region of Puget Sound. This project adds 0.15 acres of riparian land, including 96 feet of shoreline, 2.55 acres of natural feeder bluff, including 792 feet of shoreline, and 16.25 acres of developable uplands to the Dabob Bay Natural Area. Two of the three priority properties are adjacent to existing DNR-owned parcels that are managed for conservation in perpetuity. The third priority property is adjacent to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's 150-acre North Olympic Wildlife Area-Tarboo Unit, which is also managed for conservation.

Hundreds of members of our community have been supportive of conservation in the Dabob Bay area for decades. By acquiring these priority properties, DNR will further strengthen the long-term protection of the Dabob Bay Natural Area, support future education and research opportunities, and provide potential opportunities for appropriate low-impact public use in Jefferson County.

We appreciate your work on these additions.

Sincerely,

Kate Dean, Chair, Dist. No. 1

Heidi Eisenhour, Dist. No. 2

Greg Brotherton, Dist. No. 3



KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, 115 WEST COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612

JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1

LORI ZOLLER, DISTRICT #2

DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3

July 2nd, 2024

WWRP - Riparian Protection Review Panel
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,

This letter is to express Klickitat County's support for the Yakama Nation's request through the WA Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Riparian Protection category to acquire 458 acres and 5.6 miles of shoreline of the Lower White Salmon River.

Riparian protection is intended to conserve "land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species." The Lower White Salmon River provides critical spawning and rearing habitat, and a migration corridor for salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act. The return of the acreage currently in private ownership by PacifiCorp to Yakama Nation will allow for stewardship of a river corridor recently restored through the removal of Condit Dam.

The Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources has a commendable track record of managing its forest and restoring lands to benefit fisheries, wildlife, and plants. We support Yakama Nation's acquisition of these lands within the White Salmon River basin, and specifically their application for funding through the Riparian Protection category of the WWRP.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington

Handwritten signature of Lori Zoller in blue ink.
Lori Zoller, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Jacob Anderson in blue ink.
Jacob Anderson, Commissioner

Dan Christopher, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Dan Christopher in blue ink.



**SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Skamania County Courthouse
240 NW Vancouver Ave | PO Box 790
Stevenson, WA 98648

(509)427-3700

Richard Mahar
District 1

Tom Lannen
District 2

Asa Leckie
District 3

WWRP – Riparian Protection Review Panel
RCO
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

This letter is to express Skamania County's support for the Yakama Nation's request through the WA Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Riparian Protection category to acquire 458 acres and 5.6 miles of shoreline of the lower White Salmon River.

Riparian protection is intended to conserve "land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species." The lower White Salmon River provides critical spawning, rearing habitat and a migration corridor for multiple salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The return of the acreage currently in private ownership by PacifiCorp to the Tribe will allow for stewardship of a river corridor recently restored through the removal of Condit Dam.

The Yakama people have a millennia-long connection to the White Salmon River and watershed, including places of prehistoric and current cultural importance such as salmon fisheries, hunting areas, root-digging grounds, spiritual sites and huckleberry fields. The Yakama people and related bands that used these basins for millennia actively managed the land for their survival, as part of their spiritual responsibility as stewards of the land and its resources, and to preserve these resources for many generations into the future. The Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources has an excellent track record of managing its forest and restoring lands to benefit fisheries, wildlife, and culturally significant plants.

We support the Tribe's acquisition of ecologically and culturally significant lands within the lower White Salmon River basin and specifically their application for funding through the Riparian Protection category of the WWRP, provided the 330 acres in Skamania be a fee simple purchase and thus these lands would remain taxable by the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. Leckie".

Asa Leckie
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Mahar".

Richard Mahar
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "T.W. Lannen".

T.W. Lannen
Commissioner





KLICKITAT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, 115 WEST COURT, ROOM 201, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • VOICE 509 773-4612
JACOB ANDERSON, DISTRICT #1
LORI ZOLLER, DISTRICT #2
DAN CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT #3

June 20, 2024

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
111 Washington St. SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: WDFW grant application for the acquisition of property located in Klickitat County

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO):

The Commissioners of Klickitat County would like to submit this letter as endorsement of support for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Grant application for the property Acquisition of Parcel #04140300000900 located in Klickitat County for the Canyon Creek WWRP Riparian 24-1338A project.

This acquisition will secure the protection of the confluence of Canyon Creek and Bowman Creek with associated habitats. This area provides a year round water source for multiple wildlife species, rainbow trout and coastal cutthroat trout. The parcel would connect WDFW lands, DNR lands, the land owned by the private landowner that is selling the Canyon Creek property and lands held by private conservation partners, thus preserving habitat connectivity, improving current land management by providing a more contiguous area, as well as providing public access.

Klickitat County is pleased to submit this endorsement of support. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact our office at (509) 773-4612.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington

Handwritten signature of Lori Zoller in blue ink.
Lori Zoller, Chairman

Handwritten signature of Jacob Anderson in blue ink.
Jacob Anderson, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Dan Christopher in blue ink.
Dan Christopher, Commissioner



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-477-4800 Fax 206-296-0192

TTY Relay: 711

April 11, 2025

Recreation and Conservation Office

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear RCO Representatives:

Please accept this letter of support for Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's *Green River Gorge – Icy Creek Phase 3 (24-1763)* grant application for WWRP funding. The parcels proposed for acquisition are some of the last needed to promote the development of a backcountry trail with statewide significance, and will protect habitat between the Green River Gorge (2,500-acres of State Park land), the Bass Lake Complex (700-acres of King County land), and the county-owned Green River Natural Area (1,300-acres).

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area (GRGCA) in 1969 (RCW 79A.05.705) and directed the State Parks and Recreation Commission to begin acquiring property along the river. The parcels targeted for acquisition in this grant are within the designated GRGCA.

There are very few backcountry trails in south King County. As the regional population grows and residents seek outdoor spaces, there is an increasing need for outdoor recreation opportunities. State Parks' GRGCA plan includes constructing a trail along the south rim of the gorge, from Kanaskat-Palmer to Flaming Geyser state parks, over nine miles in length.

Protecting these parcels will also conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat supporting 10 State Species of Concern. In addition, the Icy Creek area is an extremely important groundwater resource area that provides year-round, cold, clear water to the Green River. This area was chosen by the WDFW as a location for their Icy Creek Salmon Rearing Ponds because of the groundwater-fed Icy Creek which provides water to the hatchery. Finally, acquisition would help protect the Green River Gorge, one of the most spectacular natural features in the state.

The current landowner (a willing seller) previously platted the area into 14 building sites and has developed roads for future residential development. Purchasing these parcels will prevent development; the existing road will provide good access for future recreational use. If received, this grant would result in acquiring five parcels that make up 37 acres.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Josh Kahan

Josh Kahan, Middle Green River/White River Basin Steward
King County Water and Land Resources Division
(206) 477-4721; josh.kahan@kingcounty.gov



OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Chris Branch
Commissioner District 1
Andy Hover
Commissioner District 2
Jon Neal
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

April 30, 2024

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

RE: RCO Grant Application #24-1823 ACQ Pearrygin Lake State Park – Yockey Property

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office,

As required by State Law RCW 79A.15.110, Okanogan County received notice from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission that they are applying for a grant through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to acquire property located in Okanogan County.

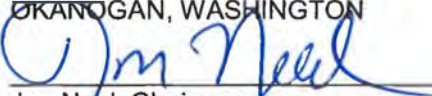
If awarded, the grant funding would allow acquisition of approximately 24.8-acres adjacent to Pearrygin Lake State Park. The acquisition project would enhance Pearrygin State Park by protecting the natural landscape and viewshed from future development and improving the recreational experience around the lake. The Park is popular for its water recreation, including swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing. Future developments may consist of new hiking trail to connect the trail system around the lake.

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners' supports the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for the Yockey property acquisition and we hope this project is listed high on the prioritized list for RCO' capital budget request.

We, the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners, thank you for considering a grant award for this project and we appreciate your ongoing dedication to serving the diverse needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON



Jon Neal, Chairman



Andy Hover, Vice Chairman

ABSENT

Chris Branch, Member



Kittitas County, Washington
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District One
Cory Wright

District Two
Laura Osiadacz

District Three
Brett Wachsmith

April 22, 2024

Mr. Michael Livingston
South Central Regional Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902-5720

Dear Mr. Livingston,

On behalf of Kittitas County, we wish to express our support for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) acquisition of the Yakima River Camp Access properties near Cle Elum. This site has been identified as a priority for public river access for decades and, more formally, in 2018 by Kittitas County in the Yakima River Public Access Plan. Acquiring these properties will greatly improve the public's access to the Yakima River, providing immediate public access to one mile of shoreline and nearly 90 acres of property overall.

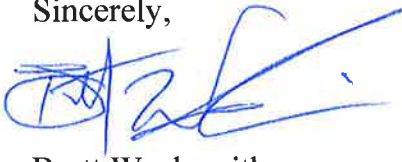
Acquiring these properties will also increase public safety. Currently, WDFW's Teanaway Junction access site is about one mile upstream within a treacherous reach of the river that includes swift currents and an abundance of large wood creating dangerous conditions for launching or retrieving vessels. To avoid these conditions, many river users have started launching their rafts and floats along State Route 10 at the Teanaway River Bridge near the confluence of the Teanaway and Yakima Rivers. The resultant traffic and congested parking create a significant travel and pedestrian hazard in this location. Cars and pedestrians along the highway could be safely redirected to the Yakima River Camp Access site with successful acquisition of these properties.

The mile of Yakima River included with this acquisition provides important spawning and rearing habitat for native fish within the Yakima Basin including salmon and steelhead populations. The lush riparian forest supports abundant wildlife, furthering the importance of acquisition of these properties to protect this habitat as development of our county continues.

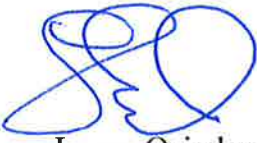
Kittitas County supports WDFW's acquisition of the Yakima River Camp Access properties to provide public access to the Yakima River shoreline, its dynamic riverine habitat, and the incumbent benefits of preserving it while improving area public safety. Acquisition of these properties maintains the ability for future efforts to enhance access to the Yakima River and its lush riparian forests.

Please let us know how we can further support this important acquisition to provide public access to the Yakima River.

Sincerely,



Brett Wachsmith
Chair



Laura Osiadacz
Vice Chair



Cory Wright
Commissioner



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2200

FAX: (509) 634-4116



4/24/2024

Kim Sellers,
Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington
98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for the Thrasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easement

Dear Ms. Sellers,

The Methow Conservancy is actively working in partnership with the Colville Confederated Tribes to protect and conserve properties in the Methow Valley that are culturally and ecologically important.

We support the Methow Conservancy's application for grant funds through the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program for the Thrasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easement. The project will permanently protect open space adjacent to property the Colville Tribes are pursuing for acquisition. Protecting this property will increase the connectivity of wildlife corridors in the area.

The Spáʔmułəx^w (Methow Valley) is the exclusive traditional territory and ancestral homelands of the Methow and Okanogan Tribes. The Methow and Okanogan are two of the twelve constituent Tribes of the Colville Confederacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Erickson", written over a horizontal line.

Jarred Michael-Erickson, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Nespelem, Washington

TO: COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL

DATE: 5/7/2024

FROM: Fisheries Committee

SUBJECT: Support letters for the Methow Conservancy

Initiated By: Joe Peone, Fish & Wildlife Director

Program: Fish and Wildlife

Committee Recommendations: WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Thrasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

R
Steph R. Can
Pat
Debbie Wiggins
AG
Joseph L. ...
Deanna ...

X
X
X
X
X
X

Business Council Actions:

Seconded by:

9 FOR MT PT CM JS AJ RF
SZ DB NS

Signed:

AJ

Committee Chairperson

0 NAY

Signed:

AG
CBC Chairperson

0 ABSTAINED

Date Enacted: 5.23.24

Amendments: _____

Emergency (10 Affirmative Signatures) Rationale: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Trasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Colville Business Council, meeting in a **SPECIAL SESSION** this **23rd day of May, 2024** acting for and on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem Washington, do hereby approve the above recommendation of the Fisheries Committee(s).

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of **9 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAINED**, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians February 26, 1938, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:



Jarred-Michael Erickson, Chairman
Colville Business Council

cc: Cindy Marchand, Committee Chair
Peggy Circle, Committee Secretary
Cody Desautel, Executive Director
William Nicholson II, Chief Financial Officer
Dept. or Program: Joe Peone - Fish & Wildlife



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
13th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
TOM DENT

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
HUMAN SERVICES, YOUTH,
& EARLY LEARNING
TRANSPORTATION

April 30, 2024

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Attn: Megan Duffy, Director
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Support for Conservation of Foothills Farm

Dear Director Duffy,

I am writing in support of the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) and Washington State Conservation Commission's (WSCC) efforts to conserve Foothills Farm through the Farmland Preservation category in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. This more than 300-acre family-owned and historic farm is located west of Ellensburg near the community of Thorp in Kittitas County. WSCC's goal is to purchase a conservation easement, which would remove the development rights from the property, and in doing so, permanently protect the property as working farmland for current and future generations of farmers.

Kittitas County continues to grow with the population increase outpacing the state at nearly double the percent change since 2020. That growth is reflected in the loss of farmland as development continues. The 2022 US Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture indicates that between 2017 and 2022, Kittitas County lost a whopping 27% of farms and 4% or 7,300 acres of land in agriculture. In the 5 years prior to that, the 2017 Census of Agriculture, documented a loss of 5.8% or 10,000 acres of farmland. If left unprotected, Foothills Farm could result in more agricultural acreage lost.

Preserving the farm through this easement is consistent with Washington State's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) that promotes maintaining agricultural viability while protecting critical areas. The farm contains priority habitats and species as mapped by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, including shrubsteppe and wetland habitats and occurrence of sharp tailed snake and golden eagle (state candidate species).

I fully support the acquisition of a conservation easement for Foothills Farm and urge the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to prioritize this project for acquisition funding.

Sincerely,

Tom Dent
Washington State Representative



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2200

FAX: (509) 634-4116



4/24/2024

Kim Sellers,
Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington
98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for the Christianson Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement


Dear Ms. Sellers,

The Methow Conservancy is actively working in partnership with the Colville Confederated Tribes to protect and conserve properties in the Methow Valley that are culturally and ecologically important.

We support the Methow Conservancy's application for grant funds through the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program for the Christianson Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement. The project will permanently protect over half of a mile of critical habitat along the Methow River from residential development. Protecting this property as open space will allow natural riverine process to occur. It will also provide an opportunity for a future aquatic restoration project to create complex and resilient aquatic habitats that would benefit threatened and endangered salmonids and other important wildlife and plant species.

The Spá'łmułəx^w (Methow Valley) is the exclusive traditional territory and ancestral homelands of the Methow and Okanogan Tribes. The Methow and Okanogan are two of the twelve constituent Tribes of the Colville Confederacy.

Sincerely,


Jarred Michael Erickson, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Nespelem, Washington

TO: COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL

DATE: 5/7/2024

FROM: Fisheries Committee

SUBJECT: Support letters for the Methow Conservancy

Initiated By: Joe Peone, Fish & Wildlife Director

Program: Fish and Wildlife

Committee Recommendations: WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Thrasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

R
Steph R. Can
Pat
Debbie Winters
AG
Joseph L. ...
Deanna ...

X
X
X
X
X
X
X

Business Council Actions:

Seconded by:

9 FOR MT PT CM JS AJ RF
SZ DB NS

Signed:

AJ

Committee Chairperson

0 NAY _____

Signed:

AG

CBC Chairperson

0 ABSTAINED _____

Date Enacted: 5.23.24

Amendments: _____

Emergency (10 Affirmative Signatures) Rationale: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Trasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Colville Business Council, meeting in a **SPECIAL SESSION** this **23rd day of May, 2024** acting for and on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem Washington, do hereby approve the above recommendation of the Fisheries Committee(s).

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of **9 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAINED**, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians February 26, 1938, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:



Jarred-Michael Erickson, Chairman
Colville Business Council

cc: Cindy Marchand, Committee Chair
Peggy Circle, Committee Secretary
Cody Desautel, Executive Director
William Nicholson II, Chief Financial Officer
Dept. or Program: Joe Peone - Fish & Wildlife





The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

P.O. Box 150, Nespalem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2200

FAX: (509) 634-4116



4/24/2024

Kim Sellers,
Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington
98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for the Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation Easement

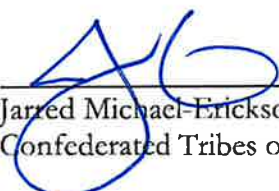
Dear Ms. Sellers,

The Methow Conservancy is actively working in partnership with the Colville Confederated Tribes to protect and conserve properties in the Methow Valley that are culturally and ecologically important.

We support the Methow Conservancy's application for grant funds through the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program for the Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation Easement. The project will permanently protect over half of a mile of critical habitat along the Twisp River from residential development. Protecting this property as open space will allow natural riverine process to occur and protect riparian vegetation. It will also provide an opportunity for a future aquatic restoration project to create complex and resilient aquatic habitats that would benefit threatened and endangered salmonids and other important wildlife and plant species.

The Sp'ałmuləx^w (Methow Valley) is the exclusive traditional territory and ancestral homelands of the Methow and Okanogan Tribes. The Methow and Okanogan are two of the twelve constituent Tribes of the Colville Confederacy.

Sincerely,


Jarred Michael Erickson, Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Nespelem, Washington

TO: COLVILLE BUSINESS COUNCIL

DATE: 5/7/2024

FROM: Fisheries Committee

SUBJECT: Support letters for the Methow Conservancy

Initiated By: Joe Peone, Fish & Wildlife Director

Program: Fish and Wildlife

Committee Recommendations: WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Thrasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VOTE CAST
(YES) (NO)

R
Steph R. Can
Pat
Debbie Wiggins
AG
Joseph L. ...
Deanna ...

X
X
X
X
X
X

Business Council Actions:

Seconded by:

AJ

9 FOR MT PT CM JS AJ RF
SZ DB NS

Signed:

R
Committee Chairperson

0 NAY

Signed:

AG
CBC Chairperson

0 ABSTAINED

Date Enacted: 5.23.24

Amendments: _____

Emergency (10 Affirmative Signatures) Rationale: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Fisheries Committee to approve three letters of support for the Methow Conservancy's application to the Recreation and Conservation Office for funding to purchase the Christianson Twisp River, Christianson Mundy Road, and Trasher Mundy Agricultural Conservation Easements. These conservation easements will protect the waterfront properties from development and protect the riparian vegetation. The Chairperson or Designee has authority to sign all pertinent documents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Colville Business Council, meeting in a **SPECIAL SESSION** this **23rd day of May, 2024** acting for and on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem Washington, do hereby approve the above recommendation of the Fisheries Committee(s).

The foregoing was duly enacted by the Colville Business Council by a vote of **9 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAINED**, under authority contained in Article V, Section 1(a) of the Constitution of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, ratified by the Colville Indians February 26, 1938, and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on April 19, 1938.

ATTEST:



Jarred-Michael Erickson, Chairman
Colville Business Council

cc: Cindy Marchand, Committee Chair
Peggy Circle, Committee Secretary
Cody Desautel, Executive Director
William Nicholson II, Chief Financial Officer
Dept. or Program: Joe Peone - Fish & Wildlife





Nooksack Indian Tribe

6/25/2024

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Forestland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 24-1886A Canyon Creek Forestry Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Nooksack Tribe, I would like to convey support of Whatcom County's grant application, 24-1983A, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Canyon Creek property. We appreciate working closely with Whatcom County on a range of habitat restoration and resource protection issues. As a sovereign nation with a long history of use of the forestlands in the Nooksack Watershed, we have a strong interest in seeing protections for our streams and forestlands. These projects are critical to providing the clean water and high-quality habitat that maintain our Treaty Resources.

Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and the development pressure on our forestlands is tremendous. The Canyon Creek property is located on Mosquito Lake Road near Acme, WA. Acquiring the easement will remove 30 development rights, restrict impervious surface, and provide for continued enrollment in the Forestry Riparian Easement Program, which reimburses small forest landowners for the value of trees they are required to leave for fish habitat. The property is also located near the Middle Fork Nooksack River which provides critical fish habitat for our early chinook population.

I strongly support the County's effort to improve habitat and water quality protections on forestlands and I believe the Canyon Creek Easement would make a great addition to the list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

RoseMary LaClair, Chairwoman
Nooksack Tribal Council



Nooksack Indian Tribe

6/25/2024

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Forestland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 24-1983A Maple Falls Forestry Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Nooksack Tribe, I would like to convey support of Whatcom County's grant application, 24-1983A, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Maple Falls property. We appreciate working closely with Whatcom County on a range of habitat restoration and resource protection issues. As a sovereign nation with a long history of use of the forestlands in the Nooksack Watershed, we have a strong interest in seeing protections for our streams and forestlands. These projects are critical to providing the clean water and high-quality habitat that maintain our Treaty Resources.

Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and the development pressure on our forestlands is tremendous. The Maple Falls property is located north of Mount Baker Highway near Maple Falls, WA. Acquiring the easement will remove 13 development rights, restrict impervious surface, and provide for continued enrollment in the Forestry Riparian Easement Program, which reimburses small forest landowners for the value of trees they are required to leave for fish habitat. The FREP program helps protect important riparian habitat to tributaries of Kendall Creek, which flows into the North Fork of the Nooksack River.

I strongly support the County's effort to improve habitat and water quality protections on forestlands and I believe the Maple Falls Easement would make a great addition to the list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

RoseMary LaClair, Chairwoman
Nooksack Tribal Council



PORT OF ILLAHEE

P. O. BOX 2357
BREMERTON, WA 98310

July 11, 2024

To: Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Re: RCO Grant 24-1777A Illahee Preserve Ph3, Heart of the Park,
RCO Grant 24-1770A Illahee Preserve Watershed Park

Attachment (1): Port of Illahee Resolution 2024-4 Illahee Creek Watershed Park Concept Support and Implementation Plans

The Port of Illahee Commissioners would like to register their support for the Illahee Preserve's current expansion plans for the Heart of the Park properties, and especially for the purchase of the Watershed Park property.

In 2007, the Port obtained a \$268,000 Centennial Clean Water grant from the Department of Ecology to conduct a watershed study with the Port's geographical boundary. That study resulted in findings that supported the County's plan to expand the Preserve, which has been ongoing, and will continue with these two subject grants as their holding are now over 600-acres.

The Port is so supportive of the Watershed Park concept that they approved attached Resolution 2024-4, in April 2024, expressing that support. Please note the reasoning in the text of the attachment, behind the strong support for these two grants.

This letter was approved by the Port of Illahee Commission at their July 10, 2024, monthly meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Olson".

Port of Illahee Administrator

Resolution 2024-4

Illahee Creek Watershed Park Concept Support and Implementation Plans

Whereas the Port of Illahee has in the past been gravely concerned about the effects of Illahee Creek on the Port of Illahee dock and surrounding tidelands with the expanding Illahee Creek delta that threatened to extend to the dock and require dredging at the Port of Illahee, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee hired Aspect Consulting to conduct an early study of Illahee Creek to determine the water sources feeding the stream, beyond those of transporting of stormwater from the outlying areas in the watershed, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee then applied for and received a \$268,000 Centennial Cleanwater Grant from the Department of Ecology in 2007 for a study of the Illahee Creek Watershed to be conducted to determine what needed to be done to prevent the pollution of Illahee Creek as a salmonid stream and the Puget Sound waterways, and at the same time address the excessive sedimentation and deterioration of conditions at the dock, and

Whereas the intensive study found there were many issues that needed to be addressed, with the most serious to the Port being trying to gain control of the stormwater surges plaguing Illahee Creek that were flowing through the deeply incised canyons on the north and south forks and the north tributary of Illahee Creek that were picking up sediment and transporting it along the banks of Illahee Creek, in the culvert, and ultimately out to the extended delta and into Puget Sound, and

Whereas secondly the study found many other issues previously unknown to the Port or the community, but ultimately affecting the Port and the community including the critical aquifer issues, which resulted in the eventual purchase of the Timbers Edge Development by the community and Kitsap County, in several phases, and

Whereas Port began a long-term relationship with County officials (Public Works and the Department of Community Development (DCD), and later with Kitsap County Parks), with the Illahee Forest Preserve (IFP), with the Illahee Community Club, and with the Illahee Community in general during the two-year development of the Illahee Community Plan and the establishment of the Illahee Green Zoning, that was issued in 2008, and

Whereas this long-term relationship continues to this day with the implementation by all parties of the watershed study findings which recommended the purchase of watershed properties to remain in their natural state, rather than be developed, including the purchase of problematic parcels subject to landslides, and

Whereas Kitsap County Parks was the recipient of an RCO grant 20-1742 to purchase roughly half of the Elliott estate (16.8-acres) for wildlife habitat, which is scheduled to close by 30 June 2024, with the other half of the 30-acre property under an agreement to be purchased over the following two years (2025 and 2026), and

Whereas Kitsap County Parks was a recipient of RCO grant 22-1613 to purchase additional properties including two needed to control landslides impacting the North Tributary of Illahee Creek, and

Whereas recently, on 4/2/24, an updated agreement with the Elliott estate was reached for the establishment of a watershed park on the estate's 30-acres to include a scaled down model of the Illahee Creek watershed, and the possibility of an aquifer model, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee would like to see the watershed model extend beyond the mouth of Illahee Creek to the expanded delta that now extends out an eighth-of-a-mile beyond the mouth and is near the Port dock and floats, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee would like to be involved with the design and implementation of the watershed park as it was the Port that obtained the Centennial Clean Water grant that began the process, and


Whereas time is of the essence to begin the planning as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) 2024 grant cycle has already begun with grant applications due on 1 May 2024.

Therefore, the Port of Illahee hereby: (1) officially recognizes and supports the Watershed Park concept noted on the 4/2/24 agreement to gain control of the nearly one-quarter mile of the South Fork of Illahee Creek, and (2) further requests the watershed model include the Illahee Creek delta that extends out from the mouth of the creek, and (3) authorizes the Commission Chair to work with Kitsap County Parks and others, to complete estate and watershed park grant/s to acquire the Elliott estate properties in support of the watershed park, and the two North Tributary landslide properties.

Adopted by the Commission of the Port of Illahee on 10 APRIL 2024 by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof.



Commissioner Hall



Commissioner Aho



Commissioner Rupert

City of White Salmon
Office of City Hall



June 20, 2024

WWRP – Riparian Protection Review Panel
RCO
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

To: Recreation and Conservation Office Program Manager

This letter is to express the City of White Salmon's support for the Yakama Nation's request through the WA Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Riparian Protection category to acquire 458 acres and 5.6 miles of shoreline of the lower White Salmon River.

Riparian protection is intended to conserve "land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species." The lower White Salmon River provides critical spawning, rearing habitat and a migration corridor for multiple salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The return of the acreage currently in private ownership by PacifiCorp to the Tribe will allow for stewardship of a river corridor recently restored through the removal of Condit Dam.

The Yakama people have a millennia-long connection to the White Salmon River and watershed, including places of prehistoric and current cultural importance such as salmon fisheries, hunting areas, root-digging grounds, spiritual sites and huckleberry fields. The Yakama people and related bands that used these basins for millennia actively managed the land for their survival, as part of their spiritual responsibility as stewards of the land and its resources, and to preserve these resources for many generations into the future. The Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources has an excellent track record of managing its forest and restoring lands to benefit fisheries, wildlife, and culturally significant plants.

We support the Tribe's acquisition of ecologically and culturally significant lands within the lower White Salmon River basin and specifically their application for funding through the Riparian Protection category of the WWRP.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marla Keethler".

Marla Keethler, Mayor



Spokane Tribe of Indians

P.O. Box 100 • Wellpinit, WA 99040 • (509) 458-6500 • Fax (509) 458-6575

April 29, 2024

Mr. Karl Jacobs, Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Riverside State Park Expansion - Glen Tana Property

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Spokane Tribe of Indians have lived and gathered in northeast Washington since time immemorial. Generation after generation thrived from the resources available from the land and river. Over a hundred years ago, the Little Spokane River was a pristine spawning ground for native salmon. Tribes from all over the region would come to the river to fish for the hundreds of thousands of fish, returning to their home waters. They were a food source for humans, and animals, and returned important nutrients to the soil from their time in the ocean. With the construction of dams and the theft of aboriginal lands, all that changed. Tribes were displaced from homes they had cultivated for generations. The salmon were cut off from their home waters and the tribes lost part of their spirit.

This expansion of Riverside State Park, with enthusiastic support from the Spokane Tribe of Indians, seeks to restore to public use, some of what was lost.

Located along the Little Spokane River corridor the property, through a cooperative agreement with the Washington Department of Recreation and Conservation Office and Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, will become part of a larger complex connecting Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve and Riverside State Park, a popular area for hikers, bikers, bird watchers and fishermen. The cold, clear, aquifer water that flows out of the hillsides and into the river has ensured that this stretch of the Little Spokane River is a unique ecosystem resilient to climate change by providing cold-water habitats and refugia necessary to support the reintroduction of salmon, a priority for the Spokane Tribe. The project will also help to strengthen ecosystem and community resilience by ensuring that this riparian forest is protected from development and in turn protects the cold water refugia withing the Little Spokane River. The conservation and preservation of the site will benefit at-risk species (Redband Trout) and aid in the reintroduction

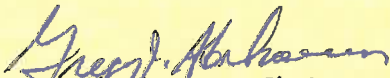
of chinook salmon to the region. These benefits, along with the tribe's historical, cultural, and ancestral use of the area, make this project a high priority for the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Due to its size, location, and biodiversity this project should certainly be considered a "top opportunity" and prioritized for long-term conservation. This property acquisition is well grounded in past park planning efforts and helps meet current and future goals of the Washington State Parks System. Inclusion in Washington State Parks would assist the parks meet their stated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion due to the near-urban nature of the project. The property will allow a multitude of diverse users to access the park via mass transit, located less than a quarter mile from an existing trailhead.

Finally, we envision a future where community members will visit an expanded section of Riverside State Park and while parking in a large visitor lot, they can choose to take their family on a short nature hike along the banks of the Little Spokane River and then end their outing by taking an informational tour of the rearing facility that will be operated by the Tribe. Guests will be able to deepen their scientific knowledge of the first people who inhabited these lands and waters for thousands of years. Ultimately, these guests will be able to watch returning salmon spawn in the Little Spokane, excavating their redds and contributing to the ecosystems as only a keystone species can.

The first step towards actualizing this dream lies with RCO and your program by incorporating the Glen Tana Property and expanding Riverside State Park.

Sincerely,



Greg Abrahamson, Chairman

Spokane Tribal Business Council



King County

Dave Upthegrove

Councilmember, District 5

Metropolitan King County Council

June 4, 2024

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

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the King County Council in support of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Green River Gorge – Icy Creek Phase 3 (24-1763) grant application in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks category.

The Washington State Legislature established the Green River Gorge Conservation Area in 1969 (RCW 79A.05.705) and directed the State Parks and Recreation Commission to begin acquiring property along the river. The State Parks plans for the Conservation Area include a trail along the south rim of the gorge, from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park to Flaming Geyser State Park.

The parcels in Icy Creek Ridge are some of the last sections of land needed before trail development will be possible. This acquisition will also protect habitat corridors between the Green River and properties in King County's Bass Lake Complex to the south.

This project aligns well with King County's priorities in relation to open space preservation and habitat conservation. If preserved, the Icy Creek Ridge parcels would facilitate the eventual development of a regional backcountry trail in an area of the county that does not have many passive trail hiking opportunities. As our regional population grows, there is an increasing need for outdoor recreation spaces and protection of valuable landscapes. In addition, protecting the Icy Creek properties will conserve valuable forests and wildlife habitat, protect important groundwater resources, and expand the network of existing public lands in this area. The Green River Gorge is a spectacular natural feature, which deserves expanded protection.

These acquisitions will expand public land, wildlife corridors, landscape level habitat, and will help complete major regional trail systems. I encourage this body to strongly consider this grant application for full funding.

Thank you,

Dave Upthegrove
King County Council - Chair



PORT OF ILLAHEE

P. O. BOX 2357
BREMERTON, WA 98310

July 11, 2024

To: Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Re: RCO Grant 24-1777A Illahee Preserve Ph3, Heart of the Park,
RCO Grant 24-1770A Illahee Preserve Watershed Park

Attachment (1): Port of Illahee Resolution 2024-4 Illahee Creek Watershed Park Concept Support and Implementation Plans

The Port of Illahee Commissioners would like to register their support for the Illahee Preserve's current expansion plans for the Heart of the Park properties, and especially for the purchase of the Watershed Park property.

In 2007, the Port obtained a \$268,000 Centennial Clean Water grant from the Department of Ecology to conduct a watershed study with the Port's geographical boundary. That study resulted in findings that supported the County's plan to expand the Preserve, which has been ongoing, and will continue with these two subject grants as their holding are now over 600-acres.

The Port is so supportive of the Watershed Park concept that they approved attached Resolution 2024-4, in April 2024, expressing that support. Please note the reasoning in the text of the attachment, behind the strong support for these two grants.

This letter was approved by the Port of Illahee Commission at their July 10, 2024, monthly meeting.

Sincerely,

Port of Illahee Administrator

Resolution 2024-4

Illahee Creek Watershed Park Concept Support and Implementation Plans

Whereas the Port of Illahee has in the past been gravely concerned about the effects of Illahee Creek on the Port of Illahee dock and surrounding tidelands with the expanding Illahee Creek delta that threatened to extend to the dock and require dredging at the Port of Illahee, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee hired Aspect Consulting to conduct an early study of Illahee Creek to determine the water sources feeding the stream, beyond those of transporting of stormwater from the outlying areas in the watershed, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee then applied for and received a \$268,000 Centennial Cleanwater Grant from the Department of Ecology in 2007 for a study of the Illahee Creek Watershed to be conducted to determine what needed to be done to prevent the pollution of Illahee Creek as a salmonid stream and the Puget Sound waterways, and at the same time address the excessive sedimentation and deterioration of conditions at the dock, and

Whereas the intensive study found there were many issues that needed to be addressed, with the most serious to the Port being trying to gain control of the stormwater surges plaguing Illahee Creek that were flowing through the deeply incised canyons on the north and south forks and the north tributary of Illahee Creek that were picking up sediment and transporting it along the banks of Illahee Creek, in the culvert, and ultimately out to the extended delta and into Puget Sound, and

Whereas secondly the study found many other issues previously unknown to the Port or the community, but ultimately affecting the Port and the community including the critical aquifer issues, which resulted in the eventual purchase of the Timbers Edge Development by the community and Kitsap County, in several phases, and

Whereas Port began a long-term relationship with County officials (Public Works and the Department of Community Development (DCD), and later with Kitsap County Parks), with the Illahee Forest Preserve (IFP), with the Illahee Community Club, and with the Illahee Community in general during the two-year development of the Illahee Community Plan and the establishment of the Illahee Green Zoning, that was issued in 2008, and

Whereas this long-term relationship continues to this day with the implementation by all parties of the watershed study findings which recommended the purchase of watershed properties to remain in their natural state, rather than be developed, including the purchase of problematic parcels subject to landslides, and

Whereas Kitsap County Parks was the recipient of an RCO grant 20-1742 to purchase roughly half of the Elliott estate (16.8-acres) for wildlife habitat, which is scheduled to close by 30 June 2024, with the other half of the 30-acre property under an agreement to be purchased over the following two years (2025 and 2026), and

Whereas Kitsap County Parks was a recipient of RCO grant 22-1613 to purchase additional properties including two needed to control landslides impacting the North Tributary of Illahee Creek, and

Whereas recently, on 4/2/24, an updated agreement with the Elliott estate was reached for the establishment of a watershed park on the estate's 30-acres to include a scaled down model of the Illahee Creek watershed, and the possibility of an aquifer model, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee would like to see the watershed model extend beyond the mouth of Illahee Creek to the expanded delta that now extends out an eighth-of-a-mile beyond the mouth and is near the Port dock and floats, and

Whereas the Port of Illahee would like to be involved with the design and implementation of the watershed park as it was the Port that obtained the Centennial Clean Water grant that began the process, and

Whereas time is of the essence to begin the planning as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) 2024 grant cycle has already begun with grant applications due on 1 May 2024.

Therefore, the Port of Illahee hereby: (1) officially recognizes and supports the Watershed Park concept noted on the 4/2/24 agreement to gain control of the nearly one-quarter mile of the South Fork of Illahee Creek, and (2) further requests the watershed model include the Illahee Creek delta that extends out from the mouth of the creek, and (3) authorizes the Commission Chair to work with Kitsap County Parks and others, to complete estate and watershed park grant/s to acquire the Elliott estate properties in support of the watershed park, and the two North Tributary landslide properties.

Adopted by the Commission of the Port of Illahee on 10 APRIL 2024 by the signatures of the Commissioners voting in favor thereof.



Commissioner Hall



Commissioner Aho



Commissioner Rupert



Spokane Tribe of Indians

P.O. Box 100 • Wellpinit, WA 99040 • (509) 458-6500 • Fax (509) 458-6575

April 29, 2024

Mr. Karl Jacobs, Outdoor Grants Manager
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Riverside State Park Expansion - Glen Tana Property

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Spokane Tribe of Indians have lived and gathered in northeast Washington since time immemorial. Generation after generation thrived from the resources available from the land and river. Over a hundred years ago, the Little Spokane River was a pristine spawning ground for native salmon. Tribes from all over the region would come to the river to fish for the hundreds of thousands of fish, returning to their home waters. They were a food source for humans, and animals, and returned important nutrients to the soil from their time in the ocean. With the construction of dams and the theft of aboriginal lands, all that changed. Tribes were displaced from homes they had cultivated for generations. The salmon were cut off from their home waters and the tribes lost part of their spirit.

This expansion of Riverside State Park, with enthusiastic support from the Spokane Tribe of Indians, seeks to restore to public use, some of what was lost.

Located along the Little Spokane River corridor the property, through a cooperative agreement with the Washington Department of Recreation and Conservation Office and Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, will become part of a larger complex connecting Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve and Riverside State Park, a popular area for hikers, bikers, bird watchers and fishermen. The cold, clear, aquifer water that flows out of the hillsides and into the river has ensured that this stretch of the Little Spokane River is a unique ecosystem resilient to climate change by providing cold-water habitats and refugia necessary to support the reintroduction of salmon, a priority for the Spokane Tribe. The project will also help to strengthen ecosystem and community resilience by ensuring that this riparian forest is protected from development and in turn protects the cold water refugia withing the Little Spokane River. The conservation and preservation of the site will benefit at-risk species (Redband Trout) and aid in the reintroduction

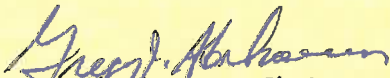
of chinook salmon to the region. These benefits, along with the tribe's historical, cultural, and ancestral use of the area, make this project a high priority for the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

Due to its size, location, and biodiversity this project should certainly be considered a "top opportunity" and prioritized for long-term conservation. This property acquisition is well grounded in past park planning efforts and helps meet current and future goals of the Washington State Parks System. Inclusion in Washington State Parks would assist the parks meet their stated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion due to the near-urban nature of the project. The property will allow a multitude of diverse users to access the park via mass transit, located less than a quarter mile from an existing trailhead.

Finally, we envision a future where community members will visit an expanded section of Riverside State Park and while parking in a large visitor lot, they can choose to take their family on a short nature hike along the banks of the Little Spokane River and then end their outing by taking an informational tour of the rearing facility that will be operated by the Tribe. Guests will be able to deepen their scientific knowledge of the first people who inhabited these lands and waters for thousands of years. Ultimately, these guests will be able to watch returning salmon spawn in the Little Spokane, excavating their redds and contributing to the ecosystems as only a keystone species can.

The first step towards actualizing this dream lies with RCO and your program by incorporating the Glen Tana Property and expanding Riverside State Park.

Sincerely,



Greg Abrahamson, Chairman

Spokane Tribal Business Council



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

July 9, 2024

Washington Recreation & Conservation Office
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear RCO WWRP Review Committee,

We are pleased to write in support of Pacific Lutheran University's (PLU) application to the Washington Recreation & Conservation Office's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. This funding, if awarded, would support PLU's plan to pursue the land conservancy of 10 to 16 acres of its lower campus.

The land that PLU seeks to protect is one of the last remnant prairies in Central Pierce, providing unique opportunities for ecological, cultural, community, and educational engagement. As the prairie is home to many endangered, threatened, or prioritized species, PLU's efforts will help create a pollinator network that supports regional biodiversity and species resiliency within a highly developed and fast-growing urban area.

Another aim of this project is to preserve unique cultural access to the long-standing connections between this land and local Tribal Nations. Tribal partners have traded and harvested various native plants on this land, including camas, since time immemorial. Several of the local tribes also have expressed interest in using the local species from this land to create a seed bank so different species could be readily used to restore other prairies.

The land is already used informally as a space for passive recreation, nature-based activities, and a respite from the urban landscape. Additionally, the Parkland-Spanaway-Midland community, where this park is located, is recognized by Pierce County's PROS plan as having the lowest rate of parks, open space, and trail miles alongside the highest population. The proposed conservation easement project provides much-needed habitat protection and offers the potential to connect the community to nature, as well as directly addressing the community's needs and desires.

For these reasons, we strongly support PLU's application to the Washington Recreation & Conservation Office's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. We hope you will give fair and full consideration of their proposal.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Local Parks Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Sixty-four project applications in the Local Parks Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-14

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Local Parks Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides grant funding to create or improve parks. Eligible project types include acquisition and development of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities. Parks may include active or passive outdoor recreation facilities such as playgrounds, athletic fields, bike tracks, hard courts, picnic sites, open space, skateparks, outdoor swimming pools; and support amenities such as restrooms, parking areas, and signs.

The Local Parks Category receives 30 percent of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Forty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs,¹ which may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

The policies for the Local Parks Category are in [Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account](#). The primary change to the Local Parks Category this year was an update of the evaluation criteria.

Here is a summary of the Local Parks Category:

Eligible Applicants	Local agencies include: ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, counties, towns • Federally recognized Native American tribes • Special purpose districts (such as park, port, and school districts) and other political subdivisions of the state providing services to less than the entire state.
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500,000 for development or renovation projects • \$1 million for acquisition and combination projects (maximum of \$500,000 for development)
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent <p>Exception: match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas.</p>
Public Access	Required for all park projects.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Administrative offices, storage buildings, shops, and residences are eligible if they are essential to the operation and maintenance of the assisted site.

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050(2)(b) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-52

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010(7)

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Sixty-four Local Parks Category projects, requesting almost \$31.9 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP Local Parks Advisory Committee between August 19-22, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Steve Gruenberg, Pasco³
- Dennis Litwin, University Place
- Tracy Williams, Walla Walla³

Local Agency Members

- Stacie Barnum, City of Aberdeen
- Chaz Bates, City of Spokane Valley³
- Doug Coutts, City of Moses Lake³
- Anne Henning, City of Othello
- Jill Meis, City of Lake Stevens
- Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks and Recreation
- Sylvana Niehuser, City of Olympia

State Agency Members

- Genevieve Dial, State Parks and Recreation Commission, Spokane

Advisory committee members reviewed the proposals virtually, using RCO's PRISM Evaluation and Review Module and scored the projects with Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted evaluation criteria. The presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A: *Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 22 and during the post-evaluation meeting on August 29, staff met with the WWRP Local Parks Advisory Committee to

³ Participated in the technical review sessions only.

debrief and assess the application materials, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

The advisory committee felt the process was organized, well-run, and fair. While the advisors spent eight days participating in virtual technical review and evaluation meetings for Local Parks projects, they still felt the in-person virtual presentation process was the most efficient way to review and score projects. The committee appreciated the convenience of meeting virtually and were satisfied with the materials provided and the responsiveness of many applicants to their suggested improvements following the technical review.

Evaluation Criteria

The advisory committee felt that the new *Introduction* was helpful, but many applicants got too detailed. For context, it would be good if all applicants included population and service area information. The committee also discussed the challenges associated with scoring some of the criteria. They felt that the *Need* criterion overlapped with *Project Scope* and *Design-Fit*. And the *Project Engagement-Partnerships* criterion overlapped with *Cost Efficiencies*. This created repetition and difficulty distinguishing the differences between the criteria and score. *Project Scope* is a very brief question, but worth a lot of points. Advisors felt that it would be helpful to either reduce the point value or provide additional scoring guidance. They appreciated that the demographic data was moved to the new staff-scored criteria, so applicants did not have to use various graphs to respond.

They discussed the challenge of scoring acquisition projects, since they can all typically demonstrate *Need*. For *Immediacy of Threat*, they felt that to some degree all acquisitions are under threat. It would help if applicants better described local conditions such as zoning and market to help evaluators better assess and score this criterion.

In general, the evaluation criteria that provide additional scoring guidance, or are formatted using bullet points, are easier to follow and score. Despite challenges, evaluators were satisfied with the process, use of the scoring module, and the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for funding in the Local Parks Category support board priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve Attachment A: *Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-14.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-14, including *Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Local Parks Category Projects
- C. Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Local Parks Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-14
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS sixty-four Local Parks Category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of sites for recreation, thereby supporting board priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in the *Local Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Local Parks Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-14

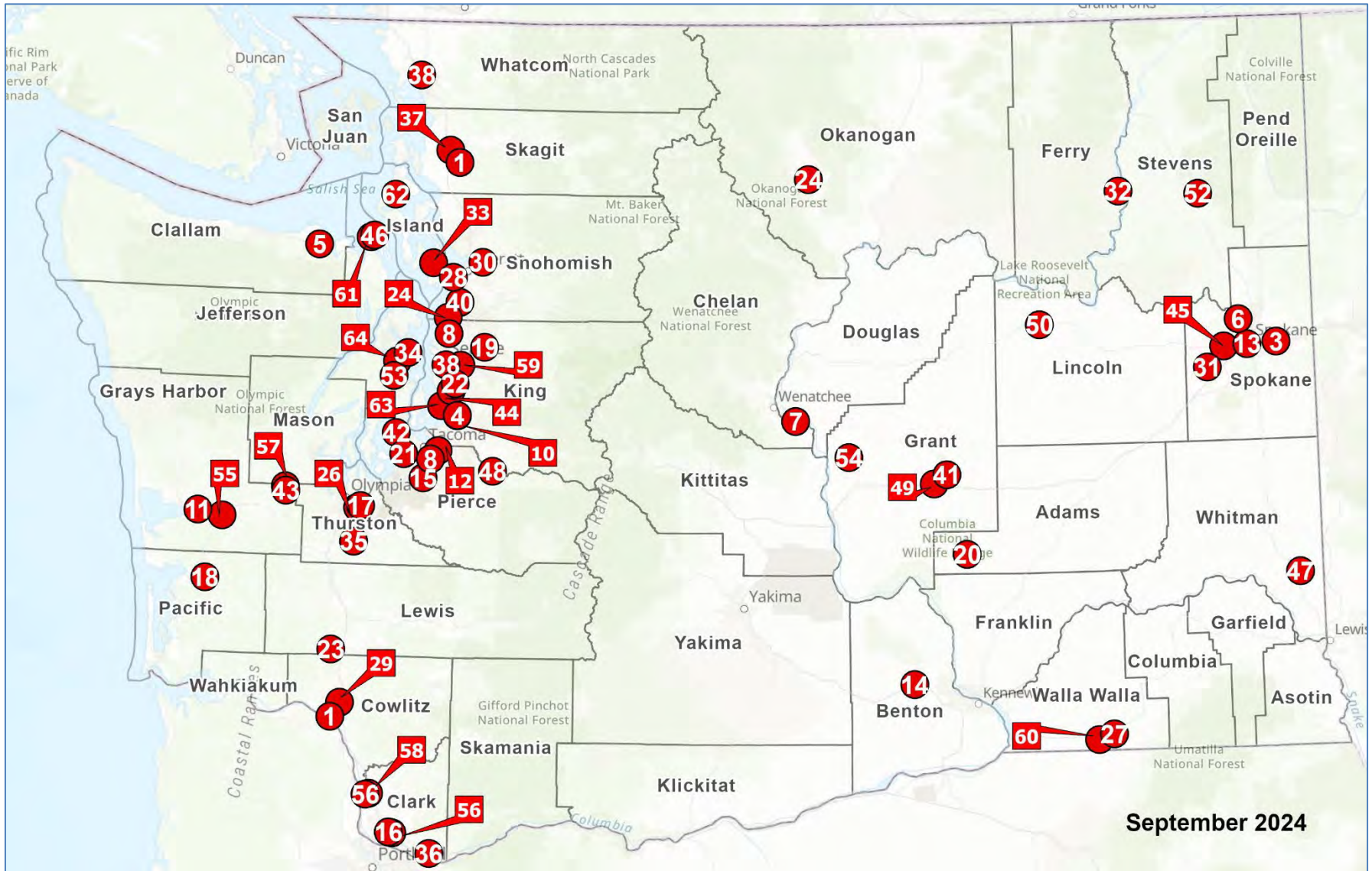
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	87.86	24-1350 A	Skagit County	Big Rock Park Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,145,200	\$2,145,200
1	87.86	24-1954 D	Longview	Cloney Park Inclusive Playground	\$500,000	\$3,670,640	\$4,170,640
3	87.08	24-1985 D	Spokane Valley	Balfour Playground and Spray Park	\$500,000	\$3,540,000	\$4,040,000
4	85.57	24-1776 A	Kent	Uplands Extension Acquisition	\$939,600	\$104,400	\$1,044,000
5	84.86	24-1479 D	Sequim	Margaret Kirner Park Inclusive Playground	\$500,000	\$1,446,232	\$1,946,232
6	84.36	24-1932 D	Spokane	Meadowglen Neighborhood Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$5,288,000	\$5,788,000
7	83.57	24-1949 A	Chelan County	Malaga Waterfront Park Acquisition Phase Two	\$617,085	\$411,390	\$1,028,475
8	83.00	24-1590 D	Seattle	Lake City Natural Area New Park Development	\$500,000	\$1,700,000	\$2,200,000
8	83.00	24-1710 A	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	Swan Creek Park Probst Property Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$1,866,150	\$2,866,150
10	82.79	24-1703 D	Kent	Uplands Playfield and Spray Park	\$500,000	\$5,800,000	\$6,300,000
11	82.42	24-1711 D	Aberdeen	Pioneer Park Field Three Artificial Turf	\$450,000	\$58,000	\$508,000
12	81.14	24-1329 D	Fife	Colburn Park Phase Two Inclusive Playground	\$500,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,950,000
13	81.07	24-1897 D	Spokane	Coeur d'Alene Park Play and Restroom Replacement	\$480,000	\$491,000	\$971,000
14	80.86	24-1940 D	Benton City	Blacktop Estates Park Splash Pad	\$500,000	\$359,657	\$859,657
15	80.58	24-1782 D	Pierce County	Sprinker Artificial Sports Fields 2B	\$500,000	\$8,125,000	\$8,625,000
16	80.36	24-1786 D	Vancouver	Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park Phase Two	\$500,000	\$4,971,500	\$5,471,500
17	80.29	24-1532 D	Lacey	Rainier Vista Park Improvements	\$500,000	\$419,618	\$919,618
18	80.07	24-1960 D	Raymond	Doctor O.R. Nevitt Memorial Pool Renovation Phase One	\$391,500	\$43,500	\$435,000

⁴Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=combination

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
19	79.79	24-1762 D	Redmond	Southeast Redmond Park Playground and Court Development	\$500,000	\$4,417,556	\$4,917,556
20	79.75	24-1422 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,250,000
21	79.14	24-2030 D	University Place	Curran Orchard Park Improvements	\$494,250	\$499,250	\$993,500
22	78.86	24-1588 D	Seattle	Hutchinson Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$1,882,536	\$2,382,536
23	78.57	24-1684 D	Vader	McMurphy Park Development Phase One	\$443,045	\$189,877	\$632,922
24	78.50	24-1503 A	Twisp	Mill Hill Acquisition	\$552,600	\$238,000	\$790,600
24	78.50	24-1746 D	Mountlake Terrace	Veterans Memorial Park Revitalization	\$500,000	\$2,135,560	\$2,635,560
26	78.43	24-1459 D	Lacey	Bush Park Playground Replacement	\$220,710	\$220,710	\$441,420
27	78.14	24-2012 D	Walla Walla	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	\$500,000	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
28	77.64	24-1328 D	Everett	Edgewater Park Renovation Phase Two	\$500,000	\$1,128,858	\$1,628,858
29	77.00	24-1623 D	Cowlitz County	Riverside Park Legacy Play Area	\$500,000	\$543,000	\$1,043,000
30	76.83	24-1980 D	Lake Stevens	Eagle Ridge Park Development	\$500,000	\$3,665,000	\$4,165,000
31	76.64	24-1975 A	Medical Lake	Purchasing Waterfront Park	\$823,971	\$549,317	\$1,373,288
32	76.43	24-2026 D	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Inchelium Skatepark Development	\$500,000	\$157,183	\$657,183
33	75.57	24-2008 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center Trail Loop	\$462,072	\$437,072	\$899,144
34	75.50	24-1831 D	Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark	\$500,000	\$800,000	\$1,300,000
35	74.43	24-1888 C	Tenino	City Park Trail Phase One	\$500,000	\$335,000	\$835,000
36	74.21	24-1356 D	Washougal	Towncenter Park Development	\$500,000	\$4,400,000	\$4,900,000
37	74.07	24-1842 D	Burlington	Maiben Park Nature Play and Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	\$500,000	\$715,001	\$1,215,001
38	74.00	24-1343 D	Bellingham	Storybrook Park Phase One	\$500,000	\$996,328	\$1,496,328
38	74.00	24-1592 D	Seattle	Upper Doctor Jose Rizal Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$3,248,546	\$3,748,546
40	73.79	24-1869 A	Snohomish County	Martha Lake Park Expansion	\$681,175	\$557,325	\$1,238,500
41	73.57	24-1969 D	Moses Lake	Longview Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
42	73.50	24-1896 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Peninsula Gardens Park Development	\$500,000	\$3,282,000	\$3,782,000
43	72.86	24-1864 D	McCleary	Beerbower Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$150,554	\$650,554
44	72.71	24-1800 D	Tukwila	Riverton Park Playground Renovation	\$500,000	\$867,600	\$1,367,600
45	72.50	24-1873 D	Airway Heights	Sunset Park Pathway Renovation	\$329,787	\$141,338	\$471,125
46	71.79	24-1610 D	Port Townsend	Golf Park Playground	\$350,000	\$150,000	\$500,000
47	71.64	24-1865 D	Pullman	Pullman Veterans Memorial Park	\$500,000	\$1,230,698	\$1,730,698
48	71.50	24-1961 D	Buckley	Miller Community Park	\$500,000	\$1,122,354	\$1,622,354
49	70.21	24-1971 D	Moses Lake	Sun Terrace Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000
50	70.00	24-1386 D	Wilbur	Town of Wilbur Park Renovation	\$179,246	\$78,000	\$257,246
51	69.64	24-1613 D	Clark County	Orchards Community Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$2,109,500	\$2,609,500
52	68.93	24-1995 D	Chewelah	Chewelah Adventure Park	\$500,000	\$60,000	\$560,000
53	67.64	24-1443 D	Port of Bremerton	Port Orchard Waterfront Park Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	\$86,000	\$86,922	\$172,922
54	67.57	24-1881 D	Quincy	Lauzier Park Playground, Plaza and Walking Paths	\$500,000	\$2,117,293	\$2,617,293
55	66.86	24-1982 D	Port of Grays Harbor	Friends Landing Expansion and Accessibility	\$200,000	\$202,000	\$402,000
56	66.50	24-1974 D	Ridgefield	Abrams Park Renovation Phase One	\$500,000	\$784,427	\$1,284,427
57	65.64	24-1950 D	McCleary	North Summit Park Development	\$408,096	\$185,383	\$593,479
58	64.57	24-1947 D	Ridgefield	Boyse Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$581,607	\$1,081,607
59	63.79	24-2017 D	Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park Access Improvements	\$500,000	\$3,245,054	\$3,745,054
60	63.50	24-1965 D	College Place	Veterans Park Renovation	\$500,000	\$690,106	\$1,190,106
61	63.21	24-1695 D	Port Townsend	Hancock Park	\$450,000	\$50,000	\$500,000
62	63.14	24-1664 D	Oak Harbor	Windjammer Park Baseball Field Upgrade Phase Two	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
63	61.86	24-2033 D	Normandy Park	Marvista Playground Renovation Safety Improvements	\$365,500	\$365,500	\$731,000
64	57.07	24-1770 A	Kitsap County	Illahee Preserve Watershed Park Phase One	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$1,350,000
Total					\$31,899,637	\$90,831,742	\$122,731,379

State Map for Local Parks Category Projects



Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Local parks provide property or facilities for active (high impact) or passive (low impact) outdoor recreation. They may contain both upland and water-oriented elements.

Local Parks Criteria		Project Type	Maximum Points	Focus*
Unscored				
	Project Introduction	All Project Types	0 points	State Focus
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Need–Local Priorities	All Project Types	25 points	State and Local Focus
2	Project Scope	All Project Types	20 points	Local Focus
3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition Projects	10 points	Local Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
4	Site Suitability	Acquisition Projects	15 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
5	Project Design-Fit	Development Projects	15 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
6	Project Design-Budget	Development Projects	5 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
7	Project Engagement-Methods	All Project Types	5 points	State and Local Focus
8	Project Engagement-Community	All Project Types	5 points	State and Local Focus
9	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Project Types	5 points	State and Local Focus
10	Sustainability	Development Projects	5 points	State Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
11	Cost Efficiencies	All Project Types	5 points	State and Local Focus
Scored by RCO				
12	Green Space Availability	All Project Types	3 points	State Focus
13	Social Vulnerability	All Project Types	3 points	State Focus
14	Health Outcomes	All Project Types	3 points	State Focus
15	Proximity to People	All Project Types	0.5 point	State Focus
16	County Population Density	All Project Types	0.5 point	State Focus
17	Growth Management Act Preference	All Project Types	0 points	State Focus
Total Points Possible:			100	

*Focus–Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State–Those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan [SCORP])
- Local–Those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical–Those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Detailed Scoring Criteria, Local Parks Category⁵

Project Introduction. In less than one minute, introduce the project’s location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need-Local Priorities.** Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.
2. **Project Scope.** Describe the site’s existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.
3. **Immediacy of Threat.** Is there a threat to the public availability of the resources the site possesses? (*acquisition and combination projects only*)
4. **Site Suitability.** Is the site to be acquired well suited for the intended recreational uses? (*acquisition and combination projects only*)
5. **Project Design-Fit.** Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities. Applicants may choose to describe design elements such as parking and site access, accessibility features, environmental considerations, green infrastructure, cultural or historic interpretation, mitigation of public use impacts, etc. (*development and combination projects only*)
6. **Project Design-Budget.** Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready? (*development and combination projects only*)
7. **Project Engagement-Methods.** RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic, or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.
8. **Project Engagement-Community.** How has community input influenced the project design?⁶

⁵ Updated or adopted via Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2023-27 or 2023-28

⁶ For acquisition projects, RCO staff suggests focusing on how community input influenced site selection.

9. **Project Engagement-Partnerships.** Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area.
10. **Sustainability.** Sustainability reflects choices made to balance the desired benefits and potential impacts of a project on the surrounding landscape and community. Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant organization's sustainability plan or how ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan. (*development and combination projects only*)
11. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrates efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

12. **Green Space Availability.** Green space availability scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than eight acres per one thousand residents), Medium (three to eight acres per one thousand residents), and Low (less than three acres per one thousand residents) green space per capita.
13. **Social Vulnerability.** Social vulnerability scores use a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, or population living in poverty. The scores are based on information from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#).
14. **Health Outcomes.** This score is from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#), which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking.
15. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of five thousand or more?⁷
16. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?⁷
17. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?⁸

⁷ Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.250

⁸ Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Does not apply to tribal governments.)

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores 2025-2027

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-25	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-15	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-0.5	0-0.5	-1-0.0	
1	24-1350 A	Big Rock Park Acquisition	21.79	16.86	9.14	14.57			3.86	4.57	4.71		4.86	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	87.86
1	24-1954 D	Cloney Park Inclusive Playground	21.07	17.43			13.71	4.57	4.57	4.71	4.71	4.00	4.57	3.00	2.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	87.86
3	24-1985 D	Balfour Playground and Spray Park	22.08	17.67			13.50	4.33	4.17	4.17	4.83	4.00	4.33	3.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	87.08
4	24-1776 A	Uplands Extension Acquisition	22.86	16.29	8.29	13.29			3.86	4.29	3.86		3.86	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	85.57
5	24-1479 D	Margaret Kirner Park Inclusive Playground	20.36	17.14			13.71	4.29	4.14	4.57	4.29	3.86	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	84.86
6	24-1932 D	Meadowglen Neighborhood Park Development Phase One	22.50	17.14			14.14	4.29	4.71	4.29	3.71	4.00	3.57	2.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	84.36

⁹Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=combination

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
7	24-1949 A	Malaga Waterfront Park Acquisition Phase Two	21.43	17.43	9.14	13.29			4.29	3.86	4.57		3.57	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83.57
8	24-1710 A	Lake City Natural Area New Park Development	20.00	15.67	9.00	13.50			3.67	3.83	4.17		4.17	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	83
8	24-1590 D	Swan Creek Park Probst Property Acquisition	20.71	16.29			13.29	4.57	4.57	4.43	4.57	4.86	3.71	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	83
10	24-1703 D	Uplands Playfield and Spray Park	21.79	16.29			11.14	4.29	4.71	4.71	3.86	3.71	3.29	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	82.79
11	24-1711 D	Pioneer Park Field Three Artificial Turf	21.25	16.00			13.50	3.83	3.83	4.17	4.17	3.50	4.67	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	82.42
12	24-1329 D	Colburn Park Phase Two Inclusive Playground	20.00	15.71			14.14	4.29	3.86	4.29	3.29	4.43	3.14	2.00	3.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	81.14
13	24-1897 D	Coeur d'Alene Park Play and Restroom Replacement	22.50	16.00			13.29	4.29	4.00	4.29	4.29	3.86	3.57	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	81.07

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
14	24-1940 D	Blacktop Estates Park Splash Pad	22.14	16.29			13.29	4.57	4.14	3.43	3.71	3.86	3.43	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.86
15	24-1782 D	Sprinker Artificial Sports Fields 2B	20.42	15.00			13.50	4.33	4.00	3.67	4.17	3.50	4.50	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	80.58
16	24-1786 D	Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park Phase Two	21.07	16.29			12.43	4.43	4.57	4.29	4.14	4.29	3.86	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	80.36
17	24-1532 D	Rainier Vista Park Improvements	20.00	16.57			12.43	4.29	3.71	3.57	3.71	3.57	4.43	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	80.29
18	24-1960 D	Doctor O.R. Nevitt Memorial Pool Renovation Phase One	20.36	16.29			12.43	3.71	3.86	3.86	4.57	4.00	4.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.07
19	24-1762 D	Southeast Redmond Park Playground and Court Development	21.07	16.86			13.71	4.29	4.00	4.57	3.00	4.00	3.29	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	79.79
20	24-1422 D	Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation	21.25	15.67			12.50	4.33	3.67	3.67	3.83	3.83	2.50	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	79.75

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
21	24-2030 D	Curran Orchard Park Improvements	19.29	16.29			13.71	3.57	4.00	4.00	4.29	4.00	4.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	79.14
22	24-1588 D	Hutchinson Park Renovation	20.00	15.43			12.43	4.57	4.86	4.29	4.14	3.71	3.43	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	78.86
23	24-1684 D	McMurphy Park Development Phase One	20.71	15.71			13.71	4.14	3.71	3.57	3.43	4.29	3.29	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.57
24	24-1746 D	Mill Hill Acquisition	18.93	15.71			12.43	4.43	4.29	3.71	3.71	4.14	3.14	2.00	2.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	78.5
24	24-1503 A	Veterans Memorial Park Revitalization	21.07	16.57	8.57	14.14			3.71	3.57	4.00		4.86	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.5
26	24-1459 D	Bush Park Playground Replacement	20.71	16.57			12.43	4.00	3.86	3.86	3.71	3.57	4.71	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	78.43
27	24-2012 D	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	19.64	16.86			13.71	4.29	4.57	3.71	4.29	3.86	4.71	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	78.14
28	24-1328 D	Edgewater Park Renovation Phase Two	20.36	17.14			13.29	4.29	4.00	4.29	4.00	3.86	3.43	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	77.64
29	24-1623 D	Riverside Park Legacy Play Area	19.29	16.57			11.57	4.29	3.71	4.00	3.71	3.43	3.43	2.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	77

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
30	24-1980 D	Eagle Ridge Park Development	19.17	17.00			12.00	4.00	4.00	4.33	4.33	4.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	76.83
31	24-1975 A	Purchasing Waterfront Park	18.57	16.86	7.71	14.57			2.86	3.29	4.29		3.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.64
32	24-2026 D	Inchelium Skatepark Development	18.57	14.29			12.00	3.71	3.86	4.57	4.29	3.71	4.43	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.43
33	24-2008 D	South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center Trail Loop	19.64	15.43			12.86	4.43	4.71	4.57	3.71	3.57	3.14	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	75.57
34	24-1831 D	Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark	19.64	16.57			13.29	4.29	4.14	4.14	4.00	3.43	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	75.5
35	24-1888 C	City Park Trail Phase One	18.21	14.57	4.14	4.43	3.86	3.86	3.14	3.43	3.86	4.00	4.43	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	74.43
36	24-1356 D	Towncenter Park Development	16.79	14.86			12.00	4.00	4.00	3.71	4.00	3.57	3.29	3.00	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	74.21
37	24-1842 D	Maiben Park Nature Play and Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	18.57	15.71			11.14	4.29	4.29	3.86	3.71	3.57	3.43	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	74.07

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
38	24-1592 D	Storybrook Park Phase One	19.29	15.43			11.14	4.14	3.71	3.86	3.71	3.57	3.14	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	74
38	24-1343 D	Upper Doctor Jose Rizal Park Renovation	18.21	15.14			10.71	4.14	4.57	3.57	3.14	4.14	2.86	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	74
40	24-1869 A	Martha Lake Park Expansion	20.36	15.43	6.00	12.43			4.00	3.71	3.14		2.71	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	73.79
41	24-1969 D	Longview Park Development Phase One	18.93	14.29			11.14	3.43	4.14	4.14	4.14	3.86	3.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	-1.00	73.57
42	24-1896 D	Peninsula Gardens Park Development	17.86	16.00			12.86	4.29	4.14	4.00	3.00	3.14	2.71	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	73.5
43	24-1864 D	Beerbower Park Renovation	20.00	15.71			12.00	3.71	3.57	3.29	4.14	3.00	3.43	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00	72.86
44	24-1800 D	Riverton Park Playground Renovation	18.57	14.57			10.71	3.86	3.43	3.71	3.29	3.43	3.14	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	72.71
45	24-1873 D	Sunset Park Pathway Renovation	17.50	14.86			11.57	3.43	3.43	3.43	3.71	3.43	3.14	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	72.5
46	24-1610 D	Golf Park Playground	19.29	15.14			11.14	3.43	4.43	3.86	4.14	3.14	2.71	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	71.79

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
47	24-1865 D	Pullman Veterans Memorial Park	15.71	13.14			13.71	4.57	3.14	3.71	4.57	4.14	4.43	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	71.64
48	24-1961 D	Miller Community Park	19.64	13.71			10.29	4.14	3.57	4.29	4.14	3.86	3.86	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	71.5
49	24-1971 D	Sun Terrace Park Development Phase One	18.57	14.00			11.14	3.71	4.14	4.14	3.57	3.86	3.57	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	-1.00	70.21
50	24-1386 D	Town of Wilbur Park Renovation	20.71	14.86			10.71	3.43	3.57	3.86	3.57	3.29	4.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70
51	24-1613 D	Orchards Community Park Renovation	16.07	14.86			12.43	4.14	3.43	2.86	3.43	3.57	2.86	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	69.64
52	24-1995 D	Chewelah Adventure Park	16.79	14.57			10.71	3.14	4.43	4.29	3.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.93
53	24-1443 D	Port Orchard Waterfront Park Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements	15.36	14.29			10.71	3.14	2.57	3.14	2.71	3.43	2.29	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	67.64

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
54	24-1881 D	Lauzier Park Playground, Plaza and Walking Paths	16.79	13.43			12.00	3.86	4.43	3.29	2.29	3.14	2.86	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	67.57
55	24-1982 D	Friends Landing Expansion and Accessibility	17.86	14.86			11.14	3.86	2.86	3.29	3.00	3.14	2.86	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.86
56	24-1974 D	Abrams Park Renovation Phase One	19.64	14.29			12.00	3.43	2.86	3.14	2.71	3.71	2.71	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	66.5
57	24-1950 D	North Summit Park Development	18.93	14.29			10.71	3.00	2.57	2.43	3.71	2.86	3.14	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00	65.64
58	24-1947 D	Boyse Park Development Phase One	19.29	14.00			11.14	3.86	3.29	3.00	1.86	3.71	2.43	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	64.57
59	24-2017 D	Luther Burbank Park Access Improvements	16.07	12.29			11.57	3.57	3.86	3.29	2.57	4.14	2.43	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	63.79
60	24-1965 D	Veterans Park Renovation	17.14	13.71			11.14	3.14	3.14	2.57	2.00	2.57	2.57	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	63.5
61	24-1695 D	Hancock Park	17.14	13.71			9.86	2.86	3.86	3.14	2.43	2.71	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	63.21

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Cost Efficiencies	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Proximity to people	16. County Population Density	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
62	24-1664 D	Windjammer Park Baseball Field Upgrade Phase Two	15.71	12.57			9.43	2.86	3.14	3.00	3.43	3.71	4.29	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	63.14
63	24-2033 D	Marvista Playground Renovation Safety Improvements	17.14	13.43			9.43	3.14	3.57	3.29	3.57	2.86	2.43	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	61.86
64	24-1770 A	Illahee Preserve Watershed Park Phase One	15.71	12.00	6.00	12.00			1.71	1.71	3.00		2.43	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	57.07

Local Parks Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Skagit County

Grant Request: \$1,000,000

Expanding Big Rock Park

The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Association will use this grant to buy nearly eight-two acres to expand and reopen Big Rock Park. A county landmark located above the beautiful Nookachamps Valley, on the edge of Mount Vernon, Big Rock has been closed to the public because it was surrounded by privately owned land. The County will expand the thirteen-acre park to one hundred acres and create a trailhead and trail system. The Skagit Land Trust bought sixty-three acres and has placed them in holding until the County can buy them. The land was known as Yudwasta to the ancestors of the Coast Salish people, in particular, the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, and is the location of the legend of Star Child, a story that has been passed on through generations. In addition, local landowners have committed twenty-two acres to the project, conditioned on the County's success. The land includes Gribble Creek, a stream that hosts an array of wildlife. Game cameras have photographs of heron, deer, coyotes, river otter, bobcat, and other wildlife on the land. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1350)

Longview

Grant Request: \$500,000

Building an Inclusive Playground in Cloney Park

The City of Longview will use this grant to build a fully inclusive playground at Cloney Park. The nature-based design draws from local heritage and incorporates traditional Cowlitz Indian Tribe and lumber industry elements into the play features. The new play area will include smooth surfacing, wide pathways, diverse sensory experiences, and endless imaginative possibilities. The play equipment will offer wheeled access in, on, around, below, or through. Support elements such as parking, restrooms, utilities, and landscaping also will be included. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1954)

Spokane Valley

Grant Request: \$500,000

Continuing Development of Balfour Park

The City of Spokane Valley will use this grant to continue development of the six-acre Balfour Park by building a playground and spray park in the most underserved area of the community. In the first phase of development, the City added pathways, lighting, parking, public artwork, a soccer mini pitch, a Veterans Memorial and event plaza, a central plaza, and a multi-purpose building with restrooms and a police field office. This

second phase will add the playground and spray park, and a third phase will include adding basketball and pickleball courts, a large picnic shelter, more artwork, and an outdoor amphitheater with covered stage. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1985)

Kent
Buying Park Land

Grant Request: \$939,600

The City of Kent will use this grant to buy 1.3 acres from Union Pacific Railroad. The City has been leasing the land for many years and built a small skate park there. The remainder of the land is open space. The city has had a long-term goal to buy the land for future active use development. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1776)

Sequim
Building an Inclusive Playground at Margaret Kirner Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Sequim will use this grant to design and build an inclusive playground at Margaret Kirner Park. The playground will feature new play equipment including inclusive swings, a spinner, a net climber, and an interactive sound wall. The City will improve the park in other ways by building a paved walking loop, adding parking for people with disabilities, building a sidewalk along the parking area, upgrading a restroom, and installing an entry gate, picnic tables, and benches. By providing a universally accessible playground, the city hopes to create a space where youth of varying abilities and their caregivers can come together, play, and forge lasting connections. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1479)

Spokane
Beginning Development of Meadowglen Neighborhood Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to begin developing a neighborhood park on city land in the North Indian Trail neighborhood in northwest Spokane. The new park will be within walking distance of 650 homes, with nearly half the occupants under twenty years old or sixty-five and older. This project has been a primary desire of the neighborhood for more than thirty years. Park plans include a playground, restroom, parking lot, trailhead, pickleball courts, paved pathways and nature trails, and a lawn. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1932)

Chelan County
Expanding Malaga Waterfront Park

Grant Request: \$617,085

The Chelan County Natural Resource Department will use this grant to acquire 4.5 acres on the waterfront to expand Malaga Waterfront Park to more than 20 acres, including a half-mile of Columbia River shoreline. The land will provide access to the shoreline, trails, and areas for active play, field sports, and wildlife viewing. Future park amenities will include motorized and non-motorized river access, accessible trails with interpretive signs, scenic vistas with benches, sport facilities, and family amenities such as picnic shelters and playgrounds. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1949)

Seattle
Developing a Park in Lake City

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop a loop pathway around a floodplain and Thornton Creek in Lake City Floodplain Park. Lake City is a racially diverse, underserved neighborhood in Seattle that has experienced inequitable and limited investment in parks, open space, trails, and recreation. The city will build a combination of gravel and concrete pathways, boardwalks, and bridges. As visitors meander through the park, there will be various viewpoints and seating areas for picnicking and socializing. In 2018, land along Thornton Creek, Seattle's largest watershed, was listed for sale. The community recognized it as an opportunity to create more green space in Lake City and to restore and protect the creek. When the site was purchased, there were two houses and hardscapes that have been removed and the area is ready for park development. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1590)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Buying Land to Expand Swan Creek Park

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to buy 8.6 acres to expand the 373-acre Swan Creek Park, an urban park and wildlife area southeast of Interstate 5 in Tacoma's east side. The purchase fills a gap along the western border of the park. Most of the land is undeveloped with mature trees, a wooded canyon, and a salmon-bearing creek. The land is home to protected species including several forest-dependent birds and salmon. Acquiring this land will allow the park district to preserve tree canopy and wildlife habitat, protect the headwaters of the stream from the impacts of future development, and extend the trail system through nearly the length of the park with access to the Pipeline Trail at South 60th Street. In this historically underserved community, the purchase also will expand opportunities for youth and community

members to experience the forest. The park is popular for bird watching, hiking, walking, picnicking, wildlife education programs, and Tacoma's first trail system for mountain bikes. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1710)

Kent
Renovating Uplands Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Kent will use this grant to renovate Uplands Park in its downtown. The City will install its first spray park, add a restroom, children's play area, entry plaza, picnic shelter, shade structure, lighting, pathways, connections to the adjacent regional trail, site furnishings, utilities, and irrigation and landscaping. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1703)

Aberdeen
Converting Pioneer Park Field 3 to Artificial Turf

Grant Request: \$450,000

The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to convert a softball infield from dirt to synthetic turf in Pioneer Park. Grays Harbor is one of the wettest counties in the state and the synthetic infield will improve reliability at one of the park's most diverse fields. The City will remove the infield; install a new foundation; repair the irrigation system, electrical, water, and sewer infrastructure; install new drainage; and lay artificial turf. The park is used by Little League teams, Aberdeen High School, and Grays Harbor College. The turf infield will allow local teams to play in town instead of traveling to play on other synthetic turf fields. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1711)

Fife
Building an Inclusive Playground in Colburn Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Fife will use this grant to transform a maintenance yard in Colburn Park. The City will add a playground with specialized play equipment to accommodate children with physical disabilities, creating a first of its kind inclusive playground in Fife. In addition, the City will add covered picnic areas, more parking, and plant native plants and add other landscaping. The work will revitalize the park, doubling its overall footprint and transforming it into a vibrant and inclusive community park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1329)

Spokane **Grant Request: \$480,000**
Replacing the Coeur d'Alene Park Playground and Restroom

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to design and replace the playground and restroom in the city's oldest park, Coeur d Alene Park. The park is in the Brownes Addition neighborhood, a relatively low-earning and socially vulnerable neighborhood where about 86 percent of the houses are rented. Most residents rely on the park for outdoor exercise. The historic restroom is often vandalized and closed. The City also will pave pathways to the renovated park facilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1897)

Benton City **Grant Request: \$500,000**
Installing a Splash Pad

Benton City will use this grant to build a splash pad to provide a fun, safe, and accessible water play area for children and their families. The splash pad will feature a water loop, dumping buckets, mini mushrooms, rain blasters, a water rain tunnel, and ground sprayers. Located in a sunny, semi-arid climate, Benton City has no parks or recreational facilities with water play and no dedicated recreational facilities for kids kindergarten age and younger despite the fact that preschoolers comprise the largest age bracket (15.9 percent) in the area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1940)

Pierce County **Grant Request: \$500,000**
Improving Sprinkler Sports Fields

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to develop two synthetic turf ball fields for youth competition in the Sprinkler Recreation Center. The County also will add one multipurpose field overlay across the outfields, as well as dugouts, field netting, and scoreboards on each field. These improvements will broaden the complex's use year-round for multiple groups and sports. The current grass fields are in poor condition, are improper dimensions for sport fields for older ages, and are unable to handle the increased year-round demand. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1782)

Vancouver **Grant Request: \$500,000**
Continuing Development of Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park

The Vancouver Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department will use this grant to continue developing Raymone E. Shaffer Community Park, a ten-acre wooded oasis in the heart of a densely developed area of north Vancouver. Park improvements will include an inclusive playground, walking paths laced throughout a perimeter ring of

mature evergreen trees, a restroom, a picnic shelter, a central lawn area, landscaping, meadow mounds, benches, tables, and a parking area. The park will serve an estimated 22,000 residents who have no developed public park for outdoor recreation or community events nearby. The park is used extensively as a green space for walking and circulation in the neighborhood and to an elementary school. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#).
(24-1786)

Lacey
Improving Rainier Vista Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Lacey will use this grant to add four pickleball courts, two outdoor ping-pong tables, and safety netting on a softball field in Rainier Vista Park. The City also will remove and rebuild a section of a walking path. The popularity of pickleball has generated requests for more courts. Currently the park has only four pickleball courts, creating lengthy wait times. Rainier Vista Park is in high-risk areas for social vulnerability and poor health outcomes based on the Washington State Department of Health's Washington Tracking Network Map. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1532)

Raymond
Renovating the Dr. O.R. Nevitt Memorial Pool Renovation

Grant Request: \$391,500

The City of Raymond will use this grant to renovate the Dr. O.R. Nevitt Memorial Swimming Pool in rural Pacific County. The City will install a pool liner with lane lines and a kiddie slide. The pool facility was built in 1955 and renovated in 2002. The goal is to renovate and update all aspects of the pool to meet current codes and operate more efficiently. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1960)

Redmond
Building Southeast Redmond Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Redmond will use this grant to develop the 3.2-acre Southeast Redmond Park. The work will transform a vacant field into a community park. The City will install playgrounds, a sports court and basketball court, pollinator and rain gardens, walking paths, seating, and a picnic shelter and tables. The play structures will be for children aged two to twelve. They will include a natural play element, swings, and an accessible surface. The City also will create sunset hill, a graded hill with walking paths and seating for community gatherings and sunset viewing. The overall goal is to transform the vacant, grassy field into a neighborhood hub for gatherings, activities, and play. Visit

RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#)
(24-1762)

Othello
Renovating Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Othello will use this grant to create an accessible outdoor play area at Kiwanis Park and increase parking. The City will remove the 1980s equipment and replace it with a larger, universally accessible playground structure and then lay rubber surfacing for improved safety and access. In addition, the City will expand the parking lot and bring disabled parking up to code. The park is challenged with limited parking and the playground equipment is outdated and doesn't meet modern safety regulations or accessibility standards. The playground will serve children, up to fourteen years old, who are 33 percent of the population. Many are underserved and disadvantaged with 27 percent living in poverty and 75 percent of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1422)

University Place
Improving Curran Orchard Park

Grant Request: \$494,250

The City of University Place will use this grant to improve Curran Apple Orchard, a unique park in a seventy-year-old historic apple orchard with more than two hundred apple trees. The City will build an apple-themed playground with a seating wall for parents, a restroom, five on-street parking spaces, and a gateway sign. The City also will build a concrete path that winds through the trees and connects the parking to the other park features. This path will be imprinted with orchard-themed images to create a scavenger hunt for kids travelling the path and interpretive signs will be placed along the walkway. The City will enhance a wetland by removing invasive species and replanting with native wetland plants. The park has no permanent restrooms, a meager play area consisting of a small gravel area with two artificial rocks, and no wheelchair-accessible walkways. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-2030)

Seattle
Renovating Hutchinson Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate Hutchinson Park. The city will completely renovate the playground for ages two and up, and add accessible pathways, an entrance, picnic shelters, and lighting. The Friends of Hutchinson Playground have advocated for park renovations for many years and, after a shooting in the park in 2020, formed a friends group for the entire park. Since then, the

group has collected surveys, organized the community, and met with city staff about the desired improvements. The two goals of this project are to rebuild the park so that is welcoming and supports the outdoor recreation needs of the community and reduce crime in and around the park by activating it. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1588)

Vader

Grant Request: \$443,045

Developing McMurphy Park

The City of Vader will use this grant to develop McMurphy Park. The park is thirteen acres of fields, a gravel loop road, and three portable toilets. The City will add utility infrastructure, such as water and a septic system, a restroom building with four shower stalls, and gravel parking lots. Additionally, the City will build five, pull-through sites for recreational vehicles, one with full hookups for the camp host and four with water and electric service. Future phases will include a covered event shelter, a small playground, enhanced parking, and an amphitheater. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1684)

Twisp

Grant Request: \$552,600

Buying Mill Hill

The Town of Twisp will use this grant to buy 144 acres, known as Mill Hill, next to the east side of town, as a park for low-impact uses. Mill Hill is a critical landmark in Twisp and a geographical focal point in the Methow Valley, rising directly above a major bend in the Methow River and the confluence of the Twisp and Methow Rivers. The only large open space with direct pedestrian access from town, the land provides spectacular views of the Methow Valley and the north Cascade Mountains. The Town will create a management plan for the land, repair cattle fencing, repair and improve trails, and better define permanent non-motorized access to the site. The Town will keep the land in a relatively natural state to preserve the views and the shrub-steppe and wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1503)

Mountlake Terrace

Grant Request: \$500,000

Rejuvenating Veterans Memorial Park

The City of Mountlake Terrace will use this grant to rejuvenate the upper plateau of Veterans Memorial Park. The City will renovate a playground, a picnic shelter, a loop trail, and the veterans memorial. The City also will install a restroom. The park was acquired in 1960 as a play area and wildlife preserve and is in the heart of the redeveloping Town Center, next to the new Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Light Rail Station. The dense forest and diverse woodland of this park, with more than one

thousand trees, make it an important place to balance access to nature, park amenities, and preserving wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1746)

Lacey

Grant Request: \$220,710

Replacing the Playground in William A. Bush Park

The City of Lacey will use this grant to replace the main playground in William A. Bush Park. The City will replace the 2,600-square-foot playground for children ages five to twelve and add playground flooring. Installed in 1995, this playground is the oldest in the City's parks. Replacing the playground will rejuvenate the park with modern, engaging features that better align with current play trends and preferences and are safer, more inclusive, and more accessible. Bush Park is in the Rainier Vista Planning Area, a three-square-mile area with the highest population density in Lacey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1459)

Walla Walla

Grant Request: \$500,000

Building an Inclusive Playground in Pioneer Park

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to build an all-inclusive playground at Pioneer Park. The current playground is outdated and not accessible for people with disabilities. Pioneer Park is the crown jewel of Walla Walla's park system and is heavily used by people from around the region. The playground will feature many natural elements and features that will assure its long-term sustainability. The City also will build paths and a picnic shelter. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2012)

Everett

Grant Request: \$500,000

Renovating Edgewater Park

Everett Parks and Community Services will use this grant to renovate Edgewater Park. The City will renovate playground equipment and an informal basketball court, add a walking path around the park, plant trees and enhance the landscaping, improve parking, and install signs, fencing, picnic tables, and a drinking fountain. The City also will regrade and renovate the open play lawn. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1328)

Cowlitz County

Grant Request: \$500,000

Developing Riverside Park's Legacy Play Area

The Cowlitz County Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to develop a play area at Kelso's Riverside Park. The play area will have a new playground with sensory-

stimulating stations, an asphalt pump track, and wheelchair-accessible paths from the parking lot. The playground area will have equipment that is meant to help social interaction and stimulate all the senses. The pump tracks will include a separate track for kids and beginners as they start to build their skill levels to work towards the more advanced track. Pump tracks can be used by any wheeled device such as mountain bikes, BMX bikes, strider bikes, skateboards, skates, scooters, and wheelchairs. This will be the largest funding the park has seen since its inception in the 1970s. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1623)

**Lake Stevens
Developing Part of Eagle Ridge Park**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Lake Stevens will use this grant to develop a portion of the 27.9-acre Eagle Ridge Park, two miles from downtown. The City will install an amphitheater and outdoor classroom, a nature-themed playground, restrooms, parking, walkways, lighting, landscaping, and interpretive learning. The City will preserve wetland that supports eagle breeding nests. The park is home to protected areas including eagle habitats, areas along waterways, mature forests, and wetlands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1980)

**Medical Lake
Buying Waterfront Park**

Grant Request: \$823,971

The City of Medical Lake will use this grant to buy the 57.4-acre Waterfront Park. The City has leased the park from the State and maintained it for the past fifty-seven years. The lease expired in 2022 but was extended until 2024 to give the City time to buy it. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1975)

**Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Building the Inchelium Skatepark**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Colville Tribes will use this grant to build a skatepark in Inchelium. This development will be of a professionally designed and built public concrete skate park to enhance recreation opportunities in a small town with few other youth-focused outdoor recreation options. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2026)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District **Grant Request: \$462,072**
Building a Trail Around the South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to build a one-third mile walking trail through woods and open lawn around the soon-to-be public aquatic recreation center. This trail will provide a safe venue for night walking and links between two larger trail systems, one in South Whidbey Community Park and one in the adjacent Maxwellton Trails Park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-2008)

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
Building Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark **Grant Request: \$500,000**

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District will use this grant to build a skatepark in Strawberry Hill Park. The skatepark will connect to the twenty-year-old Rotary Skate Bowl, which is renowned for advanced "transition-style" skating. The seventeen thousand square feet of new skating surface is designed to serve diverse styles and skill levels, including scooter and roller or inline skating. The design for "street skating" responds to the community need for a more inclusive, urban-style skating environment. The expanded skatepark will anchor the central play area and tie the skating facilities to the adjacent picnic shelter, restrooms, mini-gym, and community center. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1831)

Tenino **Grant Request: \$500,000**
Developing Trails in City Park

The City of Tenino will use this grant to develop a trail for hiking, biking, and horseback riding in Tenino City Park. The loop trail will be in the sixty-acre woodlands recently bought from the Norseman Timber Company. Despite the rural nature of south Thurston County, there are few public spaces for hiking. The City also will improve parking to be more efficient and to accommodate equestrian use, renovate the old restrooms at the East End Trailhead, and install trail maps and wayfinding signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1888)

Washougal **Grant Request: \$500,000**
Continuing Development of Towncenter Park

The City of Washougal will use this grant to continue developing Towncenter Park by adding a playground, splash pad, and a plaza with shade structures and seating areas. The park is in the heart of the Washougal's downtown, and it's the City's plan to

renovate this underused land and improve access to recreation, outdoor activities, and have a space to host city-sponsored events. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1356)

Burlington

Grant Request: \$500,000

Improving Maiben Park Nature Playground

The City of Burlington will use this grant to renovate an old playground and develop accessible and inclusive natural play spaces next to an urban forest in Maiben Park. Play experiences will be designed for children two to five and five to twelve years old, and will focus on inviting children to experience nature. Maiben Park sits as one anchor of the city's Civic Corridor along Washington Avenue with the library serving as the other anchor. In between the park and library, an administration building is slated to be converted to a community center. The City also will renovate a parking stall to provide handicap-accessible parking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1842)

Bellingham

Grant Request: \$500,000

Developing Storybrook Park

The Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop just under 1 acre of the 5.8-acre Storybrook Park in the Birchwood Neighborhood. The City will build a nature-inspired playground, add a wheelchair-accessible trail and make an existing trail accessible, improve lines of sight by clearing areas of the park, add park lights, remove weeds, and plant more than seven hundred trees and shrubs. In addition, the City will install picnic tables, benches, signs, utilities, and barriers to protect the wetlands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1343)

Seattle

Grant Request: \$500,000

Renovating Dr. Jose Rizal Park

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the upper part of Dr. Jose Rizal Park, on the west side of Beacon Hill. Key elements include a renovated amphitheater, a new play area, a new picnic area, renovated restrooms, a lookout, and signs. The renovation will align with the opening of 270 affordable multifamily housing units under construction across the street. The City hopes these enhancements will transform the park into a safe and accessible destination for recreation and green space access, while addressing the need for crime prevention and providing magnificent views. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1592)

Snohomish County
Expanding Martha Lake Park

Grant Request: \$681,175

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism will use this grant to buy just under one acre to expand Martha Lake Park. This six-acre community park in Lynnwood provides the only public access to the lake, and offers trails, play areas, a swimming area and beach, and docks. This is a rare opportunity to add open space and recreation in an increasingly dense urban area that needs more recreation amenities. The expansion also will allow for crucial safety improvements, including vacating the right of way between the park and the acquired property and adding park gates for vehicles. The County will remove a coffee stand and add overflow parking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1869)

Moses Lake
Beginning Development of Longview Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to begin developing 5.6 acres in a residential development as Longview Park. The low-income neighborhood has very little open space, few yards, and no parks within a half-mile walk. The City will prepare the site by clearing and grading the area and landscaping. Then it will build a preschool-age playground, add picnic tables and a bike rack, and create an open lawn area. Future phases will see the addition of a futsal court, a basketball court, a pump track, a large picnic shelter, a skate dot, an artificial turf climbing mound, connecting pathways, interpretive signs, and a bathroom. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1969)

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Developing Peninsula Gardens Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to redevelop a 10.6-acre former plant nursery as the new community Peninsula Gardens Park. While master plan development is underway, the park district expects the park to include two playgrounds (for the children two to twelve years old), pickleball courts, other sport courts, a picnic lawn and shelters, a dog park and/or community garden area, restrooms, and trails. The Wollochet Drive Park includes 2.8 acres of forest, which will be preserved and developed with walking trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1896)

**McCleary
Improving Beerbower Park****Grant Request: \$500,000**

The City of McCleary will use this grant to renovate and further develop Beerbower Park, which is in the center of the downtown district, across from City Hall. The City will replace unsafe playground equipment and expand the playground by twenty feet, adding a rubber tile surface. Other upgrades include restroom plumbing, accessibility improvements, and an electronic sign at the park entrance. Additionally, the City will replace posts and nets for three pickleball courts and a basketball court, add more seating by installing benches and picnic tables, place planters around the park and the pavilion, and replace the drinking fountain with one that includes a bottle fill station. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1864)

**Tukwila
Renovating the Riverton Park Playground****Grant Request: \$500,000**

Tukwila Parks and Recreation will use this grant to renovate the Riverton Park playground. The City will remove old, deteriorated playground equipment and unsafe surfaces and install play equipment designed for different age groups. The City will create dedicated areas for tactile and auditory exploration, install a picnic shelter, and upgrade the walkways. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1800)

**Airway Heights
Renovating Sunset's Park Pathways****Grant Request: \$329,787**

The City of Airway Heights will use this grant to renovate deteriorated pathways at Sunset Park and add electrical panels for community events. Sunset Park sits in the heart of the community and is the city's most-used park. The park's paths are in very poor condition with many sections cracked by tree roots, creating trip hazards. The City hosts its Movie in the Park series and Airway Heights Days event in the park and must rely on generators to supply power. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1873)

**Port Townsend
Building a Golf Park Playground****Grant Request: \$350,000**

The City of Port Townsend will use this grant to build a playground at a golf course that will be inclusive for children with disabilities. The playground will accommodate multiple ages and have a swing set, climber, covered picnic area, and rubber tile flooring. The

playground will be next to the parking lot and near restrooms. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1610)

Pullman

Grant Request: \$500,000

Beginning Development of Veterans Memorial Park

The City of Pullman will use this grant to begin developing Veterans Memorial Park on 2.8 acres next to the City Cemetery. The City aims to create a solemn yet vibrant outdoor space to pay tribute to those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The project's design will give veterans and their loved ones a place of peace to reflect and observe, and a place of historical education about U.S. military service. The City will build a walkway lined with donor pavers from an entry arbor, past a sculpture, through a rows of trees in alternating colors that form the likeness of an American flag from above, to end at a plaza with monuments, built-in lectern, flags, and room for two hundred seats. Basalt columns inscribed with veteran names will form a memorial wall at the plaza. The park will have walking paths and reflective spaces for contemplation, educational exhibits, and space for patriotic celebrations and observances. The City also will restore the Palouse native prairie. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1865)

Buckley

Grant Request: \$500,000

Building Miller Community Park

The City of Buckley will use this grant to transform the Miller property into a 3.5-acre centralized community park. The park will feature paved paths, a playground, picnic shelters, and landscaped open green areas with views of Mount Rainier. Both passive and active outdoor recreational activities will be emphasized in the park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1961)

Moses Lake

Grant Request: \$500,000

Beginning Development of Sun Terrace Park

The Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to begin developing 11.4 acres in a residential development as Sun Terrace Park. The neighborhood has no parks within a half-mile walk. The City will prepare the site by clearing and grading the area. Then it will build a preschool-age playground, add picnic tables, and create an open lawn area. Future phases will see the addition of a futsal court, a pickleball court, a pump track, a picnic shelter, connecting pathways, interpretive signs, and a bathroom. The design preserves the shrub-steppe habitat and wetland in their natural forms. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1971)

**Wilbur
Renovating Wilbur Park****Grant Request: \$179,246**

The Town of Wilbur will use this grant to renovate its park. The wood playground equipment is splintering with missing and loose bolts that cannot be repaired. The Town has closed use of the equipment. The only other small playground is at the school and has limited access. The Town will install equipment that can be used by all age groups, add a basketball court and covered picnic area, and replace a small wooden foot bridge for safety and aesthetics. The Town does not have a proper outdoor space for community gatherings. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1386)

**Clark County
Renovating the Orchards Community Park****Grant Request: \$500,000**

The Clark County Department of Public Works will use this grant to renovate Orchard's Community Park, a thirty-three-acre urban park with a mixed forest and open lawn area in Vancouver. The County will replace and expand play areas, create a water spray play area, expand the parking lot, improve accessibility of pathways and connections to neighborhoods, and add a restroom and picnic shelter. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1613)

**Chewelah
Building the Chewelah Adventure Park****Grant Request: \$500,000**

The City of Chewelah will use this grant to build the Chewelah Adventure Park, which will include amenities for skateboarding, a climbing wall, and a multisport court. The park will replace the closed skateboard park that was made up of mostly homemade ramps on a cement slab. The plywood ramps deteriorated and were removed for safety in 2022. Chewelah has experienced other recreation loss with the demolition of the municipal swimming pool in 2018. The Chewelah Adventure Park will provide an inclusive outdoor recreational facility with multiple recreation opportunities for a variety of ages, interests, and abilities. A portion of the site is proposed to be covered for year-round use. All surfaces and furniture will be accessible to people with disabilities. Interactive play elements focused on music and sensory experiences are planned to provide engaging and stimulating play. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1995)

Port of Bremerton
Renovating Port Orchard Waterfront Park

Grant Request: \$86,000

The Port of Bremerton will use this grant to improve the accessibility and safety of the playground by adding play elements and a rubberized play surface, restrooms, and wildlife observation area in Waterfront Park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1443)

Quincy
Beginning Development of Lauzier Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Quincy will use this grant to develop a new addition to Lauzier Park by building a playground, restroom, and central plaza. The playground will be near a parking lot, walking paths, and a large open plaza for families, local competing teams, or just the community to come and enjoy the park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1881)

Port of Grays Harbor
Renovating Friends Landing Picnic and Playground

Grant Request: \$200,000

The Port of Grays Harbor will use this grant to renovate Friends Landing, a 152-acre waterfront park outside Montesano along the Chehalis River. Originally developed more than thirty years ago, the park needs renovation. The Port will renovate the day-use areas including the picnic shelter and playground to provide better accessible routes between the two amenities. The Port also will add seating around the playground, expand the picnic shelter area with a concrete plaza, designate parking, and install lighting and landscaping. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1982)

Ridgefield
Beginning Renovation of Abrams Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Ridgefield will use this grant to begin renovating the forty-acre Abrams Park in downtown Ridgefield. The City will resurface trails, improve signs and educational elements, replace the playground base, get new picnic shelters, and add a play area for small children that is accessible to those with disabilities. These changes will allow the community to have better access to Gee Creak and the city's trail system, have more places for social interactions and creating memories, and ensure that the playgrounds are available to children of all abilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1974)

McCleary
Developing North Summit Park

Grant Request: \$408,096

The City of McCleary will use this grant to build a playground at North Summit Park, which is within walking distance of two new housing developments. The park will include shade structures, a restroom, and picnic tables. The City also will add sidewalks to access the park, offering a safe route to a playground. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1950)

Ridgefield
Developing Boyse Park's Pump Track

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Ridgefield will use this grant to begin developing Boyse Park, nearly nine acres along a tributary of Gee Creek. The City will build a pump track for biking, develop an entrance and parking lot, install irrigation, and improve landscaping. When fully developed, the park will include picnic areas, a jump track, a restroom, and a trail that connects to regional trails. Pump tracks allow cyclists to develop mountain biking skills in a setting that is safer for beginners than the natural environment. This will be the first pump track in Ridgefield, providing an important new outdoor recreational asset for the community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1947)

Mercer Island
Improving Luther Burbank Park Access

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to upgrade the central campus of Luther Burbank Park to provide visitors safer access to the park year-round. The City will install lights and wheelchair-accessible pathways to get from the main parking lot to the rest of the park, increase parking, provide a biofiltration swale to reduce pollutants in surface water, and add a kiosk and signs. The main parking lot is not lit and visitors regularly have their cars broken into or vandalized. The City will add lighting to eight pickleball courts, expanding their usability further into the evening. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2017)

College Place
Renovating Veterans Park

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of College Place will use this grant to build a pickleball court and military-themed playground in Veterans Park. The park is less than two acres and serves three hundred homes in the Homestead community, a neighborhood disconnected from the rest of the city with starter homes for young families. In future phases, the City will add basketball courts, pathways, an open lawn, landscaping, benches, and picnic tables. Visit

RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1965)

Port Townsend**Grant Request: \$450,000****Building Hancock Park**

The City of Port Townsend will use this grant to build a park on the west side of Sheridan, an area that lacks parks. The park will have trails, benches, a small picnic shelter, and a nature play area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1695)

Oak Harbor**Grant Request: \$300,000****Creating a Premier Baseball Facility at Windjammer Park**

The City of Oak Harbor will use this grant to design and create a regional baseball facility at Windjammer Park. The next closest baseball complex is in Anacortes, twenty-one miles away. The City will add dugouts, fencing, bullpens, warning tracks, backstops, and bleachers. Drainage and lighting will be added to extend the playing window into the evening and fall season. With these upgrades, additional youth will be served and attracted to the fields through larger regional tournaments. This project will take the ball fields to the next level and create a premier regional baseball facility. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1664)

Normandy Park**Grant Request: \$365,500****Renovating Marvista Playground for Safety**

The City of Normandy Park will use this grant to replace the playground, play equipment, and worn-out rubber tile surface at Marvista Park. The work will create a safer and more inclusive park space. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2033)

Kitsap County**Grant Request: \$675,000****Buying Land for Illahee Preserve Heritage Park**

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy nearly ten acres next to Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. The purchase will support further preservation of the watershed and provide an educational and passive recreation touchpoint within the larger park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1770)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation
Account: State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Twelve project proposals in the State Lands Development and Renovation Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, the technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-15

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Lands Development and Renovation Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for projects that involve development and renovation of public access facilities on existing state recreation lands. Typical facilities include campsites, fishing piers, interpretive trails, boating access, picnic sites, and wildlife viewing blinds.

The State Lands Development and Renovation category receives 10 percent or \$3 million (whichever is less) of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Program Summary

There were no changes to the State Lands Development and Renovation Category this year. A summary of the category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Natural Resources • Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Type	Development and renovation
Funding Limits	Minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$325,000 per project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Multi-site projects are allowed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elements must be the same at each site (fishing docks, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk) ○ Sites limited to no more than two adjacent counties ○ Elements must meet capital project criteria ○ No more than \$100,000 per site, and ○ No more than five sites per project. • Trail related projects must meet the criteria for the WWRP Trails Category.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twelve State Lands Development and Renovation Category projects, requesting approximately \$3.8 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP State Lands Development Advisory Committee between August 1-30, 2024, through a written evaluation process. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to outdoor recreation. The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Kurt Danison, Okanogan
- Carol Hawkins, Medical Lake

- Erin Komo, Mill Creek
- Zack Pratt, Auburn
- Mary Kay Voytilla, Seattle
- Judy Turner, Seattle

Local Agency Members

- Michael Aronowitz, Seattle City Light
- Dave Erickson, City of Wenatchee
- Angie Feser, City of Edmonds

State Agency Member

- Alexandra Sullivan, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), the team of ten evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A, *WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff offered two separate training opportunities, May 1 and May 7, 2024, for advisory committee members on how to use the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module and RCO's new conflict of interest policy. Staff provided a recording of this training to advisory committee members who missed the meeting or needed a refresher. Also, RCO staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the committee on August 1, 2024, where staff provided an overview of the program and evaluation criteria.

Advisory committee members participated in a post-evaluation meeting on September 5, 2024. The committee debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the process works, was organized, and efficient. They received the materials needed, felt using the online tools made the job easier, and were satisfied with the resulting ranked list.

The advisory committee discussed the differences between projects in rural areas compared to those in urban areas of Washington, given that urban projects tend to score higher. One committee member believes the key factors are higher scores on the *Public Need, Public Benefit and Project Support*, and *Population Proximity* criterion and whether the project is in or near an urban area, which makes it easier to score higher in these three criteria. The advisors did not recommend specific changes to these three

evaluation criteria but rather a look to see if tweaking is needed to make them more equitable.

Another discussion among advisors was the lack of data provided by applicants to substantiate claims that projects will support unserved or under-served user groups and communities. This lack of data made it difficult for evaluators to give some projects additional points in the *Public Need* criteria, which has a large point spread of zero-twenty points. Advisors agreed that this does not necessitate changes to the criteria, just that applicants can do a better job of providing data to back up these claims.

Sustainability criteria was also discussed as advisors found it challenging to evaluate the importance of renovating existing facilities along with the development of new projects.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the *WWRP State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-15.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion

of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-15, including *State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects
- C. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. State Lands Development and Renovation Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-15
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS twelve State Lands Development and Renovation Category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS all projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program-Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in *State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1: State Lands Development and Renovation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-15

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	55.50	24-1773 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Mount Si Trailhead Renovation	\$325,000	\$485,000	\$810,000
2	52.90	24-1344 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Teneriffe Civilian Conservation Corps Connector Trail Development	\$325,000	\$255,000	\$580,000
3	52.60	24-1938 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Big Valley Parking and Trailhead Improvements	\$325,000		\$325,000
4	50.90	24-1754 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Buena Pond Water Access Site Redevelopment	\$325,000		\$325,000
5	50.80	24-2021 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Oak Creek Elk Viewing Infrastructure	\$325,000		\$325,000
6	50.40	24-1948 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Methow Wildlife Area Campground Improvements	\$325,000		\$325,000
7	48.70	24-1939 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Silver Nail Lake Access Improvement	\$325,000		\$325,000
8	48.10	24-1637 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Merrill Lake Natural Resource Conservation Area Renovation	\$315,000	\$225,000	\$540,000
9	45.80	24-1377 D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Pelican Beach Renovation and Development	\$321,700	\$32,000	\$353,700
10	45.20	24-1998 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	White Bridge Boat Ramp Redevelopment	\$325,000		\$325,000
11	44.90	24-1968 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Loomis Lake Accessibility Redevelopment	\$325,000		\$325,000
12	44.20	24-1899 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wooten Wildlife Area Rainbow Lake Pier	\$325,000		\$325,000
Total					\$3,886,700	\$997,000	\$4,883,700

¹Project type: D=development
RCFB October 2024

State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects



State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands.²

State Lands Development and Renovation Criteria Summary					
Scored by	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	Development and Renovation	20	State
Advisory Committee	2	Site Suitability and Design	Development and Renovation	15	Technical
Advisory Committee	3	Sustainability	Development and Renovation	5	State
Advisory Committee	4	Diversity and Compatibility	Development and Renovation	10	State
Advisory Committee	5	Performance Measure	Development and Renovation	5	State
Advisory Committee	6	Public Benefit and Project Support	Development and Renovation	5	State
RCO Staff	7	Population Proximity	Development and Renovation	1	State
Total Points Possible: 61					

* Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

Scoring Criteria, State Lands Development and Renovation Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need**

Considering the availability and use of existing facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?

2. **Site Suitability and Design**

Does the project demonstrate good design criteria? Does it make the best use of the site?

3. **Sustainability**

Please discuss how your project's location or design supports your organization's sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan.

Resolution 2020-06

4. **Diversity of and Compatibility of Recreational Uses**

To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible recreational uses?

5. **Outcome-Focused Performance Measures**

To what extent does the project result in measurable progress toward goals and objectives for the recreation or access area?

6. **Public Benefit and Project Support**

To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the community impacted as a result of this development or renovation?

Scored by RCO Staff

7. **Proximity to Human Populations**

Is the project in a populated area?

RCW 79A.25.250

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ³	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Site Suitability and Design	3. Sustainability	4. Diversity and Compatibility	5. Outcome-Focused Performance Measure	6. Public Benefit and Project Support	7. Population Proximity	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-5	0-1.0	
1	24-1773 D	Mount Si Trailhead Renovation	18.80	14.40	4.50	8.20	3.90	4.70	1.00	55.50
2	24-1344 D	Teneriffe Civilian Conservation Corps Connector Trail Development	18.40	13.50	4.10	7.40	4.10	4.40	1.00	52.90
3	24-1938 D	Big Valley Parking and Trailhead Improvements	17.60	13.80	4.10	9.00	3.70	4.40	0.00	52.60
4	24-1754 D	Buena Pond Water Access Site Redevelopment	18.00	13.20	4.10	7.60	4.00	4.00	0.00	50.90
5	24-2021 D	Oak Creek Elk Viewing Infrastructure	17.60	13.20	3.70	8.00	4.00	4.30	0.00	50.80
6	24-1948 D	Methow Wildlife Area Campground Improvements	17.20	13.20	4.10	8.00	3.60	4.30	0.00	50.40
7	24-1939 D	Silver Nail Lake Access Improvement	18.00	11.40	3.50	8.00	3.90	3.90	0.00	48.70
8	24-1637 D	Merrill Lake Natural Resource Conservation Area Renovation	16.40	11.40	3.80	8.60	3.50	4.40	0.00	48.10
9	24-1377 D	Pelican Beach Renovation and Development	15.20	12.60	3.90	6.40	3.50	4.20	0.00	45.80

³Project type: D=development

Rank	Project Number and Type ³	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Site Suitability and Design	3. Sustainability	4. Diversity and Compatibility	5. Outcome-Focused Performance Measure	6. Public Benefit and Project Support	7. Population Proximity	Total
10	24-1998 D	White Bridge Boat Ramp Redevelopment	15.60	12.30	4.00	6.80	3.30	3.20	0.00	45.20
11	24-1968 D	Loomis Lake Accessibility Redevelopment	16.00	11.40	3.70	6.40	3.40	4.00	0.00	44.90
12	24-1899 D	Wooten Wildlife Area Rainbow Lake Pier	15.60	11.70	3.60	6.40	3.30	3.60	0.00	44.20

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Renovating the Mount Si Trailhead

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to renovate the Mount Si Trailhead in the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area. The trailhead, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains overlooking North Bend, provides access to Mount Si, one of the most popular hikes in Washington. Topping 3,100 feet, the summit offers dramatic views of the Cascade Mountains, Mount Rainier, and the Snoqualmie River Valley. The gravel parking lot, which was built in 1970, develops potholes regularly and lacks defined parking spaces so cars block drive lanes and hinder access for emergency vehicles. The department will pave the parking lot, creating 150 parking stalls, including a shuttle stop. The department also will install picnic tables and interpretive signs, rebuild the ramp to the toilet, and add areas to collect and treat stormwater. The work will improve safety and provide a more welcoming and durable entrance to the conservation area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1773)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Developing the Teneriffe-CCC Connector Trail

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to complete the Teneriffe-CCC connector trail. The department will build 1.8 miles of trail and install two bridges to connect the popular Mount Teneriffe trail system outside of North Bend to recreation destinations along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River. The goal of the connector trail is to provide a unique cross-county hiking and biking experience and reduce environmental impacts by eliminating the need to use unsanctioned trails to reach the CCC flats and Green Mountain areas. The department will shift the route from user-created trails to a planned and maintained surface, allowing the forest vegetation and wetlands to recover. The department also will re-route access to the trail from forest roads next to private property, reducing conflicts between landowners and recreationists. By building the bridges, the department will create a higher quality hiking experience and improve safety by eliminating the need to wade through flowing water with slippery rocks. The bridges also will reduce erosion of the stream banks and protect fish habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1344)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Improving Big Valley Parking and Trailhead****Grant Request: \$325,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve the parking lot and trailhead at the Methow Wildlife Area's Big Valley Unit, which is about five miles northwest of Winthrop. The department will grade the road, expand the parking lot, and install toilets, kiosks, signs, boundary rocks, picnic tables, hitching posts, and snowplow bump outs. Year-round user demand for this site has outgrown the infrastructure. The trailhead will provide information to recreationist about sensitive species and habitats in the area such as forested wetlands, spring-fed side channels, salmon-bearing rivers, and the home of the only documented nesting pair of sandhill cranes, which the State has determined are endangered, in the Methow Valley. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1938)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Redeveloping the Buena Pond Water Access Site****Grant Request: \$325,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to redevelop the Buena Water Access Site, a popular fishing and recreation site in the Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area I82 Ponds Unit. Next to Interstate 82 in the community of Buena, the site is about fifteen minutes from Yakima in the lower valley of Yakima County. The department will upgrade and reconfigure the parking lot, create parking and pathways for people using wheelchairs, and install three fishing platforms around the pond. With other money, the department will replace the toilets. Currently, the site has a large, paved parking lot, two toilets, and a hand launch for boats. The work will create a better experience in this underserved community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1754)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Improving the Oak Creek Wildlife Viewing Area****Grant Request: \$325,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve the elk viewing area in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The department will upgrade the fencing and viewing platforms, replace three old vault toilets, renovate the general parking area, and significantly improve accessibility for people with disabilities at the site. The intent of this project is to accommodate more visitors and improve accessibility and the experience at this wildlife viewing location. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2021)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Improving a Methow Wildlife Area Campground**

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve the Upper Bear Creek Campground in the Methow Wildlife Area, near Winthrop. The department will grade the campground roads and spread gravel to address drainage issues, install two kiosks, replace the outhouse with a vault toilet, place barrier rocks along roads and camping areas to reduce habitat destruction, and add site numbers, picnic tables, fire rings, and gravel around parking areas at sixteen campsites in the main loop. The department will add fire rings and gravel camping pads to another eighteen campsites outside the main loop. In addition, the department will add a tall fire ring to one campsite to make it accessible to people using wheelchairs and turn another site into one accessible to people using wheelchairs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1948)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Improving Silver Nail Lake Access**

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve access to Silver Nail Lake, just north of Oroville. The lake is designated for juvenile and senior anglers and anglers with disabilities only. It's difficult to find the entrance and to bank fish. To enter the lake, a visitor must travel through a trailer park and scrap yard, and without knowing exactly where to turn, wouldn't know there was a public access point. Additionally, once at the lake, there is no real parking space and the shoreline is overgrown with invasive Siberian elms and Russian olive trees, making bank fishing near impossible. The department will improve the access entrance, designate a parking area, install a floating fishing dock, add kiosks and signs, trim brush, and lay a gravel path to a fishing pad, picnic table and hand boat launch. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1939)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Renovating the Merrill Lake Natural Recreation Conservation Area**

Grant Request: \$315,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to renovate parts of the 114-acre Merrill Lake Natural Resources Conservation Area, on the southwest side of Mount Saint Helens in Clark County. The department will grade and lay gravel in the campground and day-use parking areas, regrade the road, improve the campsites, modernize two campsites for people with disabilities, upgrade the day-use area, replace a well pump, install signs and picnic tables, upgrade fire pits, and replace a culvert in a fish-bearing stream. A culvert is a large pipe or other structure that carries streams under roads and often can block fish migration. The campground and day-use areas last

had significant upgrades in 1998. The conservation area features a diverse forest and Merrill Lake, which is used by birds of prey, including osprey and bald eagles, and is a sanctuary for waterfowl such as bufflehead, common goldeneye, and hooded merganser. A beloved spot for catch-and-release fly fishing, the lake offers a boat launch for non-gasoline powered crafts and a nine-site campground. A 2023 winter storm extensively damaged the access road, day-use area, and campground. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1637)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Improving Pelican Beach

Grant Request: \$321,700

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to improve the Pelican Beach Camping Area on Cypress Island. The department will create six campsites, install a restroom, and move and renovate trails. Originally built in 2000, the site's boardwalk, trail access stairs, and campsites require major renovations for continued public access. One trail has eroded in many places to the point where repairs cannot be made. In addition, visitation has increased and more campsites are needed to meet demand and limit environmental damage. The department will renovate the campsites, boardwalks, staircases, trails, and picnic shelters. The department also will move part of a trail. The area is used for water activities, camping, and hiking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1377)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Redeveloping the White Bridge Boat Ramp

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to redevelop the closed boat ramp at its White Bridge Water Access area on the Wynoochee River. The department will remove the ramp, replace the planks and base concrete armoring, and then reinstall the improved ramp. The new design will reduce the ramp slope, significantly reducing the force of the water and erosion. The boat launch is important for fishing and floating on the Wynoochee River and Black Creek. Steelhead fishing on the Wynoochee is one of the most popular types of fishing on the Olympic Peninsula. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1998)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Redeveloping Loomis Lake Accessibility

Grant Request: \$325,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to redevelop the Loomis Lake Water Access area. The department will replace a boarding float that was destroyed in a 2002 storm, and add a kayak-assist launch, a restroom, and a gravel pathway between the restroom and launch areas. The water access area was developed in 1992. This location is valuable to the local community and anglers from afar, with few lake boating

options in the county, Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1968)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Request: \$325,000**
Installing a Fishing Pier in the WT Wooten Wildlife Area

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to install a fishing pier in Rainbow Lake in the WT Wooten Wildlife Area in southeast Washington. The pier will increase fishing opportunities for senior citizens and disabled anglers. The pier will be added to the fishing pad in the northeast corner of Rainbow Lake. Rainbow Lake recently was made longer and narrower to increase the area for the Tucannon River to spread out during high flows. The work was part of a larger restoration project to improve habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. [Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1899)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: State Parks Category,
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Thirteen project proposals in the State Parks Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-16

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Parks Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for acquiring and developing active and passive outdoor recreation areas. Facilities may include campgrounds, fishing sites, picnic areas, swim beaches, trails, and support amenities including administrative and maintenance structures.

The State Parks Category receives 30 percent of the funds in the WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used

for acquisition.¹ Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

A summary of this WWRP category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicant	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development • Combination projects (acquisition and development) • Renovation is not eligible
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limits
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None required
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Administrative offices, storage buildings, shops, and residences are eligible if they are essential to the operation and maintenance of the assisted site.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Thirteen State Parks Category projects, requesting over \$15 million, were evaluated by members of the WWRP State Parks Advisory Committee in an online meeting on August 14, 2024. As shown below, the advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, who participated this year included six State Parks staff, one individual representing local government, and three community volunteers. The members have expertise and experience in planning, land use issues, parks and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

Community Members

- Kathryn McLeod, Tumwater
- Jayme Jonas, Sammamish
- Janice Sears, Seattle

Local Agency Members

- Ethan Newton, City of Covington²

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050(2)(a) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-52

² Participated in the technical review session only.

State Agency Members

- Ken Graham, Olympia
- Tim Bell, Olympia
- Ryan Karlson, Olympia³
- Janet Halstead, Olympia
- Emily Jacobs, Ellensburg
- Paul Knowles, Nine Mile Falls

Advisory committee members reviewed the proposals and scored the projects using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted evaluation criteria. At the July 2024 State Parks Commission meeting, the Commission scored the criterion that addresses how well a project implements the Commission's priorities. The Commission's score was combined with the advisory committee's scores to create a ranked list for board consideration. The results are shown in *Attachment A: State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of the Evaluation Process and Criteria

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 14 and during the post evaluation meeting on August 16, State Parks Advisory Committee members provided feedback on the review and evaluation process. Committee members spoke about the value of technical review and expressed appreciation to State Parks staff for using the feedback to improve their project proposals.

Evaluation Criteria

While the evaluation criteria generally worked well, some thought that the *Need* criterion should be expanded to include needs identified outside of a planning document, such as resolving a safety or resource degradation issue. The *Partnerships or Match* criterion was challenging when there were partnerships but no match. They also noted that it overlaps some with *Project Support*. It would help if the criteria were more distinct. Also, some committee members noted that it would be helpful if the *Readiness to Proceed* criterion included something to capture whether a proposal has been adequately vetted between various applicable State Parks agency programs.

Finally, the advisory committee wondered if the Inholdings and Adjacent Properties ([24-1788](#)) acquisition project could be funded with an automatic set-aside. It is included every grant cycle and is clearly very important, but it is unique and challenging to score.

Overall, the advisory committee was satisfied with the evaluation process and results.

Public Comment

There are letters of support or concern for State Parks Category projects, which are included as Project Support or Concern documents and are attached to the individual

³ Participated in the evaluation session only.

project proposals in Project Snapshot. The letters are accessible by clicking the project numbers on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the *State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-16.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-16, including *State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for State Parks Category Projects
- C. State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. State Parks Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-16
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS thirteen State Parks Category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by a team comprised of State Parks staff, a local agency representative, and citizen volunteers using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved evaluation criteria, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS the projects involve acquisition and development of properties for public outdoor recreation, thereby supporting priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *State Parks Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

State Parks Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-16

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	74.28	24-1417 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside State Park Glen Tana Acquisition A	\$1,700,685	\$840,000	\$2,540,685
2	69.47	24-1788 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	\$1,380,000	\$120,000	\$1,500,000
3	65.01	24-1763 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge Phase Three	\$2,244,401		\$2,244,401
4	62.73	24-1457 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Millersylvania Park Trail Improvements	\$1,076,100	\$10,000	\$1,086,100
5	62.1	24-1823 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Pearrygin Lake State Park Yockey Property Acquisition	\$1,983,291		\$1,983,291
6	61.91	24-1859 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Mount Spokane Riley Creek Properties Phase One	\$1,308,300		\$1,308,300
7	61.2	24-1839 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside Park Bowl and Pitcher Cabins Phase Two	\$648,000		\$648,000
8	58.26	24-1334 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Beacon Rock-Hamilton Mountain Trail Reroute	\$175,138	\$56,700	\$231,838
9	57.55	24-1355 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Willapa Hills Trail Bridge Forty-three Improvements	\$488,500		\$488,500
10	56.13	24-1841 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Klickitat Trail State Park Pitt Trailhead	\$643,800		\$643,800
11	55.69	24-1389 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Lake Sylvia Park Trail Improvements	\$633,400	\$50,600	\$684,000
12	54.71	24-1840 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Palouse to Cascades Trail Rosalia Improvements	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
13	54.31	24-1480 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Battle Ground Lake Equestrian Parking Lot	\$802,731		\$802,731
Total					\$15,084,346	\$1,077,300	\$16,161,646

⁴Project type: A=acquisition, D=development

State Map for State Parks Category Projects



State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for acquisition and/or development of state parks.⁵

State Parks Criteria		Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Scored by the Advisory				
1	Public Need	All Projects	5 points	State Focus
2	Project Significance	All Projects	15 points	Agency Focus
3	Acquisition Priority	Acquisition Projects	10 points	State Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
4	Project Design	Development Projects	10 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
5	Resource Stewardship	All Projects	10 points	State Focus
6	Expansion/Phased Project	All Projects	15 points	State Focus
7	Project Support	All Projects	10 points	Agency Focus
8	Partnership or Match	All Projects	5 points	State Focus
9	Readiness to Proceed	All Projects	10 points	Agency Focus
10	Commission Priorities	All Projects	6 points	Agency Focus
Scored by RCO				
11	Proximity to People	All Projects	1.5 points	State Focus
12	County Population Density	All Projects	1.5 points	State Focus
Total Points Possible:			89	

*Focus—Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State—those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the *Washington State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*)
- Agency—those that meet agency needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in the State Parks and Recreation Commission’s plans)
- Technical—those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

⁵ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.050

Detailed Scoring Criteria, State Parks Category

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. **Public Need.** What is the need for the proposed project? Consider whether the project is cited in an agency, regional, or local plan.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

2. **Project Significance.** Describe how this project supports one or more of the following goals of State Parks' Statewide Acquisition and Development Strategy

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

3. **Acquisition Priority.** Describe why it is important to acquire the property now. (Acquisition/Combination only)

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

4. **Project Design.** Is the project well designed? Describe your project in detail. (Development/Combination only)

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

5. **Resource Stewardship.** What techniques or resources are proposed to ensure the project will result in a quality, sustainable, recreational, heritage preservation, or educational opportunity, while protecting the integrity of the ecological resources? Describe how the project will protect and/or enhance natural and cultural resources.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

6. **Expansion/Phased Project.** Does this project implement an important phase of a previous project, represent an important first phase, or expand or improve an existing site?

Revised April 2016, Resolution 2016-20

7. **Project Support.** What statewide community and user groups were consulted and what support has been demonstrated for this project? How has your organization informed and engaged people about the project including those whose interests have been historically marginalized or excluded?

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

8. **Partnerships or Match.** Describe how this project supports strategic partnerships or leverages secured matching funds.

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

9. **Readiness to Proceed.** Describe the project's timeline. Is the project ready to proceed?

Revised January 2022, Resolution 2022-03.

Scored by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

10. **Commission's Priority.** How well does this project implement the commission's priorities?

Revised April 2016, Resolution 2016-20

Scored by RCO Staff

11. **Proximity to People.** Is this project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more?

RCW 79A.25.250. Revised November 2007, Resolution 2007-26.

12. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

RCW 79A.25.250. Revised November 2007, Resolution 2007-26.

State Parks Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Public Need	2. Project Significance	3. Acquisition Priority	4. Project Design	5. Resource Stewardship	6. Expansion/ Phased	7. Project Support	8. Partnership or Match	9. Readiness to Proceed	10. Commission Priorities	11. Population Proximity	12. County Population Density	Total
		Point Range	0-5	0-15	0-10	0-10	0-10	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-10	0-6	0-1.5	0-1.5	
1	24-1417 A	Riverside State Park Glen Tana Acquisition A	4.22	13.00	8.22		8.67	11.67	8.89	4.78	7.33	6.00	0.00	1.50	74.28
2	24-1788 A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties	3.89	12.33	8.67		7.56	12.67	7.56	2.89	7.33	5.08	0.00	1.50	69.47
3	24-1763 A	Green River Gorge Icy Creek Ridge Phase Three	4.22	11.33	7.33		7.56	11.33	7.78	2.44	6.89	4.62	0.00	1.50	65.01
4	24-1457 D	Millersylvania Park Trail Improvements	4.00	11.62		8.25	7.50	10.50	6.50	2.12	7.50	3.23	0.00	1.50	62.73
5	24-1823 A	Pearrygin Lake State Park Yockey Property Acquisition	3.89	10.33	7.56		7.33	13.00	6.22	2.44	5.78	5.54	0.00	0.00	62.10
6	24-1859 A	Mount Spokane Riley Creek Properties Phase One	4.22	11.67	7.56		6.89	11.67	7.78	3.00	5.78	1.85	0.00	1.50	61.91
7	24-1839 D	Riverside Park Bowl and Pitcher Cabins Phase Two	3.44	11.00		8.22	6.44	11.00	5.78	1.78	8.22	2.31	1.50	1.50	61.20
8	24-1334 D	Beacon Rock-Hamilton Mountain Trail Reroute	3.67	12.33		7.56	7.56	6.67	7.33	3.67	5.33	4.15	0.00	0.00	58.26
9	24-1355 D	Willapa Hills Trail Bridge Forty-three Improvements	4.00	12.00		7.33	6.00	12.00	6.67	2.33	4.44	2.77	0.00	0.00	57.55
10	24-1841 D	Klickitat Trail State Park Pitt Trailhead	3.33	10.67		7.56	6.22	11.33	6.67	2.11	7.78	0.46	0.00	0.00	56.13
11	24-1389 D	Lake Sylvia Park Trail Improvements	2.89	11.00		7.11	7.11	8.33	7.56	2.67	5.33	3.69	0.00	0.00	55.69
12	24-1840 D	Palouse to Cascades Trail Rosalia Improvements	3.56	11.00		6.67	5.56	12.00	7.11	2.56	4.89	1.38	0.00	0.00	54.71
13	24-1480 D	Battle Ground Lake Equestrian Parking Lot	3.44	10.00		7.56	7.78	7.33	8.00	2.44	5.33	0.92	0.00	1.50	54.31

⁶Project type: A=acquisition, D=development

State Parks Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$1,700,685 **Expanding Riverside State Park**

State Parks will use this grant to buy 153 acres to expand the Little Spokane River Natural Area and Riverside State Park. The land, known as the former Glen Tana property, is just outside the urban growth boundary of Spokane County. Its purchase will extend the contiguous corridor of preserved land for wildlife and recreation along the western edge of Spokane. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1417)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$1,380,000 **Buying Land Inside or Next to Parks**

State Parks will use this grant to buy high-priority land within or next to the boundaries of state parks. It is intended to be a flexible source of funding for smaller, lower cost, priority land purchases that present themselves during the biennium. It will allow State Parks to act quickly and opportunistically to buy inholdings and land next to a park as they come on the market, and it will facilitate the purchase of smaller properties that might not score well as individual grants but that are essential to park operations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1788)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$2,244,401 **Buying Land on Icy Creek Ridge in the Green River Gorge Conservation Area**

State Parks will use this grant to buy about thirty-seven acres in the Green River Gorge Conservation Area, in King County near Back Diamond. This project is the third phase of land purchases aimed at acquiring 105 acres. State Parks plans to build a trail along the south rim of the gorge, from Kanaskat-Palmer State Park to Flaming Geyser State Park. The land to be purchased, in Icy Creek Ridge, is some of the last needed before trail development can begin. The landowner, who has divided the area into fourteen building sites and built some roads for future homes, is a willing seller. Purchase of this land will prevent the development, and the road will provide good access for a future trailhead for the South Rim Trail. The acquisition also will protect habitat corridors between the Green River and King County's Bass Lake Complex. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1763)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$1,076,100
Improving a Millersylvania Park Trail

State Parks will use this grant to build a 280-foot boardwalk to replace a failing bridge and boardwalk in Millersylvania State Park, near Olympia. The new boardwalk will be accessible to people with disabilities and will give visitors access to one of the park's many wetlands and a connection from the campground to an 8.5-mile forested trail system in the park. This is the first phase in providing trail access from the campground for people using wheelchairs to other compatible trails in the park. The new boardwalk will protect sensitive wetlands and allow visitors to see unique wildlife found in northwest wetlands and bogs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1457)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$1,983,291
Expanding Pearrygin Lake State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy nearly twenty-five acres, known as the Yockey property, to expand Pearrygin Lake State Park, a 1,184-acre park in the Methow Valley in north central Washington. The land is along the north side of the lake bisected by Bear Creek Road, and is between the Silverline Lakeside Resort and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land. The purchase of the land will protect the lakeshore, water quality, views, and habitat from future development and allow for construction of a trail around the entire lake. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1823)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$1,308,300
Expanding Mount Spokane State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy 120 acres in Mount Spokane State Park. The land, known as the Riley Creek property, was identified more than twenty years ago as part of the park's long-term boundary. It is above Bear Creek lodge. The purchase will protect the forest and will allow for summer and winter recreation access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1859)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$648,000
Building Cabins in Riverside State Park

State Parks will use this grant to build two cabins in the popular Bowl and Pitcher area of Riverside State Park. This is the second phase of a project that saw the first two cabins built in 2019. The cabins are accessible to people with disabilities and have restrooms, bunks, dining areas, and a meal prep area with a sink. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of this project. (24-1839)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Re-Routing Beacon Rock's Hamilton Mountain Trail****Grant Request: \$175,138**

State Parks will use this grant to move about a half-mile of trail in Beacon Rock State Park to a safer area. The Hamilton Mountain Trail has easy access and parking, is well maintained, and offers views of wildflowers, two waterfalls, and the Columbia River Gorge. The reroute will link the trail to the Hardy Creek Trail, creating a publicly requested lower loop for less advanced hikers. State Parks will close unsafe portions of the trail and several damaging social trails and return the area to a more natural condition. The trail reroute will eliminate twelve steep and rocky switchbacks that are continually damaged by erosion. State Parks also will install Information signs to educate trail users about the importance of staying on trails, unique balds in the area and hazards, and about the importance of protecting sensitive communities of plants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1334)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Improving a Willapa Hills Trail Bridge****Grant Request: \$488,500**

State Parks will use this grant to repair bridge 43 on the Willapa Hills State Park Trail, a fifty-six-mile rail trail that runs between Chehalis and South Bend and is used by hikers, cyclists, and equestrians. The work is part of a larger effort to improve safety and visitor experience on the trail by adapting bridges created for rail use to recreation use. Bridge 43 is near Menlo, about thirteen miles from the trail end in South Bend. State Parks will remove rotten wood decking and railroad ties, and install new decking, safety rails, and bollards. State Parks also will replace rotten and warped wood on the abutment wall. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1355)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Building the Pitt Trailhead in Klickitat Trail State Park****Grant Request: \$643,800**

State Parks will use this grant to build a trailhead along the Klickitat Trail, southwest of the town of Klickitat. The Klickitat Trail follows an old railroad corridor that at one time linked the towns of Lyle and Goldendale. The trail runs along the Klickitat River to Swale Creek and through Swale Canyon. The canyon is lined with oak and pine forests, and in the springtime is covered in a variety of wildflowers. State Parks will build car and horse trailer parking, install a vault toilet and a kiosk, and remove asphalt and debris from a buffer area along the Klickitat River. Finally, State Parks will plant native plants in the disturbed area to restore the wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1841)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Improving a Lake Sylvia Park Trail****Grant Request: \$633,400**

State Parks will use this grant to repair the trail that circles a lake in Lake Sylvia State Park, in Montesano. The popular one-mile looped trail is no longer safe because of multiple degraded bridges, boardwalks, and trail sections. Many of the water crossings have been damaged by weathering and erosion or they block the flow of water into and out of the wetlands. Parks staff will team up with the Washington Trails Association to repair four sections of trail and fix six water crossings. They will make general trail repairs, remove the remains of broken structures, and repair or rebuild structures such as boardwalks and bridges. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1389)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Improving the Palouse to Cascades Trail near Rosalia****Grant Request: \$2,000,000**

State Parks will use this grant to design and improve the Palouse to Cascades Trail near Rosalia. State Parks will soften the trail grade at road intersections where trestles once were, improve the trail surface, and build a trailhead. The Palouse to Cascades Trail is part of the Great American Rail Trail across the United States and stretches more than 285 miles across Washington. The trail is a trail for non-motorized uses, such as bicycling, walking, bird watching, and horseback riding. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1840)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Renovating the Battle Ground Lake Equestrian Parking Lot****Grant Request: \$802,731**

State Parks will use this grant to transform a parking lot to better serve equestrians in Battle Ground Lake State Park, near Battle Ground. The 300-acre park lies in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains and has five miles of easy equestrian trails, a parking lot initially intended for equestrian use that now serves as overflow parking for day visitors, and a small parking area for three trailers that is closed half the year because of mud. State Parks will expand the small parking lot, which is off Palmer Road, into a trailhead and paved parking lot for ten trucks that would allow trailers to easily enter, park, and exit. State Parks also will add equestrian amenities such as mounting blocks, a mounting ramp for use by people with disabilities, a hitching rail, kiosk, manure collection area, and a vault toilet. Split rail fencing will mark the parking area and discourage a loose horse from entering the road. State Parks also would plant native shrubs along the road and install bird nesting and bat boxes. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1480)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Trails Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

Twelve project proposals in the Trails Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and the ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list that becomes the basis for grant funding after legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item is a: Request for Decision
 Request for Direction
 Briefing

Resolution: 2024-17

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Trails Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funds for community and regional pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian or cross-country ski trails. The intent of this funding source is to construct, renovate, and secure right-of-way for statewide, regional, and community-oriented recreational trails that provide linkages between communities or other trails.

Trails must be for non-motorized use and cannot be part of a city, street, or county road ("roadway") such as a sidewalk, unprotected road shoulder, or any other area on the roadway, such as a designated bike or combination bike and pedestrian lane.

Trails adjacent to a roadway must be separated by space and potentially physical barriers to ensure a quality recreational experience. ¹

The Trails Category receives 20 percent of the funds from the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Program Summary

A summary of current Trails Category policies is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state ² agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, park districts, and special purpose districts.
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	<p>50 percent match required with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. • There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Trails may have hard or natural surfacing. • Grant may be used to construct necessary support infrastructure such as trailheads, restrooms, picnic areas, or viewing areas that are directly related to an existing or proposed public trail.

¹When the space is less than 10', there must be a physical barrier.

²State agencies eligible are Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington State Departments of Enterprise Services, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources.

Evaluation Summary

Twelve Trails Category projects, requesting over \$15 million in grant funding, were evaluated by the WWRP Trails Advisory Committee August 19-20. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise, experience, and technical knowledge related to public recreational trails. The team included the following:

Community Members

- Elizabeth Anderson, Seattle
- Jean-Michael Dapena, East Wenatchee
- Jim Eychaner, Lacey
- Kellie Ingram, Spokane
- Andy Stevenson, Port Angeles
- Mike Town, Duvall

Local Agency Members

- Nick Hamad, City of Spokane
- Brian Meyer, City of Woodinville
- LeeAnne Nawrot, King County Parks

State Agency Members

- Ryan Schreiner, Department of Natural Resources
- Heide Andersen, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Brian Wood, Department of Transportation

This team reviewed and evaluated trail projects virtually using video conferencing software. RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation Module allowed members to score the projects using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved criteria. The project presentations were streamed live to a free internet site to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Attachment A: Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

Immediately following the evaluation meeting on August 21 and during the post evaluation meeting on August 26, staff met with the Trails Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

Virtual Tools

The committee felt the evaluation process worked well and was organized. The PRISM Review and Evaluation Module received excellent feedback for its functionality and

usability. Evaluators appreciated the layout, access to important project information, and the ease of scoring.

Scoring Range

Over the years, evaluators have discussed expanding the range that evaluators are given for scoring key criteria (*Need, Immediacy of Threat, and Project Design*). In past years, evaluators scored projects zero to five and multipliers were used to weight each criterion. Evaluators noted that the scoring range of zero to five left little distinction for higher weighted criteria and they believe a broader range of points would be helpful.

The board-adopted revisions for this year afforded evaluators the opportunity to use a broader range for several criteria. Many expressed their appreciation for this change. A few struggled with remembering the new range, but the score-comparison tool in the PRISM Review and Evaluation Module helped evaluators with this challenge. Staff will be looking at ways to enhance the review module before the next grants cycle to make the range even more visible to evaluators.

Evaluation Criteria

Members took time to discuss the new evaluation criteria and why scoring some applications proved to be a mildly challenging. Areas that members discussed included the difficulty of scoring:

- Projects submitted by “large versus small” communities.
- Projects that appeared to be too much like sidewalks versus trails.
- Projects that depend on volunteers to maintain the infrastructure.
- Projects that did not have water access views.
- Projects that had unrealistic budgets and did not include contingency funds.
- Projects that were not even at the 30 percent design stage.
- Scenic views that were not from the segment of trail in the application.

Evaluators discussed challenges with scoring a few of the criteria. For example, when responding to the *Public Engagement* question, most applicants were clear about their outreach to tribes but appeared to be lax in identifying specific outreach to underserved communities or the people who had the greatest needs. Evaluators believe applicants need to do more to understand the needs and engage the user community. Also, evaluators talked about the need for applicants to be clearer and further along with developing their designs to help them address the *Project Design-Budget* criterion.

Evaluators are passionate about trails and hopeful that many applicants will successfully receive the funds needed to implement their proposals. Evaluators expressed appreciation for policy team members who joined the results meetings to hear their feedback. They were happy to hear about the technical assistance work staff is considering and shared their willingness to help if needed.

In summary, the committee felt the process was well-organized, enjoyable, and fair. They were confident in the resulting ranked list and look forward to hearing the final funding decisions.

Match Reduction

Six Trails Category projects were eligible for match reduction per the board's adopted policy. Five applicants took advantage of that option and are providing reduced match based on two key pathways, Communities in Need (Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District, Stevenson, and Winthrop) and Counties in Need (Chelan and Whatcom Counties). This means these projects include less than the standard 50 percent match.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Attachment A: Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-17.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium

and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-17, including *Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Trails Category Projects
- C. Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Trails Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-17
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS twelve Trails Category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS all projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by an independent team of evaluators representing state and local agency agencies and citizens-at-large using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved evaluation criteria, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-020, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS the projects acquire, construct, or renovate non-motorized recreational trails, thereby supporting priorities in the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan*, and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the board hereby approves the *Trails Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Trails Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	78.2	24-1775 D	Spokane	Fish Lake Trail Phase One	\$1,000,000	\$3,866,723	\$4,866,723
2	78.2	24-1346 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Theler Wetlands Trail Restoration	\$1,625,569		\$1,625,569
3	78.1	24-1772 D	Pierce County	Pipeline Trail Phase Two Fruitland to Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail at Heritage Recreation Center	\$1,500,000	\$2,568,636	\$4,068,636
4	77.9	24-1371 D	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Spokane River Centennial Trail Renovation Phase Two	\$2,271,000	\$267,250	\$2,538,250
5	76.6	24-1891 C	Winthrop	Kay Wagner Riverwalk Trail	\$2,060,000	\$1,060,000	\$3,120,000
6	75.4	24-1353 C	Covington	Jenkins Creek Trail Phase One	\$2,109,400	\$2,109,400	\$4,218,800
7	73.3	24-2022 D	Port Angeles	Race Street Olympic Discovery Trail Extension	\$1,500,000	\$2,394,572	\$3,894,572
8	73.1	24-1946 A	Whatcom County	South Fork Park Carrasco Addition	\$884,434	\$725,229	\$1,609,663
9	71.5	24-1685 D	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Spencer Island Boardwalk	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000
10	65	24-1796 D	Chelan County	Bear Mountain Trailhead Development	\$380,788	\$253,860	\$634,648
11	64.3	24-1991 D	Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District	Bay to Bay Regional Trail	\$310,020	\$226,180	\$536,200
12	56	24-2027 A	Stevenson	West Waterfront Trail Phase One	\$390,000	\$260,000	\$650,000
Total					\$15,531,211	\$15,731,850	\$31,263,061

³Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=combination

State Map for Trails Category Projects



Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary⁴

*“Trails means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians”.*⁵

Criteria	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*	
Unscored				
Project Introduction	All Projects	0 points	State Focus	
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Need–Local Priorities	All Projects	15 points	State and Local Focus
2	Project Scope	All Projects	10 points	Local Focus
3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition Projects	15 points	Local Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
4	Project Design-Fit	Development Projects	5 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	2.5 points	
5	Project Design-Budget	Development Projects	5 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	2.5 points	
6	Project Engagement-Methods	All Projects	4 points	State and Local Focus
7	Project Engagement-Community	All Projects	3 points	State and Local Focus
8	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Projects	3 points	State and Local Focus
9	Sustainability	Development Projects	5 points	State Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
10	Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	All Projects	10 points	State Focus
11	Linkages Between Trails	All Projects	8 points	State and Local Focus
12	Linkages Between Communities	All Projects	8 points	State and Local Focus
13	Water Access or Views	All Projects	5 points	State Focus
14	Scenic Values	All Projects	5 points	State Focus

⁴Evaluation instrument updated via Board Resolutions 2023-27 and 2023-28

⁵ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Criteria		Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
15	Cost Efficiencies	All Projects	3 points	State and Local Focus
Scored by RCO				
16	Green Space Availability	All Projects	3 points	State Focus
17	Social Vulnerability	All Projects	3 points	State Focus
18	Health Outcomes	All Projects	3 points	State Focus
19	Proximity to People	All Projects	1 point	State Focus
20	County Population Density	All Projects	1 point	State Focus
21	Growth Management Act Preference	All Projects	0 points	State Focus
Total Points Possible:			100	

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy)

Scoring Criteria, Trails Category

Project Introduction. In less than one minute, introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Scored by the Advisory Committee

1. **Need.** Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v-vi)

2. **Project Scope.** Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v)

3. **Immediacy of Threat** (acquisition and combination projects only). Does a threat to the public availability of a part of the trail exist?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ii)

4. **Project Design-Fit** (development and combination projects only). Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities.

Resolution 2023-27

5. **Project Design-Budget** (development and combination projects only). Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready?

Resolution 2023-27

6. **Project Engagement-Methods.** RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic, or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)

7. **Project Engagement-Community.** How has community input influenced the project design?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)

8. **Project Engagement-Partnerships.** Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)

9. **Sustainability** (development and combination projects only). Sustainability reflects choices made to balance the desired benefits and potential impacts of a project on the surrounding landscape and community. Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant's sustainability plan or how the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ix)

10. **Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat.** How will this proposal enhance wildlife habitat beyond what may be required by a development or land use authority such as statute, ordinance, permit, rule and regulation, mitigation requirement, etc.?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(viii)

11. **Linkage Between Trails.** Does the trail project connect existing trails?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iv)

12. **Linkage Between Communities.** Does the trail project connect communities?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iii)

13. **Water Access or Views.** Does the project provide direct access to water (physical access by person or boat) or views?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(vii)

14. **Scenic Values.** Does the project provide scenic values?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ix)

15. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Resolution 2023-28

Scored by RCO

16. **Green Space Availability.** Green space availability scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than eight acres per one thousand residents), Medium (three to eight acres per one thousand residents), and Low (less than three acres per one thousand residents) green space per capita.

Resolution 2023-27

17. **Social Vulnerability.** Social vulnerability scores use a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, or population living in poverty. The scores are based on information from the Washington Tracking Network's Information by Location mapping tool.

Resolution 2023-27

18. **Health Outcomes.** This score is from the Washington Tracking Network's Information by Location mapping tool, which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking.

Resolution 2023-27

19. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of five thousand or more?

RCW 79A.25.250

20. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

RCW 79A.25.250

21. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

RCW 43.17.250

Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	11. Linkages Between Trails	12. Linkages Between Communities	13. Water Access or Views	14. Scenic Values	15. Cost Efficiencies	16. Green Space Availability	17. Social Vulnerability	18. Health Outcomes	19. Proximity to People	20. County Population Density	21. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-5	0-4	0-3	0-3	0-5	0-10	0-8	0-8	0-5	0-5	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-1	0-1	-1-0	
1	24-1775D	Fish Lake Trail Phase One	12.68	8.36		4.09	4.55	3.18	2.73	2.55	3.82	5.09	7.09	7.00	3.64	3.45	3.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	78.2
2	24-1346D	Theler Wetlands Trail Restoration	12.27	8.18		4.09	3.91	3.27	2.27	2.55	4.45	8.55	6.00	5.27	4.91	4.73	2.73	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.2

⁶Project type: A=acquisition, D=development, C=combination

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	11. Linkages Between Trails	12. Linkages Between Communities	13. Water Access or Views	14. Scenic Values	15. Cost Efficiencies	16. Green Space Availability	17. Social Vulnerability	18. Health Outcomes	19. Proximity to People	20. County Population Density	21. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
3	24-1772D	Pipeline Trail Phase Two Fruitland to Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail at Heritage Recreation Center	13.12	8.50		4.00	4.00	3.17	2.58	2.92	3.92	4.83	6.67	6.92	2.50	3.50	2.50	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	78.1
4	24-1371D	Spokane River Centennial Trail Renovation Phase Two	12.00	8.50		4.25	4.17	3.00	2.67	2.83	4.08	7.17	6.08	6.42	4.17	4.42	2.17	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	77.9
5	24-1891C	Kay Wagner Riverwalk Trail	13.62	8.00	4.25	2.17	2.12	3.50	2.75	2.42	4.33	7.00	5.83	5.67	4.83	4.50	2.58	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.6

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	11. Linkages Between Trails	12. Linkages Between Communities	13. Water Access or Views	14. Scenic Values	15. Cost Efficiencies	16. Green Space Availability	17. Social Vulnerability	18. Health Outcomes	19. Proximity to People	20. County Population Density	21. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
6	24-1353C	Jenkins Creek Trail Phase One	12.62	8.33	3.83	1.96	2.00	3.50	2.58	2.75	3.50	5.33	5.50	5.92	3.42	3.75	2.42	2.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	75.4
7	24-2022D	Race Street Olympic Discovery Trail Extension	11.38	8.17		3.83	4.08	3.17	2.67	2.67	3.50	5.67	6.67	6.25	2.92	3.00	2.33	2.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	73.3
8	24-1946A	South Fork Park Carrasco Addition	11.12	8.00	11.25			2.83	2.42	2.33		8.17	5.83	4.83	4.00	3.92	2.42	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.1
9	24-1685D	Spencer Island Boardwalk	10.77	7.27		4.09	3.91	2.73	1.91	2.09	4.18	8.18	4.55	4.45	5.00	4.64	2.73	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	71.5
10	24-1796D	Bear Mountain Trailhead Development	10.62	7.00		3.25	3.33	2.50	2.00	2.50	3.50	6.50	5.08	4.67	3.42	4.58	2.08	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	11. Linkages Between Trails	12. Linkages Between Communities	13. Water Access or Views	14. Scenic Values	15. Cost Efficiencies	16. Green Space Availability	17. Social Vulnerability	18. Health Outcomes	19. Proximity to People	20. County Population Density	21. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
11	24-1991D	Bay to Bay Regional Trail	10.75	6.33		3.00	3.33	2.83	1.92	2.42	3.50	6.67	4.92	5.00	4.92	4.75	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.3
12	24-2027A	West Waterfront Trail Phase One	9.38	6.33	7.50			3.08	2.33	1.75		4.17	3.92	3.83	3.83	3.17	1.75	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56

Trails Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Spokane **Grant Request: \$1,000,000**
Starting Construction of Fish Lake Trail

The City of Spokane will use this grant to build about a half-mile of the Fish Lake Trail, extending it north from the Fish Lake Trailhead near Lindeke Street. This section of the trail will run parallel to Government Way and end near the High Bridge Dog Park. This first phase of construction also will connect the trail to Thorpe Road. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1775)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Request: \$1,625,569**
Restoring the Theler Wetlands Trail System

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build a boardwalk and redevelop a trailhead in the Theler Wetlands Trail complex, near Belfair. Since 2012, the 3.2-mile trail has been disconnected by a high-tide washout. The department will build 1,200 feet of boardwalk through a newly rehabilitated salt marsh. At the trailhead, the department will build a wider entry from State Route 3 that is separate from the school district's parking lot, add handicap accessible parking and a toilet, landscape, and install a signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1346)

Pierce County **Grant Request: \$1,500,000**
Building a Segment of the Pipeline Trail

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to develop 1.5 miles of the Pipeline Trail from Fruitland Avenue to Half Dollar Park in the South Hill area of Pierce County. The Pipeline Trail eventually will connect downtown Tacoma to South Hill via a ten-mile, nonmotorized corridor. Pierce County also is funding construction of the trail segment to the south that connects to the Nathan Chapman Memorial Trail at Heritage Recreation Center. The project will connect schools, parks, and residences in a fast-growing, low-income, urban area that lacks safe places to walk, bike, and roll. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1772)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Grant Request: \$2,271,000**
Continuing Renovation of the Spokane River Centennial Trail

State Parks will use this grant to renovate and rebuild 2.8 miles of the Spokane River Centennial Trail through the scenic lower Spokane River Gorge and renovate the

popular Military Cemetery Trailhead. State Parks also will rebuild part of a retaining wall supporting the trail and complete habitat, accessibility, and viewpoint enhancements along a popular section of this forty-mile trail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1371)

Winthrop

Grant Request: \$2,060,000

Building the Kay Wagner Riverwalk Trail

The Town of Winthrop will use this grant to acquire easements and develop a segment of trail connecting the Susie Stephens Trail to Confluence Park in the heart of downtown Winthrop. The trail will provide public access along the scenic confluence of the Methow and Chewuch Rivers and will be accessible to people with disabilities. The Town also will replace failing bank stabilization at the confluence and restore habitat along the length of the trail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1891)

Covington

Grant Request: \$2,109,400

Beginning Development of the Jenkins Creek Trail

The City of Covington will use this grant to buy 0.1 mile of trail easement and develop 0.8 mile of trail. This trail will run through city-owned open space and Jenkins Creek Park and connect the sidewalk along State Route 516 to Southeast 264th Place. The paved trail will be ten feet wide with two-foot gravel shoulders on either side. The City also will add signs and site furnishings, and restore habitat. The new trail will connect multiple neighborhoods, a school, a shopping center, health facilities, and a park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1353)

Port Angeles

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Extending the Race Street

The City of Port Angeles will use this grant to complete one-half-mile of the 2.7-mile Race Street Trail, a multiuse trail that connects the Olympic Discovery Trail to the Olympic National Park Visitor and Back Country Information Center. This is the second phase of the project. The new section bisects Port Angeles in a north-south direction and will provide greater connectivity for non-motorized traffic to Olympic National Park. The trail will provide a dedicated, separated place for biking, walking, and jogging, vastly improving safety for residents and visitors in a time when pedestrian and bicycle deaths are on the rise. The new section will run between Eighth and Second Streets. This section of trail includes two city parks—Civic Field and Erickson Park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2022)

Whatcom County
Buying Land for a County Trailhead**Grant Request: \$884,434**

The Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department will use this grant to be reimbursed for buying 39.5 acres, referred to as Carrasco, four miles southeast of Acme, in 2023. The land will be used for a trail and trailhead for non-motorized uses. The land will link to other county parks, including Nessel Farm and the South Fork Park regional park complex as well as existing and proposed trails on lands owned by the State and the Whatcom Land Trust. The Carrasco property was under threat of private sale before the County bought it. The purchase will allow the County to open the historic Nessel Farm to the public. The farmstead has not been open because of lack of access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1946)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Building the Spencer Island Boardwalk**Grant Request: \$1,500,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build a boardwalk along Union Slough, in the Snohomish River estuary. The levee that rings the department's Spencer Island Unit has provided a popular trail for birdwatching, outdoor recreation, and environmental education for the past thirty years. A restoration project there will lower and breach the levee. The new boardwalk will maintain public access on this heavily used site and improve the visitor experience with a leveled and widened trail along the slough. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1685)

Chelan County
Developing the Bear Mountain Trailhead**Grant Request: \$380,788**

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will use this grant to design and build a trailhead with up to fifteen parking spaces, a restroom, a gate, and sign in the Chelan Coulees Preserve, about eight miles west of Chelan. The Bear Mountain trailhead will provide access to 6,300 acres of publicly owned land linking Navarre to Knapp Coulees near Lake Chelan. The 2,100-acre Chelan Coulee Preserve has a six-mile trail for non-motorized uses such as hiking and mountain biking and offers visitors panoramic views of Chelan Butte, Lake Chelan, and the surrounding valleys such as Navarre and Knapp Coulees. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1796)

**Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District
Building the Bay to Bay Regional Trail****Grant Request: \$310,020**

The Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District will use this grant to build nearly a half mile of trail around the California Creek Estuary Park. The trail will feature interpretive kiosks explaining the unique features of the park, which contains saltwater shoreline, a freshwater creek, salmon-rearing habitat, and mudflats, along with the native wildlife and the history of the land and water. In addition, the park and recreation district will build nearly three-quarter mile of a bike and pedestrian trail to help connect Blaine and Birch Bay. The two areas are only about nine miles apart, but lack a safe trail to walk or bike between the areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1991)

**Stevenson
Beginning Development of the West Waterfront Trail****Grant Request: \$390,000**

The City of Stevenson will use this grant to buy an easement to allow for development of an area for access to Rock Creek for non-motorized uses and a pathway in downtown Stevenson. The easement will allow the City to reuse a former tug landing as a viewpoint, hand-carry boat launch, or community dock. The pathway easement helps solve a thirty-year-old problem of how to connect the Port of Skamania's downtown waterfront trails to the public trails around the Skamania County Fairgrounds and Rock Cove. Ultimately, the trails will connect to the Pacific Crest Trail, the bistate Bridge of the Gods, and federal and state trails in both Oregon and Washington. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-2027)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account: Water Access Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager

Summary:

Twelve project proposals in the Water Access Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2024-18

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Water Access Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds projects that provide physical access to shorelines for non-motorized, water-related recreation activities. These include boating, fishing, swimming, and beachcombing.

Grants may be used to acquire land or develop facilities that support water-dependent recreation such as fishing piers and platforms, boat access facilities, beaches, and water trails for canoes and kayaks.

The Water Access Category receives 10 percent of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Seventy-five percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Program Summary

The policies for the Water Access Category are in [Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account](#). The primary change for this year was an update of the evaluation criteria. A summary of the category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	Local agencies (cities, towns, counties, federally recognized Native American tribes, and park, port, school, and special purpose districts) and state ¹ agencies
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of water access sites • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent for local agencies Exception: Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. • There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Multi-site water access trails are eligible.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twelve Water Access Category projects requesting over \$18.6 million were evaluated by members of the WWRP Water Access Advisory Committee on August 27, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for

¹ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

their expertise, experience, and knowledge in local land use issues and water related recreation.

The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Eleanor Mattice, Colville²
- Jame Horan, Olympia
- Eric Jensen, Kirland
- Gayne Sears, Colbert

Local Agency Members

- Kim Bui, City of Bellevue
- Brad Chenoweth, City of Everett²
- Garrett Farrell, King County
- Anjali Myer, City of Sammamish

State Agency Members

- Tess Cooper, Department of Ecology, Spokane
- Rich Finger, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ephrata
- Tanya Moore, State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
- Noel Sharp, Department of Natural Resources, Olympia

Advisory committee members reviewed the project proposals virtually using video conferencing software and RCO's PRISM Review and Evaluation Module for scoring the projects according to Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted criteria. The presentations were streamed live to a public site to support transparency. The meetings were also recorded and posted to the RCO website. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A: *Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 27 and during the post-evaluation meeting on September 4, staff met with the WWRP Water Access Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

Some evaluators thought it would be helpful to be able to see project attachments earlier in the process and to have access to the final PowerPoint presentations when reviewing their scores. They also thought a wider scoring range would make it easier

² Participated in technical review only.

and allow for greater differentiation. Two of the criteria use a range of 0-10, which is preferred, but all others use only 0-5.

Some felt that the *Need* and *Scope* criteria were challenging for smaller, simpler projects versus larger more complex projects. The smaller projects were easier for applicants to demonstrate need and scope, and therefore easier to score. Finally, the *Engagement-Methods* criterion was challenging when trying to assess if one method is better than another. And sometimes only one method is enough to engage a community and gather input.

Overall, advisory committee members were comfortable with the process, satisfied with the materials provided, and pleased with the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of the ranked list supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the Water Access Category also support board priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Attachment A: Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-18.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make

funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-18, including Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects
- B. State Map for Water Access Category Projects
- C. Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Water Access Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-18
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-2027**

WHEREAS twelve Water Access Category projects are being considered for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreational access to water, thereby supporting priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked list of projects depicted in the *Water Access Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Water Access Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-18

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	84.2	24-1339 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Yakima River Camp Access	\$2,000,000		\$2,000,000
2	84.0	24-1943 D	Lakewood	Edgewater Park Waterfront Improvements	\$2,230,000	\$2,240,153	\$4,470,153
3	78.4	24-1925 D	Darrington	Sauk River Access Park	\$881,250	\$236,101	\$1,117,351
4	76.6	24-1802 D	Tukwila	Community Center Riverside Trail and Canoe Launch	\$1,810,000	\$1,810,000	\$3,620,000
5	74.8	24-1758 D	Port of Woodland	Austin Point Water Recreation Park	\$1,257,418	\$838,281	\$2,095,699
5	74.8	24-1848 D	Port of Columbia	Lyons Ferry Marina Pull-Through Sites and Restroom	\$1,300,600	\$587,400	\$1,888,000
7	72.6	24-1933 D	Lake Forest Park	Lakefront Park Development	\$4,153,547	\$4,153,547	\$8,307,094
8	72.3	24-1683 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	DeMolay Sandspit Accessibility and Park Improvements	\$1,775,240	\$1,775,240	\$3,550,480
9	72.0	24-1439 D	Shoreline	West Echo Lake Park Dock and Access Development	\$348,000	\$174,000	\$522,000
10	71.4	24-2025 A	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	DeMolay Sandspit Park Expansion	\$511,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,761,000
11	71.1	24-1511 D	Vashon Park District	Tramp Harbor Dock Replacement	\$1,620,216	\$1,620,217	\$3,240,433
12	61.4	24-1805 A	Shoreline	Ronald Bog Park South Access Acquisition	\$702,000	\$702,000	\$1,404,000
Total					\$18,589,271	\$16,386,939	\$34,976,210

³A=acquisition, D=development

State Map for Water Access Category Projects



Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Water access means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, river, or streams".⁴

Water Access Criteria		Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus
Unscored				
	Project Introduction	All Projects	0 points	State Focus
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Need–Local Priorities	All Projects	20 points	State and Local Focus
2	Project Scope	All Projects	15 points	Local Focus
3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition Projects	20 points	Local Focus
		Combination Projects	10 points	
4	Site Suitability	Acquisition Projects	15 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	10 points	
		Development Projects	5 points	
5	Project Design-Fit	Development Projects	10 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
6	Project Design-Budget	Development Projects	5 points	Technical Focus
		Combination Projects	2.5 points	
7	Project Engagement-Methods	All Projects	5 points	State and Local Focus
8	Project Engagement-Community	All Projects	5 points	State and Local Focus
9	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Projects	5 points	State and Local Focus
10	Sustainability	Development Projects	10 points	State Focus
		Combination Projects	5 points	
11	Diversity of Recreational Uses	Development Projects	5 points	State Focus
		Combination Projects	2.5 points	
12	Cost Efficiencies	All Projects	5 points	State and Local Focus
Scored by RCO				
13	Green Space Availability	All Projects	3 points	State Focus
14	Social Vulnerability	All Projects	3 points	State Focus
15	Health Outcomes	All Projects	3 points	State Focus

⁴ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Water Access Criteria		Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus
16	Proximity to People	All Projects	0.5 point	State Focus
17	County Population Density	All Projects	0.5 point	State Focus
18	Growth Management Act Preference	All Projects	0 points	State Focus
Total Points Possible:			100	

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with the following priorities:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP))
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Detailed Scoring Criteria, Water Access Category⁵

Project Introduction. In less than one minute, introduce the project’s location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need-Local Priorities.** Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(ii,v-vi)

2. **Project Scope.** Describe the site’s existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.

3. **Immediacy of Threat.** To what extent will this project reduce a threat to the public availability of water access? (*acquisition and combination projects only*)

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)

4. **Site Suitability.** Is the site well suited for the intended recreational uses?

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v)

5. **Project Design-Fit.** Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities. Applicants may choose to describe design elements such as parking and site access, accessibility features, environmental considerations, green infrastructure, cultural or historic interpretation, mitigation of public use impacts, etc. (*development and combination projects only*)

6. **Project Design-Budget.** Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready? (*development and combination projects only*)

7. **Project Engagement-Methods.** RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the

⁵ Updated or adopted via Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2023-27 or 2023-28

relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic, or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)

8. **Project Engagement-Community.** How has community input influenced the project design?⁶

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)

9. **Project Engagement-Partnerships.** Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area.

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(i)

10. **Sustainability.** Sustainability reflects choices made to balance the desired benefits and potential impacts of a project on the surrounding landscape and community. Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant organization's sustainability plan or how ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan. (*development and combination projects only*)

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(i)

11. **Diversity of Recreational Uses.** To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible water based recreational activities? (*development and combination projects only*)

RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iv)

12. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

13. **Green Space Availability.** Green space availability scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than eight acres per one thousand residents), Medium (three to eight acres per one thousand residents), and Low (less than three acres per one thousand residents) green space per capita.

14. **Social Vulnerability.** Social vulnerability scores use a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, or population living in

⁶ For acquisition projects, RCO staff suggests focusing on how community input influenced site selection.

poverty. The scores are based on information from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#).

15. **Health Outcomes.** This score is from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#), which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking.
16. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth boundary of a city or town with a population of five thousand or more?⁷
17. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?⁶
18. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?⁸

⁷ Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.250

⁸ Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Does not apply to tribal governments.)

Water Access Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Diversity of Recreational Uses	12. Cost Efficiencies	13. Green Space Availability	14. Social Vulnerability	15. Health Outcomes	16. Proximity to people	17. County Population Density	18. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-20	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-10	0-5	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-0.5	0-0.5	-1-0.0	
1	24-1339 A	Yakima River Camp Access	17.56	13.33	19.56	14.33			4.11	4.33	4.11			3.89	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84.22
2	24-1943 D	Edgewater Park Waterfront Improvements	18.00	13.05		4.30	8.80	4.00	4.20	4.40	4.10	7.20	4.50	3.90	3.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	83.95
3	24-1925 D	Sauk River Access Park	15.80	10.50		4.30	8.40	4.00	3.70	4.00	4.40	8.40	4.10	4.30	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	78.4
4	24-1802 D	Community Center Riverside Trail and Canoe Launch	15.56	10.67		4.33	8.00	4.22	4.56	4.44	3.89	7.56	3.89	3.44	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	76.56
5	24-1758 D	Austin Point Water Recreation Park	14.20	11.25		4.30	8.40	3.80	4.60	4.30	2.40	7.40	3.90	3.20	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.75

⁹Project types: A=acquisition, D=development

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need-Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Immediacy of Threat	4. Site Suitability	5. Project Design-Fit	6. Project Design-Budget	7. Project Engagement-Methods	8. Project Engagement-Community	9. Project Engagement-Partnerships	10. Sustainability	11. Diversity of Recreational Uses	12. Cost Efficiencies	13. Green Space Availability	14. Social Vulnerability	15. Health Outcomes	16. Proximity to people	17. County Population Density	18. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
5	24-1848 D	Lyons Ferry Marina Pull-Through Sites and Restroom	15.40	10.65		4.30	8.40	4.20	3.80	3.80	3.90	7.40	4.20	4.70	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	74.75
7	24-1933 D	Lakefront Park Development	15.80	10.20		4.70	7.80	3.50	4.20	4.10	3.10	7.60	4.20	3.40	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	72.6
8	24-1683 D	DeMolay Sandspit Accessibility and Park Improvements	14.20	12.00		4.20	8.00	4.10	4.20	4.00	4.20	7.60	3.90	3.40	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	72.3
9	24-1439 D	West Echo Lake Park Dock and Access Development	13.40	9.00		3.70	7.80	4.10	3.80	3.50	3.30	7.20	3.50	3.70	3.00	3.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	72
10	24-2025 A	DeMolay Sandspit Park Expansion	13.00	9.90	16.80	12.60			4.00	3.90	4.30			4.40	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	71.4
11	24-1511 D	Tramp Harbor Dock Replacement	13.60	9.90		3.90	8.60	4.00	4.10	4.10	4.10	9.20	3.40	3.70	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	71.1
12	24-1805 A	Ronald Bog Park South Access Acquisition	11.00	9.00	14.40	9.90			3.40	3.20	2.50			3.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	61.4

Water Access Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Buying Land for the Yakima River Camp Access

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy nearly ninety acres along the Yakima River, three miles east of Cle Elum in Kittitas County. The land has diverse shoreline habitats and one mile of the Yakima River in an important spawning and rearing reach for salmon and steelhead. Downstream from the department's Teanaway Junction access site, this land will nearly double public river access in this location. The department has a boat launch one mile upstream from this land in a dynamic reach of the Yakima River that is a dangerous place to put in or take out a watercraft, particularly for novice river users. Because of this hazard, some river users park along State Route 10 to get to the Yakima River, which creates another extremely dangerous situation. The purchase of this land will improve public safety and preserve critical habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1339)

Lakewood Developing Edgewater Park

Grant Requested: \$2,230,000

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to develop the 2.8-acre Edgewater Park on the northeastern shore of Lake Steilacoom. The City will build a fishing pier, trails, parking, a launch for hand-carry boats, pocket beaches, and a designated swimming area. The City will install park furnishings. In addition, the City will restore the shoreline by removing invasive plants, planting native plants in the wetlands and buffers, and reducing erosion. This park is the only public access to the lake for the community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1943)

Darrington Developing Access to the Sauk River

Grant Requested: \$881,250

The Town of Darrington will use this grant to develop a forty-acre natural park to connect the town's residential district to the Sauk Wild and Scenic River. The park is two blocks east of downtown but its eastern twenty acres are on the other side of the river's side channel. This forces visitors to cross on inconsistently appearing logjams, which are unsafe, unsustainable, and inequitable. The Town will build a pedestrian bridge across the side channel, enhance trails, install trailhead kiosks and interpretive signs, and create three access points to the river. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1925)

Tukwila **Grant Requested: \$1,810,000**
Creating a Canoe Launch and Riverside Recreational Amenities

The Tukwila Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to improve access to the Duwamish River at Tukwila Community Center Park. The City will regrade a slope and plant the shoreline to create a place to launch a canoe, install a log seating structure, renovate riverside trails and boardwalks, build a viewing tower overlooking the river, and add covered picnic structures with structural pipe features for communal gathering areas and cold season play elements. The City also will add drainage and fencing. This project's goal is to transform the river-facing side of the community center campus to a place where visitors can interact with the Duwamish River. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1802)

Port of Woodland **Grant Requested: \$1,257,418**
Building the Austin Point Water Recreation Park

The Port of Woodland will use this grant to build the Austin Point Water Recreation Park along the Columbia and Lewis Rivers on more than ninety acres of open space. The Port will build a parking lot, fish cleaning station, restrooms, lighting, paths for river access, and trails around a wetland. Visitors will be able to boat, swim, and fish there once the park is developed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1758)

Port of Columbia **Grant Requested: \$1,300,600**
Building Campsites at Lyons Ferry Marina

The Port of Columbia, in partnership with the private concessionaire that operates the Kampgrounds of America at Lyons Ferry Marina, will use this grant to build a restroom and develop ten pull-thru sites with patios for recreational vehicles. Lyons Ferry Marina is near the confluence of the Snake and Palouse Rivers, six miles north of the rural town of Starbuck. The marina is part of a trifecta of recreation sites at this location—Lyons Ferry State Park is just across the Snake River and Palouse Falls State Park is seven miles north of the marina. Camping is not offered at either state park so the marina campground is the only option for food, supplies, fuel, and overnight accommodations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1848)

Lake Forest Park **Grant Requested: \$4,153,547**
Developing Lakefront Park

The City of Lake Forest Park will use this grant to develop Lakefront Park, which will be on the northwest shores of Lake Washington, near the city's center and Burke-Gilman Trail. The City lacks public access to the waterfront and has a low ratio of park acres to population. The City will develop the 3.3 acres of lakefront to include a sandy beach, a

dock for swimming and kayak use, a grassy area, parking, a plaza, a picnic shelter, bathhouse, playground, and community gathering spaces. The City also will renovate the Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve portion of the park to be a more natural forested buffer for the salmon-bearing stream and shoreline there, and install additional viewing platforms and educational signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1933)

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Improving Access to the DeMolay Sandspit**

Grant Requested: \$1,775,240

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to improve access to the Tacoma DeMolay Sandspit. Access to the spit has been difficult for those with mobility issues. The park district will remove a 1950s blockhouse, septic system, a 1920s wellhouse, and an access road and driveway. The park district then will build a drop-off area, parking spaces for people with disabilities, a pathway to the beach, two restrooms, and a picnic shelter. The park district also will install signs and landscape the disturbed areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1683)

**Shoreline
Developing the West Echo Lake Park Dock**

Grant Requested: \$348,000

The City of Shoreline will use this grant to develop a neighborhood park with water access in an area lacking green space. The City will pave a pathway leading to a dock, install benches and picnic tables, and create parking spaces for people with disabilities. The park will provide access to West Echo Lake for non-motorized boating. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1439)

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Expanding the DeMolay Sandspit Park**

Grant Requested: \$511,000

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to buy 3.5 acres next to DeMolay Sandspit Park and destroy the structures there. The purchase will result in a combined park of nearly nine acres with about a half-mile of shoreline and will bring all of Nearns Point into public ownership. Nearns Point is a landform of interest in Puget Sound and the subject of studies by state and local agencies. The purchase will provide a place for passive recreation, beach access, and educational opportunities and includes a Cascade Marine Trail location for human-powered vessels. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2025)

**Vashon Park District
Replacing Tramp Harbor Dock**

Grant Requested: \$1,620,216

The Vashon Park District will use this grant to replace the Tramp Harbor fishing pier and add parking spaces for people with disabilities and interpretive signs. The creosote

wood pier has lost structural integrity and is closed. The new dock will have steel or fiberglass grating to allow light penetration to the tidelands beneath, which is better for the wildlife there including surf smelt, Pacific cod, geoduck, clams, Dungeness crab, squid, bottom fish, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The Tramp Harbor Dock is the only deepwater fishing pier on Vashon Island. Visitors use the dock and area for fishing, wildlife watching, picnicking, and shellfishing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1511)

Shoreline**Grant Requested: \$702,000****Buying Land Along Ronald Bog for a Park**

The City of Shoreline will use this grant to buy a quarter-acre that borders the south side of Ronald Bog for a future park. Buying the land from a willing seller will preserve the opportunity to expand recreation opportunities along the south side of the bog and increase access to green space for Shoreline residents. Future development of Ronald Bog Park will include a paved pathway, a dock or nature-viewing deck, benches, a small play structure, and picnic tables. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1805)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Critical Habitat Category,
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager
DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Eleven projects in the Critical Habitat Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2024-19

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

Critical Habitat Category projects provide habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species. These habitats include freshwater, salt-water, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, winter range, etc. Acquisitions often provide protection of habitat for both federal and state endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

The Critical Habitat Category receives 35 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds allocated to the Habitat Conservation Account.¹

Program Summary

A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and state² agencies Native American tribes Nonprofit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition Development Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No match required for state agencies. Local agencies, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations, and Native American tribes must provide a one-to-one matching share.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities is allowed. Must be accessible for public recreation and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the board adopted policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must establish planning eligibility with an adopted habitat or conservation plan. Livestock grazing is allowed. Development is limited to passive public access facilities like trails, interpretive signs, informational kiosks, and support amenities, including restrooms and parking areas. Projects involving renovation of an existing facility or habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration are ineligible.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eleven Critical Habitat category projects requesting over \$25 million were evaluated by members of the WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee on August 13, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(a) Revised Code of Washington

² State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat enhancement and conservation. Members who evaluated projects this cycle include the following:

Community Members

- Alex Bejaran Estevez, Seattle
- Misha Dumov, Tacoma
- John Gamon, Sumner
- Nancy Hawkes, Lynnwood
- Dave Hays, Olympia
- Eric Jokl, Tacoma
- Pat Stevenson, Bellingham
- Heather Swift, Monroe
- Matt Tweedy, Yakima

Local Agency Members

- Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank
- Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County

State Government

- Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources

The thirteen advisory committee members reviewed the proposals using live video conferencing software to conduct the meetings, and RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects according to Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in Attachment A: *Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Evaluation Criteria

The Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee also evaluates the Natural Areas and Urban Wildlife Habitat categories. As part of the post-evaluation meeting on August 16, RCO staff met with committee members to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results for these three categories.

Scoring

The committee appreciates the value of subjective scoring as it relates to breadth and diversity of experience and the unique value systems of each evaluator. However, members expressed concern that it was difficult within some sub-criteria to apportion points particularly when applicants did not fully or clearly address each sub-criterion. For example, for the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criterion for Critical Habitat

and Natural Areas, is taxonomic distinctness equal in value to the importance of acquisition? It would be helpful to have a more formalized approach to apportioning points for sub-criteria. Other suggestions to assist evaluator scoring included using a rubric or consider creating a small panel of specialists (such as biologist, zoologist, botanists) to score specific aspects of the criteria that are more objective in nature.

Criterion Challenges

When scoring the *Ecological and Biological Characteristics* and the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criteria, it was difficult to discern if the species described were located on or adjacent to the parcels targeted for acquisition. Discussion among the committee is that both may be equally valuable; however, it would be helpful if applicants were more transparent and provided clarity when addressing these criteria. The committee agreed that during the technical review session it is important to ask applicants to provide more specificity when they come back for the evaluation meeting.

The committee also noted difficulty in differentiating the ecological value between projects while scoring. Critical habitat is not necessarily "rare" because sometimes it is for common species, so it is valuable to have a diverse group of evaluators who bring different levels of expertise and perspectives to help with the scoring. Another noted challenge was determining if species diversity and ecological richness are more important than conservation of individual "species of concern".

Most applicants do a good job of collecting species data, but do not always understand how to interpret the data and relate it to their project proposals. The Department of Natural Resources provided updated guidance to provide Natural Heritage data for WWRP applicants. This material was referenced in the program policy manual, was posted on RCO's website, and was referenced during the application webinar and during technical review. The goal is to help applicants understand the data they have access to and how to use the data. Evaluators want applicants to know more about the specific threats to the wildlife or habitat species they are trying to protect and want applicants to explain how the proposed project would reduce or alleviate those threats.

Suggestions for Revising Criteria

Several suggestions were offered with future criteria revisions in mind. It would be useful to ask for more specifics about wildlife and specific species monitoring. It may also be appropriate to address tribal involvement with projects including first food harvests, education and land management activities. Also, the committee suggested it would be helpful in an overall criteria update to ensure that language and objectives meet current ecological standards and ensure that diverse species benefits are also addressed.

Preparing New Evaluators and Improving Scoring for Subsequent Rounds

Committee members suggested that a “mock evaluation” exercise be presented by a seasoned committee member as part of RCO’s evaluation orientation to reduce the first-round learning curve that new committee members experience and better prepare them for scoring. Revisiting previous round comments and concerns at the orientation for the next round would also be beneficial.

Tribal Participation

One member noted the absence of applications from Native American tribes and believes that requiring 50 percent match deters tribes from applying. Staff explained that the statute identifies federally recognized Native Americans tribes as a local governmental entity that is subject to the match requirements. The board exempted tribal governments from the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement for all grant programs and included tribes as eligible for match reduction in the Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP per Chapter 79A.15.070(4) Revised Code of Washington. Staff will discuss this issue further with tribes, RCO’s new tribal affairs director, and other relevant parties.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve Attachment A: *Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-19.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-

approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-19, including *Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects
- C. Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-19
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-2027**

WHEREAS eleven Critical Habitat Category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding multiple benefits, and relationship to established plans; and

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

WHEREAS these evaluations occurred in an open virtual meeting as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-04-065, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Critical Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below, and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Critical Habitat Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-19

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	48.3	24-1489 A	Columbia Land Trust	Klickitat Oaks Phase Two	\$4,762,250	\$4,762,250	\$9,524,500
2	44.3	24-1469 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Beezley Hills	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
3	42.8	24-1330 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Mid Columbia-Grand Coulee	\$6,001,250		\$6,001,250
3	42.8	24-1332 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Scroggie Canyon	\$710,000		\$710,000
3	42.8	24-1333 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Blue Lake Oroville	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
6	42.1	24-1928 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Jasper Mountain Reserve	\$1,560,750	\$1,560,750	\$3,121,500
7	41.8	24-1331 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wenas Watershed-Miracle Mile	\$1,150,000		\$1,150,000
8	40.8	24-1336 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hoffstadt Hills	\$6,500,000		\$6,500,000
9	40.4	24-1924 A	Skagit Land Trust	Samish River Wetlands Acquisition	\$247,500	\$272,500	\$520,000
10	39.4	24-1536 A	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Badger Mountain	\$870,000	\$877,000	\$1,747,000
11	38.0	24-1335 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Rendezvous Conservation Easements	\$1,725,000		\$1,725,000
Total					\$25,526,750	\$7,472,500	\$32,999,250

³Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects



Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Critical Habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat and habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.”⁴

Critical Habitat Criteria		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Unscored		
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goals and objectives • Location maps 	Not scored
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness and significance of the site • Statewide significance • Fish and wildlife species or communities • Quality of habitat 	20 points
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity • Pollinator habitat 	10 points
3. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to the habitat • Consideration of a conservation easement • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship • Livestock grazing uses 	15 points
4. Public Benefit and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5 points
5. Multiple Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation uses • Resource uses and management practices 	3 points
Total Points Possible		53

⁴ Chapter 79A.15.010 Revised Code of Washington

Critical Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. Provide maps showing the location of the project on the landscape and briefly provide a broad overview of the site and the project's goals and objectives.

Advisory Committee Scores

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)(ix)

2. Species or Communities with Special Status

What is the significance of each species or community listed on the required Species and Communities with Special Status table?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)(viii)

3. Manageability and Viability

What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)(x)

4. Public Benefit and Community Support

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)(iii)

5. Multiple Benefits

Does the project area include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)(i)

Critical Habitat Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	24-1489 A	Klickitat Oaks Phase Two	19.00	8.58	13.75	4.33	2.67	48.33
2	24-1469 A	Beezley Hills	16.58	9.25	12.33	3.83	2.25	44.25
3	24-1333 A	Blue Lake Oroville	17.00	7.75	12.17	3.58	2.33	42.83
3	24-1332 A	Scroggie Canyon	16.00	7.75	13.25	3.58	2.25	42.83
3	24-1330 A	Mid Columbia-Grand Coulee	16.42	8.42	12.17	3.75	2.08	42.83
6	24-1928 A	Jasper Mountain Reserve	16.42	8.25	11.75	3.33	2.33	42.08
7	24-1331 A	Wenas Watershed-Miracle Mile	16.33	8.25	11.25	3.50	2.42	41.75
8	24-1336 A	Hoffstadt Hills	14.58	7.50	12.08	4.00	2.67	40.83
9	24-1924 A	Samish River Wetlands Acquisition	14.92	7.75	12.08	3.92	1.75	40.42

⁵Project type: A=acquisition

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
10	24-1536 A	Badger Mountain	15.83	7.67	11.33	3.17	1.42	39.42
11	24-1335 A	Rendezvous Conservation Easements	15.50	7.42	10.58	2.92	1.58	38.00

Critical Habitat Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Columbia Land Trust

Grant Request: \$4,762,250

Continuing Conservation of Klickitat Oaks

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 2,800 acres of state priority Oregon white oak woodland, savanna, and mixed oak-conifer habitat above the Wild and Scenic Klickitat River. The purchase creates a critical two-mile link between already-conserved oak habitat to the north and south. Oregon white oak is one of eleven priority terrestrial habitat types in the state and 90 percent of the remaining oak in Washington is in this region. The land also is used by twenty state priority wildlife species. Both Oregon white oak and the Klickitat River are anticipated to provide resilience to climate change due to oaks' drought tolerance and fire resilience and the undammed river's north-south orientation. The purchase will allow opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1489)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Request: \$1,000,000

Conserving Beezley Hills for Pygmy Rabbits

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 640 acres of Beezley Hills, six miles north of Quincy, to conserve shrub-steppe habitat. The department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are using the land in reintroduction efforts for the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit. The land also is in the range of the greater sage-grouse. The population of Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit in Washington is extremely small and is designated for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. The population is threatened by loss and degradation of shrub-steppe, primarily caused by converting the land to farms and development. Of the 10.4 million acres of shrub-steppe that were in eastern Washington before European settlers arrived in the mid-nineteenth century, only 20 percent remains. The acquisition also will provide opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, bird hunting, and mule deer hunting. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1469)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Request: \$6,001,250

Conserving Mid-Columbia Shrub-Steppe

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 4,321 acres along the Columbia River, fourteen miles northwest of Grand Coulee. The purchase will protect high-quality sagebrush-steppe habitat, ponderosa pine stands, wetlands, and 2.6 miles of Columbia River shoreline. The land will be incorporated into the adjacent Big Bend Wildlife Area and managed to benefit Columbian sharptailed grouse, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and greater sage-grouse, which is a species listed as threatened, as well as other shrub-steppe species. The project will expand connection between regional grouse populations, making the purchase a strategic component in the department's efforts to maintain and recover both grouse species. The purchase also supports recovery plans

for Washington ground squirrels and pygmy rabbits. As part of the 22,121-acre Big Bend Wildlife Area, the purchase will expand opportunities for big game and upland bird hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1330)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Scroggie Canyon**

Grant Request: \$710,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 742 acres next to Colockum Creek, south of Wenatchee, to protect and improve shrub-steppe habitat. The purchase will help address the loss of quality shrub-steppe habitat in eastern Washington and improve habitat connectivity and management efficiencies in the department's Colockum Wildlife Area. The land includes Scroggie Canyon, intact shrub-steppe habitat as well as ridgetops that have been altered by farming. The land is used by California bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, Rocky Mountain mule deer, and golden eagles and is considered critical winter range for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. Additionally, it contains two habitats listed as Imperiled Habitats of Greatest Conservation Needs in the *Washington State Wildlife Action Plan*: (1) Columbia Basin Foothill and Canyon Dry Grassland and (2) Inter-Mountain Basin Big Sagebrush Steppe. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1332)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Buying Land Along Blue Lake**

Grant Request: \$1,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve about 479 acres of shrub-steppe habitat, about five miles southwest of Oroville in the northern Okanogan Valley. The land is next to Blue Lake and borders state-owned land. The purchase includes about a quarter-mile of Blue Lake shoreline. The purchase protects significant shrub-steppe and riverbank habitats for species such as mule deer and the federally listed gray wolf. The purchase will expand recreational opportunities in the upper Okanogan Valley, which is popular for hiking, boating, camping, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1333)

**Blue Mountain Land Trust
Conserving Jasper Mountain Reserve**

Grant Request: \$1,560,750

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy the 327.4-acre Jasper Mountain Reserve, next to the 8,441-acre Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Rainwater Wildlife Area. The land has a diverse mix of eastside steppe, moist mixed ponderosa pine, and riverine habitat, making it a regional corridor for diverse wildlife. There are eleven documented Species of Greatest Conservation need, including the state endangered gray wolf. The land hosts a breeding pair of great gray owls, which are exceptionally rare. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that only one hundred great gray owls live in the state. The purchase will protect the land forever and provide public access for low-impact recreation, research, and education. To date, thirteen miles of hiking trails have been built and two more miles are

planned. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1928)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving the Miracle Mile in the Wenas Watershed

Grant Request: \$1,150,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve 440 acres of shrub-steppe and stream bank habitat, called the Miracle Mile. The land supports an extraordinary diversity of species. It borders the Wenas Wildlife Area on two sides and connects two important core habitats. The land contains imperiled shrub-steppe habitat and a low-elevation pine forest bisected by streams, with significant conservation importance in the region. About 25 percent of bird species that occur in the lower forty-eight states have been identified in this watershed. A significant component of the Yakima elk herd and mule deer populations winter next to this property. Pressure from development in this area as well as its proximity to multiple cities increases the risk of residential development. The Wenas Wildlife Area is popular for recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and other wildlife viewing. The department will use a combination of direct purchases of land and purchases of voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, to conserve the land. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1331)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Hoffstadt Hills and Access to the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area

Grant Request: \$6,500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 1,200 acres of a larger 7,500-acre acquisition strategy. The land lies between State Route 504 and the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area. It includes cliffs, talus slopes, and forested wetlands. Most of the land is in the 1980 volcanic blast zone and next to the U.S. Forest Service National Volcanic Monument. The first phase of acquisition will focus on the westernmost portion of the area to secure access to the Mudflow and Hoffstadt Units of the wildlife area and to protect the area from residential development. The purchase will protect and enhance elk winter range and provide year-round public access to the wildlife area, which is effectively landlocked by private ownership. Watershed function and tributary habitat also would be enhanced to benefit coho salmon and steelhead trout, which are species listed as at-risk of extinction. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1336)

Skagit Land Trust
Conserving the Samish River Wetlands

Grant Request: \$247,500

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to buy about twenty-six acres of important riverine and wetland habitat in Skagit County. The land includes one-third mile of the upper Samish River, north of Sedro-Woolley. The land contains critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog, which is a species listed by the State as endangered and by the federal government as threatened with extinction. The land also supports a variety of salmon species including Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead trout, as well as coho and chum salmon and resident coastal cutthroat trout. The purchase will permanently protect 22.5 acres of nationally declining palustrine forested and

scrub-shrub wetlands and 3.5 acres of lowland streambank forest for the benefit of these species. Once purchased, the land will be opened for low-impact public use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1924)

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
Conserving Badger Mountain Critical Habitat

Grant Request: \$870,000

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, for more than 3,200 acres on Badger Mountain in Douglas County. The purchase will allow continued farming and ranching, and protect the area as critical habitat for greater sage-grouse, a state endangered species. The land trust is working to connect important properties on Badger Mountain through conservation easements that compensate landowners for voluntarily maintaining their land as ranching and wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1536)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Shrub-Steppe in the Methow Valley

Grant Request: \$1,725,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, on 169 acres of shrub-steppe habitat, 2.5 miles northwest of Winthrop in the upper Methow Valley. The land is a critical migratory corridor for mule deer. The purchase will conserve shrub-steppe habitat for winter mule deer and species dependent on sagebrush. It also will improve the mobility of animals such as the state endangered gray wolf by bolstering the north-south wildlife corridor connecting state and federal lands. The purchase also will expand recreational opportunities in upper Methow Valley, which is widely used for hiking, wildlife viewing, and many other outdoor activities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1335)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Natural Areas Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Four project proposals in the Natural Areas Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-20

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

Projects in the Natural Areas Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) protect high quality, representative native ecosystems, or unique plant or animal communities. Species protected in these habitats are often classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive at the federal or state level. Rare geological features or features of scientific or educational value are also considered. The Natural

Areas Category receives 25 percent of the funds given to the WWRP Habitat Conservation Account.¹

Program Summary

The board did not adopt any program policy changes for the Natural Areas category this year. A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies² • Qualified nonprofit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development • Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies: no match required • Nonprofit nature conservancies: Fifty percent match required
Public Access	Must be accessible for public recreation and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the board’s adopted policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for habitat conservation purposes in perpetuity. • Areas must be managed primarily for resource preservation, protection, and study. • Projects involving renovation of an existing facility or habitat creation, enhancement, or restoration are ineligible. • Development is limited to public use facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, parking, and restrooms, where appropriate.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Four Natural Areas Category projects requesting just over \$11.3 million were evaluated July 22 - August 13, 2024. WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee members are selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director. These individuals are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(b) Revised Code of Washington

² State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

habitat preservation and conservation. Members who evaluated projects this cycle include the following:

Community Members

- Alex Bejaran Estevez, Seattle
- Misha Dumov, Tacoma
- John Gamon, Sumner
- Nancy Hawkes, Lynnwood
- Dave Hays, Olympia
- Eric Jokl, Tacoma
- Pat Stevenson, Bellingham
- Heather Swift, Monroe
- Matt Tweedy, Yakima

Local Agency Members

- Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank
- Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County

State Government

- Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources

To review and rank each project, the thirteen advisory committee members used a written evaluation process and RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects using the board's adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in Attachment A: *Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the Natural Areas Category, the Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee evaluates the Critical Habitat and Urban Wildlife Habitat categories. As part of the post-evaluation meeting on August 16, 2024, RCO staff met with committee members to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results for these three categories.

Scoring

The committee appreciates the value of subjective scoring as it relates to breadth and diversity of experience and the unique value systems of each evaluator. However, concern was expressed that it was difficult within some sub-criteria to apportion points particularly when applicants did not fully or clearly address each sub-criterion. For example, for the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criterion for Critical Habitat and Natural Areas, is taxonomic distinctness equal in value to the importance of acquisition? It would be helpful to have a more formalized approach to apportioning points for sub-criteria. Other suggestions to assist evaluator scoring included using a

rubric or consider creating a small panel of specialists (such as biologist, zoologist, botanists) to score specific aspects of the criteria that are more objective in nature.

Criterion Challenges

When scoring the *Ecological and Biological Characteristics* and the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criteria, it was difficult to discern if the species described were located on or adjacent to the parcels targeted for acquisition. Discussion among the committee is that both may be equally valuable; however, it would be helpful if applicants were more transparent and provided clarity when addressing these criteria. The committee agreed that during the technical review session it is important to ask applicants to provide more specificity when they come back for the evaluation meeting.

Suggestions for Revising Criteria

Several suggestions were offered with future criteria revisions in mind. Committee members offered that it would be useful to ask for more specifics about wildlife and specific species monitoring. It may also be appropriate to address tribal involvement with projects including first food harvests, education and land management activities. Further, the committee suggested it would be helpful in an overall criteria update to ensure that language and objectives meet current ecological standards and ensure that diverse species benefits are also addressed.

Preparing New Evaluators and Improving Scoring for Subsequent Rounds

Committee members suggested that a “mock evaluation” exercise be presented by a seasoned committee member as part of RCO’s evaluation orientation to reduce the first-round learning curve that new committee members experience and better prepare them for scoring. Revisiting previous round comments and concerns at the orientation for the next round would also be beneficial.

Overall, committee members were comfortable with the evaluation process and the subsequent ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board’s goal to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open

manner, and its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the *Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-20.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-20, including *Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects
- C. Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Natural Areas Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-20
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS nine Natural Areas Category projects are being considered for funding in the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and community support and relationship to established plans; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects address a variety of habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitats and the need to protect it, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Natural Areas Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date:

Natural Areas Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-20

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Total
1	42	24-1549 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$3,213,760	\$3,213,760
2	41.33	24-1545 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cypress Island Nature Resources Conservation Area	\$2,115,459	\$2,115,459
3	40.5	24-1461 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$4,490,300	\$4,490,300
4	37.75	24-1548 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Dabob Bay Natural Area	\$1,545,085	\$1,545,085
Total					\$11,364,604	\$11,364,604

³Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects



Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Natural Areas means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.”⁴

Evaluation Criteria Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Unscored		
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goals and objectives • Location maps 	Not scored
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Statewide significance • Species or communities • Quality of habitat and natural features 	20 points
1. Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisition • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Pollinator habitat 	10 points
2. Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Consideration of a conservation easement • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship 	15 points
3. Public Benefit and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5 points
4. Multiple Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation uses • Resource uses and management practices 	3 points
Total Points Possible		53

⁴Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Natural Areas Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. Provide a broad overview of the site and the project's goals and objectives.

Advisory Committee Scores

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a) (iii, v-vii, ix, xi, xiii, xiv, xvi)

2. Species or Communities with Special Status

What is the significance of each species or community listed on the required Species or Communities with Special Status table?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iv, vii, ix, xi, xiii, xv, xvii)

3. Manageability and Viability

What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable (functioning) over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (ii, iv, vi, x)

4. Public Benefit and Community Support

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from, or support, the project?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (iii, xii, xiv)

5. Multiple Benefits

Recreation Uses: Does the project area include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

Resource Uses and Management Practices: Does the project area include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5) (a) (i)

Natural Areas Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	24-1549 A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	15.33	7.58	12.75	4.58	1.75	42.00
2	24-1545 A	Cypress Island Nature Resources Conservation Area	16.08	6.75	12.08	4.00	2.42	41.33
3	24-1461 A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area	15.75	7.33	12.25	3.42	1.75	40.50
4	24-1548 A	Dabob Bay Natural Area	15.00	5.00	12.08	3.83	1.83	37.75

⁵Project type: A=acquisition

Natural Areas Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving the Woodard Bay Area

Grant Request: \$3,213,760

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about forty-eight acres of important habitat in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, near Olympia. The land includes beach, shoreline, and forest. The Natural Resources Conservation Area hosts a diverse array of saltwater and freshwater habitats on the periphery of one of the state's faster growing urban areas. The conservation area also is a regionally significant haven for wildlife, hosting shorebirds, songbirds, harbor seals, river otters, bald eagles, a heron rookery, a colony of double-crested cormorants, native Olympia oysters, and one of the largest maternity bat colonies in the state. The conservation area frequently is visited by school students and college classes. It also has been approved for registration on the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic landscape for its rich human history involving tribes, early settlers to southern Puget Sound, as well as logging and shellfish industries. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1549)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Cypress Island

Grant Request: \$2,115,459

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about twenty-nine acres on Cypress Island in Skagit County. The department owns and manages about 95 percent of the island as the Cypress Highlands Natural Area Preserve and the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area. As the fifth largest and most undeveloped island in the San Juan archipelago, Cypress offers the best example of a relatively undisturbed, diverse terrestrial and marine ecological system. Nearly eighteen miles of undeveloped marine shoreline, old-growth forests, undisturbed wetlands, springs, and lakes provide the largest protected area of contiguous habitat in the San Juan Islands. There is no other site like it. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1545)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Land in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area

Grant Request: \$4,490,300

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about eighty-five acres of important habitat in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, near Seabeck in Kitsap County. The land contains mature forest cover habitat and is at risk for development. Its addition to the conservation area will support wildlife and protect

Puget Sound nearshore habitat and critical wetland complexes. The Stavis Natural Area, which is a combination of the conservation area and the Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, protects high-quality and regionally diminishing wildlife habitat and is a crucial part of the larger landscape of forestlands on the western Kitsap Peninsula. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1461)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Expanding the Dabob Bay Natural Area**

Grant Request: \$1,545,085

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly nineteen acres of shoreline and mature forest in the Dabob Bay Natural Area, in Jefferson County. The land includes a natural feeder bluff and developable uplands. The land is next to state-conserved land. Buying the land will allow the department to further strengthen the long-term protection of the Dabob Bay Natural Area, support future education and research opportunities, and provide potential opportunities for low-impact public use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1548)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Riparian Protection Category
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Six project proposals in the Riparian Protection Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the Category and the review and evaluation process. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be Request for Decision
 Request for Direction
 Briefing

Resolution: 2024-21

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

Riparian Protection Category projects provide habitat adjacent to water bodies for fish and wildlife species. These habitats include estuaries, lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines, tidelands, and wetlands. To be eligible for consideration, a project must include the acquisition of real property through the purchase of an easement, lease, or fee title.

This Category receives 15 percent of the funds allocated to the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). In addition, any

amount above \$3 million in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category will be distributed to the Riparian Protection Category.

Program Summary

A summary of this Category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and state agencies¹ • Federally recognized Native American tribes • Nonprofit nature conservancy organizations • Special purpose districts, or other political subdivisions of the state that provide services to less than the entire state
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Acquisition and development • Acquisition and habitat restoration and enhancement • Development of a stewardship plan as part of an acquisition • Extension of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) leases
Funding Limits	<p>Applicants must request a minimum of \$25,000. There is no maximum request amount.</p>
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit conservancy applicants must provide a one-to-one matching share. • No match required for state agencies.
Public Access	<p>Must be accessible for public access and outdoor education unless the board specifically approves limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.</p>
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Projects must include acquisition of real property via fee title, a conservation easement, or a twenty-five-year CREP lease. • Projects may include restoration or enhancement of the property acquired to improve ecological function or restore historic conditions. • Projects may include limited development for low impact public access facilities such as trails, trailheads, parking, restrooms, fencing, signs, and kiosks.

¹Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington Departments of Enterprise Services, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources. The Departments of Transportation and Corrections may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies to apply in partnership. RCW 79A.15.040(5).

Evaluation Summary

Members of the WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee evaluated six Riparian Protection projects on August 12, 2024, in an online virtual meeting. Applicants are requesting over \$7.6 million in grant funds. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include governmental representatives and citizens recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation and restoration. The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Merci Clinton, Port Orchard
- Amy Bainbridge, Kingston
- Glen Mendel, Dayton
- Debbie Rose, Seattle
- Cindy Wilson, Olympia
- Matt Cochran, Spokane
- Mary Kline, Graham
- Arthur Salido, Yakima

Local Agency Members

- Frana Milan, Seattle Public Utilities

State Agency Members

- Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources
- Richard Tveten,² Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tribal Government Members

- Erin Lanum, Port Gamble S’Kallam Tribe

Eleven advisory committee members used video conferencing to review the proposals and RCO’s PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in Attachment A: *Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria

In addition to the Riparian Protection Category, the WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee also evaluates the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category. As part of the post-evaluation meeting on August 16, 2024, RCO staff met with committee

² Participated in the technical review meeting only.

members to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results for these two categories.

Overall, the committee noted a positive experience with the PRISM evaluation tool. They liked the layout of the scoring criteria and the easy accessibility to their technical review notes and comments. They appreciated being able to quickly view all their scores for a specific evaluation criterion. This proved to be a great tool to help each evaluator double-check their scoring consistency.

The committee also noted that the applicants did a good job of incorporating feedback from technical review and improving their final presentations. The committee suggested reviewing the final presentations in advance of the evaluation meeting, but RCO staff explained that applicants typically work to finalize their presentations by evaluation day and presentations are not readily available for advance review. In addition, staff encourages evaluators to focus on listening to the applicants while viewing their presentations to help ensure evaluators do not miss details that are articulated verbally in conjunction with the presentation graphics.

The committee had no specific comments about where projects ranked and noted that there were no surprises with the ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the *Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-21.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-21, including *Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Riparian Protection Category Projects
- C. Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Riparian Protection Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Riparian Protection Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-21
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS six Riparian Protection Category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by a team of community members and governmental representatives using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board that considers the habitat benefits and relationship to existing plans, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS the projects include acquisitions and restoration that provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity; protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Riparian Protection Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Riparian Protection Category Projects
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-21

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	60.73	24-1594 A	Forterra	Frog's Home Acquisition	\$706,662	\$706,949	\$1,413,611
2	60.18	24-1997 A	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	White Salmon River Conservation Lands Acquisition	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$6,000,000
3	57.9	24-1556 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Riparian Protection	\$1,008,012		\$1,008,012
4	55.91	24-1573 C	Whatcom Land Trust	Kelsey Addition	\$397,437	\$399,438	\$796,875
5	51.64	24-1337 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Chehalis Valley	\$2,275,000		\$2,275,000
6	51.18	24-1338 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Canyon Creek	\$300,000		\$300,000
Total					\$7,687,111	\$4,106,387	\$11,793,498

³Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination (acquisition and restoration)

State Map for Riparian Protection Projects



Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

"Riparian habitat" means land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.⁴

Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Summary			
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Project Type	Possible Points
Unscored			
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map • Project goals and objectives 	All projects	Not scored
Scored by the Advisory Committee			
Acquisition Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological makeup • Riparian habitat • Pollinator habitat • Surrounding land uses • Level of protection 	All projects	20 points
1. Planning and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan support • Community engagement 	All projects	15 points
2. Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational capacity • Stewardship plan 	Acquisition projects	16 points
		Acquisition and Restoration projects	8 points
3. Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration plan 	Acquisition and Restoration projects	8 points
4. Threats to the Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats to the site • Immediacy of threat 	All projects	5 points
5. Community Benefits and Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Benefits • Public Access • Education and scientific opportunities 	All projects	10 points

⁴Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010(8)

Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Summary			
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Project Type	Possible Points
Scored by RCO			
6. Matching Share	• Other resources	All projects	3 points
7. Matching Share Bonus	• Non-federal, non-state contribution	All projects	1 point
8. Growth Management Act		All projects	0 points
Total Points Possible			70

Riparian Protection Detailed Scoring Criteria⁵

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. The following detailed criteria will provide an opportunity to describe the project in more depth; however, the intent here primarily is to help orient the evaluators to the project.

Scored by Advisory Committee

1. Acquisition Benefits

What are the specific environmental benefits of this project?

2. Planning and Community Support

How does this project or its ecological characteristics support a current organizational plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort?

3. Stewardship

Please describe what expertise and capacity the applicant's organization has for long-term management of the site including staff, volunteer, and finance resources and any other relevant factors.

4. Restoration

Please describe what expertise and capacity the applicant's organization have to conduct this riparian restoration project?

⁵ Chapter 79A.15.060 (5)(c) Revised Code of Washington

5. **Threats to the Habitat**

Characterize the threats to the site. Threats may be ecological, biological, human-caused, or related to climate change.

6. **Community Benefits and Public Access**

How does this project provide multiple benefits to the community, habitat, or surrounding ecological landscape?

Scored by RCO Staff

7. **Matching Share**

To what extent will the applicant match any Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant funds with other contributions?

8. **Matching Share Bonus**

Does the non-state, non-federal contribution described in the Matching Share criterion above equal more than 10 percent of the total project cost?

9. **Growth Management Act Compliance**

RCW 43.17.250

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

Riparian Protection Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Acquisition Benefits	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Stewardship	4. Restoration	5. Threats to the Habitat	6. Community Benefit and Public Access	7. Matching Share	8. Matching Share Bonus	9. Growth Management Act	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-16	0-8	0-5	0-10	0-3	0-1	-1-0	
1	24-1594 A	Frog's Home Acquisition	18.64	13.73	14.36		4.55	8.45	0.00	1.00	0.00	60.73
2	24-1997 A	White Salmon River Conservation Lands Acquisition	18.09	14.27	14.27		4.18	8.36	0.00	1.00	0.00	60.18
3	24-1556 A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Riparian Protection	17.30	13.60	13.80		3.90	9.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.90
4	24-1573 C	Kelsey Addition	16.55	13.00	7.09	6.27	4.00	7.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	55.91
5	24-1337 A	Chehalis Valley	15.82	12.00	12.91		3.36	7.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.64
6	24-1338 A	Canyon Creek	14.91	12.55	13.36		2.91	7.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.18

⁶Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination (acquisition and restoration)

Riparian Protection Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Forterra Conserving Frog's Home

Grant Request; \$706,662

Forterra Northwest and the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation will use this grant to reacquire 176 acres of environmentally and culturally significant land in the Nation's treaty territory. The land, known as Frog's Home, is along the Yakima River and Union Gap Canal in Moxee, south of Yakima and next to the Yakama Reservation. The land's Yakima River side channels are habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead and bull trout. The purchase will allow the Nation to permanently eliminate livestock grazing, improve river and wetland buffers, and restore the former ranch to improve water quality and quantity in the Yakima River for migrating salmon species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1594)

Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation Conserving the White Salmon River

Grant Request; \$3,000,000

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to buy 5.6 miles of the lower White Salmon River corridor in Skamania and Klickitat Counties. The goal is to protect intact, high-quality habitat critical for salmon, steelhead, and other species. The land consists of 458 acres of undeveloped riverbank and uplands, and nearly 10.3 miles of streambank. The project will benefit Endangered Species-Act-listed coho, Chinook, and chum salmon, and steelhead and bull trout. The basin has diverse habitats and species, unique geologic features, and year-round cold, clean water. The land is primarily rural but experiencing significant development pressure, and is identified as a high priority for protection in the Klickitat Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy, National Marine Fisheries Service salmon recovery plans, and other plans. Condit Dam was removed in 2012, restoring up to thirty-three miles of fish passage. Conservation of the land will ensure the restoration investment there is protected into the future. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1997)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conserving Land in Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

Grant Request; \$1,008,012

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about sixty-eight acres in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, just north of Olympia in Thurston County. Most of the land is undeveloped shoreline, wetland, and tideland. The conservation area protects an outstanding example of Washington's native ecological

systems, including more than five miles of undeveloped shorelines, wetlands, and mature forests in the Henderson Inlet watershed. The conservation area also is a regionally significant haven for wildlife, hosting shorebirds and songbirds, harbor seals, river otters, bald eagles, a heron rookery, a colony of double-crested cormorants, native Olympia oysters, and one of the largest maternity bat colonies in the state. The conservation area frequently is visited by students. The area has been approved for registration on the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic landscape for its rich human history involving tribes and early settlers to southern Puget Sound, as well as the logging and shellfish industries. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1556)

Whatcom Land Trust
Expanding Kelsey Preserve

Grant Request; \$397,437

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy and restore 50.8 acres of habitat along Lake Terrell at the confluence of Butler Creek in Whatcom County. The purchase will expand the trust's Kelsey Preserve by adding forty acres of riverbank habitat, about one-third mile of lake shoreline, and more than one thousand feet of Butler Creek. In total, nearly 0.4 mile of coho salmon-spawning habitat in Butler Creek will be protected. The Kelsey Preserve provides opportunities for passive recreation, such as birding and wildlife viewing. The purchase will create nearly contiguous protection around Lake Terrell with the adjacent Lake Terrell Wildlife Management Area managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The surrounding areas and wetlands provide habitat and foraging grounds for state candidate species such as western grebe, state sensitive species such as the common loon, and for trumpeter swan, bufflehead, and northern pintail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1573)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving the Chehalis Valley

Grant Request; \$2,275,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy up to 252 acres of stream bank and wetlands at three sites in the Chehalis River watershed in Grays Harbor County (146 acres near Elma, 95 acres near Porter, and 11 acres near Montesano). The land would expand department ownership next to fish-bearing streams and rivers, permanently protecting about three miles of stream and river shoreline. The land is a mix of riverbank, floodplain, forests, and pastures that support a variety of waterfowl, elk, beaver, and salmon species. Species of Greatest Conservation Need-listed species found around the sites include band-tailed pigeon, wood ducks, and endemic Olympic mudminnow. Recreational opportunities include fishing and hunting. The department's goal is to build ecologically resilient blocks of land that are connected by water within

the Chehalis River watershed and to increase the amount of department-owned land around its regional office used for research, restoration, and public outreach. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1337)

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving Canyon Creek**

Grant Request; \$300,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy eighty acres of undeveloped land to protect the confluence of Canyon and Bowman Creeks and the pine-Oregon white oak habitat used by western gray squirrels (a state endangered species) and steppe habitat. The land is home to black tailed deer and wild turkeys, both of which are priority species for management in the Klickitat Wildlife Area. Canyon and Bowman Creeks provide a year-round water source for wildlife in an otherwise arid region and important habitat for both rainbow trout and residential coastal cutthroat trout. This and other nearby land are in imminent danger of development. Buying the land would create a continuous corridor of conserved land, preserving habitat connectivity, improving state management by connecting the areas, and providing public access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1338)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Habitat Conservation Account: State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Seventeen projects in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-22

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects allow for restoration and enhancement of habitats on existing state lands. These habitats may include salt or freshwater areas, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, and other ecosystems or habitats native to Washington State. Restoration brings the site back to its original function through activities that can reasonably be expected to result in a site that is, to the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category receives 10 percent or \$3 million (whichever is less) of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.

Program Summary

A summary of this category is shown in the table below:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Natural Resources • State Parks and Recreation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of existing habitats • Enhancement or creation of habitats
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of \$25,000 per project • Maximum of \$500,000 per multi-site project • Maximum of \$1,000,000 per single-site project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Habitat areas must be accessible for public access and outdoor education unless it meets the criteria outlined in the board policy for limiting public access to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility • Properties must be state-owned and managed primarily for resource preservation and protection • Multi-site projects must be for similar habitat improvements (e.g., shrub-steppe enhancement, wetland restoration, etc.)

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Seventeen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects requesting nearly \$5.5 million were evaluated July 22 - August 13, 2024. The WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement:

Community Members

- Merci Clinton, Port Orchard
- Amy Bainbridge, Kingston
- Glen Mendel, Dayton
- Debbie Rose, Seattle

- Cindy Wilson, Olympia
- Matt Cochran, Spokane
- Melanie Kitzan, North Bend
- Mary Kline, Graham
- Arthur Salido, Yakima

Local Agency Members

- Frana Milan, Seattle Public Utilities

State Agency Members¹

- Curt Pavola, Department of Natural Resources
- Richard Tveten, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tribal Government Members

- Erin Lanum, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe

Eleven advisory committee members used a written evaluation process and RCO’s PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module to score and rank the projects using board-adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in Attachment A: *State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria

In addition to the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, the WWRP Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee evaluates the Riparian Protection Category. As part of the post-evaluation meeting on August 16, 2024, RCO staff met with committee members to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results for these two categories.

Scoring

Overall, the committee noted a positive experience with the PRISM evaluation tool. They liked the layout of the scoring criteria and how they were easily able to access their technical review notes and comments. They could quickly view all projects and used the score comparison tool to double-check scoring consistency. In addition, committee members said it felt like they had more time than in the past to evaluate projects, which was appreciated.

The committee discussed challenges with evaluating and scoring written proposals. All projects appeared to be strong and competitive. Having such a good portfolio of projects emphasizes the importance of applicants fully addressing the board-adopted criteria and providing adequate documentation and support for their responses. It was more difficult for members without scientific expertise to distinguish the ecological values and restoration approaches, particularly if not well-supported in the written

¹Participated in technical review only.

responses. At times, evaluators felt they had to search for confirmation (via the internet) to feel prepared to score. In summary, the key questions were: 1) did the applicants thoroughly address the criteria and provide documentation, and 2) do the proposals seem feasible? In some cases, this created a tighter scoring result amongst some evaluators where differences were not as distinct.

Several committee members mentioned that they developed rubrics to assist finalizing their scores. For this written evaluation format, the committee suggested that it would be helpful to have an opportunity to meet as a group during the evaluation process. While the committee acknowledged that projects are intended to be evaluated independently to avoid biasing the process, they suggested that it could be helpful in the scoring process to provide an outlet for group communication before scores are finalized, to answer any questions or clarify criteria as needed. RCO staff responded that the agency is considering a hybrid process for some of its written evaluation process. Applicants would still submit written responses to the criteria; however, RCO would schedule a question-and-answer period where evaluators could ask applicants questions before the scores are finalized.

The committee noted that there was a ten-point difference between the top and bottom-ranked projects. However, when considering the number of projects evaluated and the fact that they were all considered strong proposals, the committee felt that the projects were ranked appropriately and there were no surprises as to where projects ranked. Several committee members commented that their individual rankings aligned with the cumulative results.

Funded Restoration Projects and Timely Implementation

One committee member commented that they sometimes recognize projects that appear to be the same or similar to previously submitted projects. It would be helpful to better understand how current proposals relate to funded projects. For example, is the current proposal for a new phase, is it in a different area, is it in the same area but accomplishing a different but related objective? RCO staff suggested the addition of an introductory question, asking the applicant to disclose and explain any previously funded restoration work and how that work relates to the current proposal.

Another committee member inquired about the time it takes to implement restoration projects and if the length is related to permitting. RCO staff explained that sometimes the timeframe is tied to securing permits but other influencing factors can include seasonal windows of opportunity and best practices, sequencing of restoration activities and plantings, phased work, and in some cases, staffing availability and working to spend older funding first.

Public Comment

Letters of support for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects are attached to proposals in Project Snapshot and are accessible by clicking the project

number on the ranked list (Attachment A). Any additional public comment will be shared at the October board meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Attachment A: State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-22.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-22, including *State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects
- C. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Evaluation Scores
- E. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-22
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects are being considered for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS the meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10b: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by a team of community members and governmental representatives using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved criteria, thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the uniqueness or significance of the habitat, threat, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the board’s objectives to help sponsors maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by:

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date:

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution: 2024-22

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ²	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	49.3	24-1812 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Washougal Oaks Natural Area Restoration Phase Four	\$138,000	\$15,000	\$153,000
2	48.3	24-1560 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration Phase Three	\$493,770		\$493,770
3	47.9	24-1767 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Sand-Verbena Moth Habitat Restoration	\$229,880		\$229,880
4	47.6	24-1704 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Copalis Coastal Dune Restoration	\$265,000		\$265,000
5	47.5	24-1488 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Shrub Steppe Restoration at Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	\$197,500		\$197,500
6	47.1	24-1783 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Forest Restoration on Klickitat Natural Areas	\$306,000		\$306,000
7	46.9	24-1862 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Barclay Crane Shrub Steppe Restoration Douglas County	\$484,154		\$484,154
7	46.9	24-1936 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Prairie and Oak Restoration at Violet Prairie	\$387,002		\$387,002
9	46.6	24-1558 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Western Kitsap Forest Restoration	\$114,260		\$114,260
10	46.5	24-1846 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Shrub Steppe Restoration at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park	\$777,076		\$777,076
11	45.9	24-1764 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cleveland Shrub Steppe Restoration	\$157,040		\$157,040

²Project types: R=restoration

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ²	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
12	45.8	24-1462 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cypress Island Strawberry Bay Restoration	\$515,158	\$61,000	\$576,158
12	45.8	24-1470 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Forest Habitat Restoration	\$328,250		\$328,250
14	44.9	24-1345 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sinlahekin Riparian Restoration Phase one	\$358,183		\$358,183
15	41.5	24-2015 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Methow Wildlife Area: Cougar Lake Restoration	\$427,000		\$427,000
16	40.7	24-1680 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Pinecroft Natural Area Pine Restoration and Grassland Recovery	\$80,000		\$80,000
17	38.9	24-1638 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lakebay Stream Restoration	\$300,632	\$50,950	\$351,582
Total					\$5,558,905	\$126,950	\$5,685,855

State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects



State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project goals and objectives Statewide, vicinity, and site maps 	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger picture Uniqueness or significance Target species and communities 	15
2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The problem to be addressed Threat 	15
3. Project Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details of project design Best management practices 	15
4. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistency with existing plans Puget Sound Partnership guidelines 	5
5. Public Benefit and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public educational or scientific value 	5
Maximum Possible Score		55

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

- 1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
Describe why the site is worthy of long-term conservation.
- 2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement**
Describe why this restoration or enhancement project needs to be completed.
- 3. Project Design**
Describe how the proposed project will address the problem(s) identified earlier.
- 4. Planning**
Specifically describe how the project is consistent with planning efforts occurring in the area.
- 5. Public Benefit**
Describe the degree to which communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from, or support, the project.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ³	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	3. Project Design	4. Planning	5. Public Benefit and Support	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-15	0-5	0-5	
1	24-1812 R	Washougal Oaks Natural Area Restoration Phase Four	13.55	13.82	13.36	4.27	4.27	49.27
2	24-1560 R	South Sound Grassland and Oak Restoration Phase Three	13.91	13.09	12.55	4.27	4.45	48.27
3	24-1767 R	Sand-Verbena Moth Habitat Restoration	13.73	13.36	12.55	4.36	3.91	47.91
4	24-1704 R	Copalis Coastal Dune Restoration	13.55	12.64	13.00	4.27	4.18	47.64
5	24-1488 R	Shrub Steppe Restoration at Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	13.36	13.82	12.18	4.36	3.73	47.45
6	24-1783 R	Forest Restoration on Klickitat Natural Areas	13.09	12.91	12.73	4.64	3.73	47.09
7	24-1862 R	Barclay Crane Shrub Steppe Restoration Douglas County	13.36	13.36	12.36	4.00	3.82	46.91
7	24-1936 R	Prairie and Oak Restoration at Violet Prairie	13.36	13.09	12.27	4.27	3.91	46.91
9	24-1558 R	Western Kitsap Forest Restoration	13.55	12.82	12.18	4.18	3.91	46.64
10	24-1846 R	Shrub Steppe Restoration at Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park	13.09	12.91	12.18	4.00	4.27	46.45
11	24-1764 R	Cleveland Shrub Steppe Restoration	12.73	12.55	12.27	4.18	4.18	45.91
12	24-1462 R	Cypress Island Strawberry Bay Restoration	12.91	13.09	11.73	4.27	3.82	45.82
12	24-1470 R	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Forest Habitat Restoration	13.09	12.91	11.73	4.00	4.09	45.82
14	24-1345 R	Sinlahekin Riparian Restoration Phase One	13.36	13.27	11.00	4.36	2.91	44.91
15	24-2015 R	Methow Wildlife Area: Cougar Lake Restoration	11.73	11.55	11.27	3.45	3.45	41.45

³Project type: R=restoration
RCFB October 2024

Rank	Project Number and Type ³	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	3. Project Design	4. Planning	5. Public Benefit and Support	Total
16	24-1680 R	Pincroft Natural Area Pine Restoration and Grassland Recovery	11.73	11.27	11.00	3.64	3.09	40.73
17	24-1638 R	Lakebay Stream Restoration	9.91	10.91	10.55	3.64	3.91	38.91

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Washougal Oaks

Grant Request: \$138,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore forty-five acres in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area, in southeastern Clark County, three miles east of Washougal. This preserve was created to protect the largest, high-quality oak woodland remaining in western Washington, as well as habitat for several rare plant and animal species. It provides habitat for the rare small-flowered trillium, tall bugbane, slender-billed nuthatch, and Larch Mountain salamander. The department will restore newly acquired lands to oak forest and savannah with a native shrub layer, that were previously cleared for agriculture. Native forb and shrub communities that were displaced by Himalayan blackberry and English ivy will be restored using site-collected native seed and cuttings. Local school groups will continue to partner for planting and weed control efforts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1812)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Continuing Restoration of South Sound Grassland and Oak Conservation Areas

Grant Request: \$493,770

The Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore more than thirteen hundred acres of outwash prairie, grassland bald, oak woodland, and wetland habitat at five of the most significant conservation sites in the south Puget Sound region: Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area, Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve, and Bald Hill Natural Area Preserve. The departments will get native seeds and transplants, prepare restoration areas for seeding through prescribed burning, mowing, and controlling invasive plants, and then seed and replant. The departments will control invasive plants, remove encroaching trees, and seed and replant three oak woodlands, including a recent land addition at Mima Mounds. In addition, they will control reed canary grass and encroaching willows in wetlands used by the Oregon spotted frog in the West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1560)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Restoring Sand-verbena Moth Habitat

Grant Request: \$229,880

State Parks will use this grant to expand habitat restoration for the sand-verbena moth, a critically imperiled species known to be in fewer than eleven locations in North

America (five in Canada and six in the United States). Two of the known populations are in Fort Worden State Park and Deception Pass State Park. The sand-verbena moth only lives in open sand dune habitats where it relies on dense, flowering patches of yellow sand-verbena for the entirety of its life cycle. In this second-phase project, State Parks will continue to restore this critical habitat in the two state parks and build trails near the restoration areas so visitors may observe rare native species and communities but not damage the critical habitat areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1767)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Grant Request: \$265,000**
Restoring Copalis Coastal Dune

State Parks will use this grant to restore coastal dune habitat at the mouth of the Copalis River in Grays Harbor County. Restoration will support several state and federally listed species including western snowy plover, streaked-horned lark, Siuslaw hairy-necked tiger beetle, pink sand-verbena, bear's foot sanicle, and others. Coastal dunes have been transformed by two exotic species of beach grass. The grasses can change the beach profile, displace native plants, and stabilize the dunes, which then can change quickly into forest. State Parks will control the beach grass and restore a shifting mosaic of habitat resilient to sea level rise and other environmental change. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1704)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Request: \$197,500**
Restoring Shrub Steppe in the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore shrub-steppe habitat in the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve. The restoration will provide a healthy environment for a population of Whited's milkvetch, which the State has declared endangered. This rare, locally endemic plant would be protected from the threats of encroaching invasive weeds and the restoration would allow for expansion and movement of the plant in response to changing climatic conditions. Restoring this northernmost end of a string of protected shrub-steppe will help ensure the health of other wildlife, especially those dependent on sage-steppe for survival. The department will build wildlife-friendly fencing, control invasive weeds, and plant shrub and other plant species. Agricultural use and two recent wildfires have led to the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, lack of shrub density, low species richness, and degradation of stream channels. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1488)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring Klickitat County Forests

Grant Request: \$306,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 360 acres of forest at three sites in Klickitat County—Klickitat Canyon Natural Resource Conservation Area, White Salmon Oaks Natural Resource Conservation Area, and Monte Cristo Natural Area Preserve. The department will remove unnatural accumulations of fuel (trees and brush), remove invasive species, and plant native grasses and forbs. The sites include mixed coniferous forest, oak-conifer forest, and grand fir forest types that support sandhill crane, western gray squirrel, northern spotted owl, and several plant species at risk of extinction. This project is intended to simultaneously enhance and restore habitat for the various species and improve ecological system function and resiliency to wildfire. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1783)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring Barclay Crane Shrub-Steppe

Grant Request: \$484,154

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore about 530 acres of abandoned agricultural fields, known as the Barclay Crane property, to a diverse shrub-steppe community of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The land is in Douglas County in the Wells Wildlife Area near Brewster. The restoration will benefit shrub-steppe species, including the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse; and species of hunting value including deer, game birds, and waterfowl. The restoration will link with other restoration sites across the Dyer Hill plateau, connecting sharp-tailed grouse lek and nesting grounds with critical wintering habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1862)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring Prairie and Oak Restoration at Violet Prairie

Grant Request: \$387,002

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 573 acres of glacial outwash prairie and oak woodland habitat in the Violet Prairie Unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. This area contains a prairie-oak woodland-wetland complex that includes federally designated critical habitat for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and Yelm pocket gopher, and supports habitat for a variety of Endangered Species Act-listed or candidate species and State Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The department will apply herbicide, do a prescribed burn, seed and plant native plants, perform mechanical vegetation treatments, and take periodic habitat assessments to ensure that the efforts are meeting management goals. The work is aimed at increasing native grass and forbs and enhancing oak tree starts. This project will contribute to a regional effort to restore south Puget Sound prairies by increasing habitat size, quality, and connectivity and

supporting the recovery of the species that depend on these habitats. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1936)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring State Land in the Western Kitsap Forest

Grant Request: \$114,260

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the structure and composition of lowland forest communities on state-owned lands on the western Kitsap peninsula. The lands are owned by the department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife and include parts of the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and the Big Beef Creek Unit of the North Olympic Wildlife Area. The department will thin young, artificially regenerated forest stands, plant under-represented tree and shrub species, and control invasive plants that threaten both the restoration areas and adjacent forest communities. These efforts will allow for more natural development of forest conditions and accelerate development of important habitat features such as large trees, snags, and downed wood. They also will enhance the diversity of these forest communities and improve the quality of habitat for wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1558)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Restoring Shrub-Steppe in Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park

Grant Request: \$777,076

State Parks will use this grant to restore native plant communities on about two thousand acres in the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park. The 7,124-acre park in Kittitas County supports numerous rare plant and wildlife species. Most of the park's shrub-steppe habitat consists of low-growing stiff sagebrush, big sagebrush, and bunchgrasses such as Sandberg's bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and needle-and-thread. Several species endemic to sage-steppe habitat are present, including one state endangered bird, seven state candidate wildlife species, and seven additional wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need. One state endangered plant and one state threatened plant are known to be in the park. State Parks will remove nonnative species and then seed and plant native shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Existing trails in the park will give the public with an opportunity to observe rare native species and habitats. This project will restore areas impacted by grazing and wildfires. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1846)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring Cleveland Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve

Grant Request: \$157,040

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to repair damage in the Cleveland Shrub Steppe Natural Area Preserve caused by construction of an unauthorized fire line. The department also will restore natural vegetation in lands

historically enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and control invasive species. The department will remove a berm that runs for three-quarters of a mile that was built to stop a wildfire, then seed the area with native species, and control weeds. On about eighty acres formerly in the Conservation Reserve Program, the department will collect, grow, and plant native species. The department will control invasive species throughout the 640-acre site, focusing on areas bordering the fire line and in the early stages of invasion. This work will result in the restoration of this shrub-steppe to a more natural state and will support habitat for the two state threatened species onsite. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1764)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Request: \$515,158**
Beginning Restoration of Cypress Island's Strawberry Bay

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to begin restoring Strawberry Bay on Cypress Island, in Skagit County. The department will remove structures and a pool, remove or treat invasive species, and replant the area with native species. The work will be done along the shoreline and next to a significant tidal fringe wetland that sits between a beach berm and uplands. The work will improve shoreline, wetland, and upland habitat. Priority animals supported by the work are numerous and include harlequin duck, snow goose, bufflehead, blacktail deer, lingcod, Pacific sand lance, surf smelt, and chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1462)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Request: \$328,250**
Restoring the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 130 acres of forest and shoreline in the one-thousand-acre Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, north of Olympia. The restoration work will include removing invasive plants and replanting with native species. Situated in the Henderson Inlet watershed, the conservation area protects shorelines, estuaries, freshwater wetlands and streams, a small lake, and habitat for wildlife, including bats, migratory waterfowl, and neotropical migratory birds. The work will contribute to the overall management and ecological resiliency of the conservation area, improving water quality in North Lake and restoring forested shoreline along Henderson Inlet. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1470)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Request: \$358,183**
Restoring the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to complete phase one restoration of about thirty-four acres and one mile of stream in six prioritized areas in

the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area in Okanogan County. The areas are degraded due to floods, incised channels, wildfires, and invasive plants. Restoration is necessary to support habitat for at least forty Species of Greatest Conservation Need, sixty priority habitat and species, and three major biological corridors. Priority species include western gray squirrels, bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, wolves, grizzly bear, cougar, Canada lynx, wolverines, Columbian sharptailed grouse, monarch butterflies, Chinook and sockeye salmon, and steelhead trout. To improve the areas, the department will install structures that mimic beaver dams, implement prescribed burns, control invasive plants, and plant native grasses, forbs, and shrubs to promote habitat diversity and suppress weeds. Lastly, the department will improve the fencing to protect wetlands and new plants. This project is part of an ongoing effort by multiple public agencies and nonprofits to restore large-scale, fire-dependent forest, shrub-steppe, shoreline, and migratory systems in the Okanogan River watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1345)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoring the Methow Wildlife Area's Cougar Lake

Grant Request: \$427,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore Cougar Creek and water control structures at Cougar Lake that were heavily damaged by landslides after the 2014 Carlton Complex Fire. Cougar Creek is a tributary of the Methow River near Winthrop. Multiple culverts (pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads) upstream in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest failed, resulting in water and sediment rushing downstream and destroying the historic Cougar Creek diversion and Cougar Lake dam. The department will develop engineered plans and carrying out work to restore Cougar Creek to a natural functioning stream channel, repair the Cougar Creek diversion, and remove sediment and repair the dam. The creek is used by Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and bull trout. The work will restore a historic recreational fishing site that was build more than eighty-five years ago. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2015)

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring the Pineroft Natural Area Preserve

Grant Request: \$80,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore parts of the ponderosa pine forest communities and other adjacent bunchgrass-shrub communities in the Pineroft Natural Area Preserve, near Spokane. The preserve is the largest remaining ponderosa pine-grassland ecological system that once was prevalent throughout the Spokane Valley. The department will thin high-density stands of young trees and control invasive plants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1680)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring a Lakebay Marina Stream**

Grant Request: \$300,632

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the banks of an unnamed freshwater creek that flows into Mayo Cove on Lakebay Marina property. The department will remove a concrete block wall, demolish a garage, grade the banks, and add sand and plants to the beach. This restoration will help protect and restore habitat and water quality in Mayo Cove, a pocket estuary with kelp and eelgrass that support the rearing of important fish species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1638)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Habitat Conservation Account: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category,
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager
DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Eight project proposals in the Urban Wildlife Habitat Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, the technical review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional project information at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-23

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Urban Wildlife Habitat Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds projects that protect functioning, native habitat near urban and urbanizing communities while providing opportunities for people to participate in nature-based activities. These habitats may include forests, riparian zones, and wetlands, and serve as a corridor for wildlife movement in existing populated areas.

To be eligible in this category, the land must be located within five miles of one of the following:

- The designated urban growth area of a city or town with a population of five thousand or more, or
- A designated urban cluster with a population of five thousand or more, or
- An adopted urban growth boundary in a county that has a population density of 250 people per square mile or greater.

The Urban Wildlife Habitat Category receives 15 percent of the WWRP funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.¹ The board adopted a policy to provide more equalized distribution of funds between state agencies and local entities.² Grant funds are allocated as follows:

- First, 45 percent to local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations, and salmon recovery lead entities,
- Second, 45 percent to state agencies
- Third, 10 percent to fully fund partially funded local agency, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organization projects
- Then fully fund partially funded state agency projects and apply any remaining funds to the next highest ranked project(s), regardless of sponsor.

Program Summary

The following table summarizes general policies for the Urban Wildlife Habitat Category as outlined in [Manual 10b](#), *WWRP Habitat Conservation Account*: and

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and state³ agencies • Federally recognized Native American tribes • Qualified nonprofit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition (in fee or perpetual conservation easement) • Development • Combination acquisition and development
Funding Limits	None
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-to-one matching share. • No match required for state agencies.
Public Access	Must be accessible for passive public recreation, outdoor education, or citizen science unless it meets the criteria outlined in the board policy for limiting public access due to conservation easements, or to protect sensitive species, water quality, or public safety.

¹ Chapter 79A.15.040(2)(d) Revised Code of Washington

² Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2019-27

³ State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise Services (Formerly General Administration), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired or developed must be retained for habitat conservation purposes in perpetuity. • Development limited to facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, informational kiosks, restrooms, roads, and parking. • Projects involving renovation of existing facilities, habitat creation, enhancement or restoration are ineligible.
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Analysis

Evaluation Summary

The WWRP Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee evaluated eight Urban Wildlife Habitat Category projects, requesting nearly \$18 million, on August 12, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat protection, enhancement, and conservation. The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Alex Bejaran Estevez, Seattle
- Misha Dumov, Tacoma
- John Gamon, Sumner
- Nancy Hawkes, Lynnwood
- Dave Hays, Olympia
- Eric Jokl, Tacoma
- Pat Stevenson, Bellingham
- Heather Swift, Monroe
- Matt Tweedy, Yakima

Local Agency Members

- Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank
- Heather Ramsay Ahndan, King County

State Agency Members

- Janet Gorrell, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Joe Rocchio, Department of Natural Resources

These thirteen advisory committee members used video conferencing to review the proposals and RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module for scoring the projects with Recreation and Conservation Funding Board- adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Attachment A: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, the Habitat Acquisition Advisory Committee also evaluates the Natural Areas and Critical Habitat categories. As part of the post-evaluation meeting on August 16, RCO staff met with committee members to debrief and assess the application and evaluation processes, and the scoring results for these three categories.

Scoring

The committee appreciates the value of subjective scoring as it relates to breadth and diversity of experience and the unique value systems of each evaluator. However, concern was expressed that it was difficult within some sub-criteria to apportion points particularly when applicants did not fully or clearly address each sub-criterion. For example, for the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criterion for Critical Habitat and Natural Areas, is taxonomic distinctness equal in value to the importance of acquisition? It would be helpful to have a more formalized approach to apportioning points for sub-criteria. Other evaluator scoring suggestions included using a rubric or creating a small panel of specialists (such as biologist, zoologist, botanists) to score specific aspects of the criteria that are more objective.

Criterion Challenges

When scoring the *Ecological and Biological Characteristics* and the *Species or Communities with Special Status* criteria, it was difficult to discern if the species described were located on or adjacent to the parcels targeted for acquisition. Discussion among the committee is that both may be equally valuable; however, applicant transparency and clarity would be helpful when addressing these criteria. The committee agreed that during the technical review session, it is important to ask applicants to provide more specificity when they come back for the evaluation meeting.

The committee also noted difficulty differentiating the ecological value between projects while scoring. Critical habitat is not necessarily "rare" because sometimes it is for common species, so it is valuable to have a diverse group of evaluators who bring different levels of expertise and perspectives to help with the scoring. Another noted challenge was determining if species diversity and ecological richness are more important than conservation of individual "species of concern".

Suggestions for Revising Criteria

The committee noted that it was challenging to differentiate between *Planning and Community Support* and *Community Benefits and Public Access* and suggested that the criteria could be better organized to help distinguish the objective of each. The *Community Support* criterion seems to address who was involved in the process and existing threats to the site, whereas the *Community Benefits* criterion translates to or focuses on "benefits" on the ground.

Several suggestions were offered with future criteria revisions in mind. Committee members thought it would be useful to ask for more specifics about wildlife and specific species monitoring. They also suggested it may be appropriate to address tribal involvement with projects including first food harvests, education and land management activities. It would also be helpful in an overall criteria update to ensure that language and objectives meet current ecological standards and that diverse species benefits are also addressed.

Preparing New Evaluators and Improving Scoring for Subsequent Rounds

Committee members suggested that a “mock evaluation” exercise be presented by a seasoned committee member as part of RCO’s evaluation orientation. The purpose would be to reduce the first-round learning curve that new committee members experience and better prepare them for scoring. Revisiting previous round comments and concerns at the orientation for the next round would also be beneficial.

Overall, there were no surprises as to where projects ranked. The committee felt that the top three projects were strongest and scored accordingly.

Tribal Participation

As a general comment, one member noted the absence of applications from Native American tribes and believes that the required 50 percent match may be a deterrent to tribes applying for WWRP habitat funding. Staff explained that the statute identifies federally recognized Native Americans tribes as a local governmental entity that is subject to the match requirements. The board exempted tribal governments from the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement for all grant programs and included tribes as eligible for match reduction in the Outdoor Recreation Account of the WWRP per Chapter 79A.15.070(4) Revised Code of Washington. Staff will discuss this issue further with tribes, RCO’s new tribal affairs director, and other relevant parties.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board’s strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board’s goal of making

strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Attachment A: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-23.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-23, including *Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects
- C. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-23
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS eight Urban Wildlife Habitat Category projects are being considered for funding through the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS all projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated *in Manual 10b: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Habitat Conservation Account*, including criteria regarding public benefit, community support, and relationship to established plans; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects address a variety of habitat needs including the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and wildlife, thereby supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s biodiversity, protect “listed” species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-23

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	98.75	24-1779 A	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Riverside State Park Glen Tana Acquisition B	\$4,512,450	\$2,000,000	\$6,512,450
2	98.55	24-1554 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$3,637,824		\$3,637,824
3	97.17	24-1678 A	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Green Mountain Protection	\$2,988,500	\$2,988,500	\$5,977,000
4	90.83	24-1978 A	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Little Manzanita Four	\$1,500,000	\$1,638,510	\$3,138,510
5	87.33	24-1868 A	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Trail Property Acquisition	\$858,125	\$858,125	\$1,716,250
6	82.58	24-1909 A	Pierce County	Pacific Lutheran University Prairie Protection Site	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
7	81.25	24-1777 A	Kitsap County	Illahee Preserve Phase Three Heart of the Park	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,400,000
8	76.64	24-1340 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	West Wiser Lake	\$1,800,000		\$1,800,000
Total					\$17,996,899	\$10,185,135	\$28,182,034

⁴Project type: A=acquisition
RCFB October 2024

State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects



Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

“Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.”⁵

Urban Wildlife Habitat		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Unscored		
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location maps • Project goals and objectives 	Not scored
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project area composition • Species and communities • Pollinator habitat • Landscape characteristics 	40 points
1. Planning and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan support • Public engagement • Threat to the site • Level of protection 	15 points
2. Community Benefits and Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access, health, recreation, or cultural opportunities • Education and citizen science • Underserved communities • Multiple benefits 	35 points
3. Management and Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and stewardship plan • Restoration needs • Organizational capacity 	15 points
Scored by RCO		
4. Growth Management Act	Growth Management Act preference	0 points
5. Population of Urban Area	Population of the nearest urban area	5 points
6. Proximity to Urban Area	Proximity to the nearest urban area	5 points
Total Possible Points		115

⁵ Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 79A.15.010 (15)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. The following detailed criteria will provide an opportunity to describe the project in more depth; however, the intent here primarily is to help orient the evaluators.

Advisory Committee Scored

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Describe the project area and the ecological makeup of the site(s).

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a), (5)(b)(ii)

2. Planning and Community Support

How is this project supported by a current plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)

3. Community Benefits and Public Access

What public access, public health, recreational, educational, or cultural opportunities will this site provide?

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)

4. Management and Stewardship

Describe the anticipated stewardship and management needs of the site, including those related to the species and ecosystems, public access, recreation, education, and cultural opportunities.

RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(a)

RCO Staff Scored

5. Growth Management Act Preference

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

RCW 43.17.250

6. Population of Urban Area

What is the population of the largest city, town, or urban cluster within five miles of the project?

RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(b)(i)

7. Proximity of Urban Area

Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities, towns, and urban clusters?

RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (5)(b)(i)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁶	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Community Benefits and Public Access	4. Management and Stewardship	5. Growth Management Act	6. Population of Urban Area	7. Proximity to Urban Area	Total
Point Range			0-40	0-15	0-35	0-15	-1-0	0-5	0-5	
1	24-1779 A	Riverside State Park Glen Tana Acquisition B	32.92	13.75	28.75	13.33	0.00	5.00	5.00	98.75
2	24-1554 A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area	35.00	13.45	27.91	13.18	0.00	4.00	5.00	98.55
3	24-1678 A	Green Mountain Protection	32.75	12.33	30.00	13.08	0.00	4.00	5.00	97.17
4	24-1978 A	Little Manzanita Four	31.25	12.42	26.58	11.58	0.00	4.00	5.00	90.83
5	24-1868 A	Trail Property Acquisition	26.67	12.17	26.67	11.83	0.00	5.00	5.00	87.33
6	24-1909 A	Pacific Lutheran University Prairie Protection Site	24.08	12.00	26.92	9.58	0.00	5.00	5.00	82.58
7	24-1777 A	Illahee Preserve Phase Three Heart of the Park	24.08	12.08	25.08	11.00	0.00	4.00	5.00	81.25
8	24-1340 A	West Wiser Lake	26.18	9.91	22.55	10.00	0.00	3.00	5.00	76.64

⁶Project type: A=acquisition

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Project Descriptions (in rank order)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Request: \$4,512,450 **Expanding Riverside State Park**

State Parks will use this grant to expand the Little Spokane River Natural Area and Riverside State Park by buying more than six hundred acres of the former Glen Tana property and connecting it to neighboring preserved conversation and recreation lands. Situated just outside the urban growth boundary for Spokane County, the Glen Tana land contains upland and shoreline habitat and species, and provides opportunities for recreation in a high-demand area. Once completed, Glen Tana will help extend a contiguous wildlife and recreation corridor along the western edge of Spokane. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1779)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Grant Request: \$3,637,824 **Expanding the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 391 acres of undeveloped wetlands, shoreline, and mature forest habitats in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, near Olympia. The conservation area is on the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic landscape for its rich human history involving tribes and early settlers to southern Puget Sound, as well as the logging and shellfish industries. It is visited frequently by students and protects a regionally significant haven for wildlife, hosting shorebirds and songbirds, harbor seals, river otters, bald eagles, a heron rookery, a colony of double-crested cormorants, native Olympia oysters, and one of the largest maternity bat colonies in the state. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1554)

Great Peninsula Conservancy Grant Request: \$2,988,500 **Conserving Green Mountain**

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy 350 acres of undeveloped land near Bremerton. The land includes mature and diverse forests, wetlands, streams, and Dickerson Creek, a major tributary of Chico Creek. The Chico Creek system has the highest natural production of chum and coho salmon, as well as significant steelhead trout and cutthroat trout runs, on the Kitsap Peninsula. The land also features a trail system for non-motorized uses. The purchase will preserve a crucial link in a contiguous 70,000-acre forest, providing wildlife corridors, important fish spawning and rearing habitat, as well as public access for recreation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1678)

Bainbridge Island Land Trust
Conserving Land Near Little Manzanita Bay

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use this grant to buy at least 34 acres to complete 160 acres of conserved habitat extending from Manzanita Park to the Little Manzanita Bay estuary. The land trust will emphasize protecting streams, wetlands, and a large forest to benefit a full suite of wildlife and provide public trails through forests. The area is used by coho and chum salmon, cutthroat trout, flying squirrels, and pileated woodpeckers. The nearly twenty-five-acre Manzanita Ridge property is one of a few large parcels of undeveloped land remaining on Bainbridge Island. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1978)

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Conserving Land Near Gig Harbor

Grant Request: \$858,125

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to buy about thirty-nine acres near Gig Harbor in unincorporated Pierce County. Purchase of the land, known as the Trail property, will expand the amount of public land on the city's urban growth boundary, safeguarding one of the last sizable tracks of undeveloped land in the larger Gig Harbor region and critical refuge for wildlife in this increasingly urbanized area. The land contains a diverse and mature forest, stream and wetland habitat used by salmon and trout, and habitat for bear, river otter, deer, coyote, racoon, and variety of migratory bird species. Conserving the land will increase the opportunities for hiking and nature viewing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1868)

Pierce County
Conserving Land Near Pacific Lutheran University

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Pierce County will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for ten acres of remnant prairie habitat on the south campus of Pacific Lutheran University, in Parkland. The land contains soils that support Puget Sound prairie habitat, which is a priority habitat and important to many state and federal threatened and endangered species. Additionally, the land provides a respite green space in a highly urbanized area, supports educational opportunities for the university and local schools, and continues to support tribal activities, teaching, and learning opportunities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1909)

Kitsap County
Buying Land in the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park**Grant Request: \$1,200,000**

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to begin buying up to thirteen properties in the center of the Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. During the past twenty years, the County has grown the preserve to more than six hundred acres, with the thirteen properties being the last large privately owned area. Though the properties are small and somewhat degraded as manufactured home rental sites, their collective location in the middle of the preserve makes them the final major acquisition target. They not only distract from the natural features of the preserve but also impede meaningful wildlife movement because of the roads and traffic to access them. Purchases will be made as they become available from willing sellers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1777)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conserving West Wiser Lake**Grant Request: \$1,800,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 117 acres, known as the West Wiser Lake property, southwest of Lynden in Whatcom County. The land contains a creek, wetlands, and agricultural fields. The landowners have allowed the public to hunt waterfowl there. The purchase would secure waterfowl hunting opportunity into the future and provide increased opportunity for wildlife viewing. In addition, the department plans to restore the wetland and creek habitats that are degraded by invasive weeds. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1340)



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024
Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account: Farmland Preservation Category, Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27
Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Fifteen project proposals in the Farmland Preservation Category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution #: 2024-24

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The primary focus of the Farmland Preservation Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is to acquire development rights on farmland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices. A secondary goal is to enhance or restore ecological functions on farmland.

The Farmland Preservation Category receives 90 percent of the WWRP funds in the Farm and Forest Account. The remaining 10 percent is set aside for the Forestland Preservation Category.

Program Summary

Before the last grant cycle, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved key policy changes¹ for the Farm and Forest Account. These policies apply to farmland projects submitted for the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles:

- Changed the review and evaluation processes to be written only.
- Eliminated the ten percent non-state, non-federal match requirement.
- Added a cost-increase policy for funded projects.

Board policies are outlined in [Manual 10f: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category](#). A summary of this category is shown in the table below.

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities and towns • Counties • Qualified nonprofit nature conservancies • Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of property rights via a conservation easement • Acquisition and restoration or enhancement
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • The restoration total shall not exceed more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition. • Maximum cost for a farm stewardship plan is \$10,000.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-to-one matching share. • No match required for the Washington State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	Although public access is not required, it is allowed if explicitly provided for in the conservation easement.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each parcel proposed for protection must be classified as farm and agricultural land as defined in the Open Space Tax Act. • Preservation of agricultural lands must be a priority for the organization. • Applicants must have the ability to draft, acquire, monitor, and enforce conservation easements. • Development of a farm stewardship plan as part of an acquisition is eligible.

¹ Resolution #2022-05

Evaluation Summary

Between July 22 and August 13, 2024, the WWRP Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee evaluated fifteen project proposals requesting about \$19 million, using a written evaluation process.

Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to agricultural production, agri-business, real estate, land management, and community interests related to farming. The members who conducted the evaluations included:

Farmer or Community Member

- Tom Kammerzell, Colfax
- Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust, Bellingham
- Valerie Tarco, Seattle
- Maurice Major, Olympia

Nonprofit Conservancy Member

- Kate Miller, Okanogan Land Trust, Okanogan
- Jeanne White, Methow Conservancy, Winthrop

State Agency Member

- Leslie Michel, Department of Agriculture, Olympia
- Angie Reseland, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia

The advisory committee reviewed the applicants' written responses to the evaluation criteria using RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module. The scoring is based on board-adopted criteria. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Attachment A: Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At its April 2022, meeting, the board approved changes to the Farm and Forest Account, including moving from an in-person to a written evaluation process for the 2022 and 2024 grant rounds. RCO staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee on July 22, 2024, where staff provided an overview of the program and the evaluation criteria.

On August 15, staff invited advisory committee members to participate in a post-evaluation meeting. The committee debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the process was organized and

efficient. They received the materials needed and felt using the online tools made the review easier.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, and its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Attachment A: Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, via Resolution 2024-24.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-24, including *Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Farmland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Farmland Preservation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores
- E. Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-24
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS fifteen Farmland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding from the Farm and Forest Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS all projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10f: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation*, including criteria regarding viability and community benefits; and

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

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

WHEREAS all projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board’s strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Farmland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

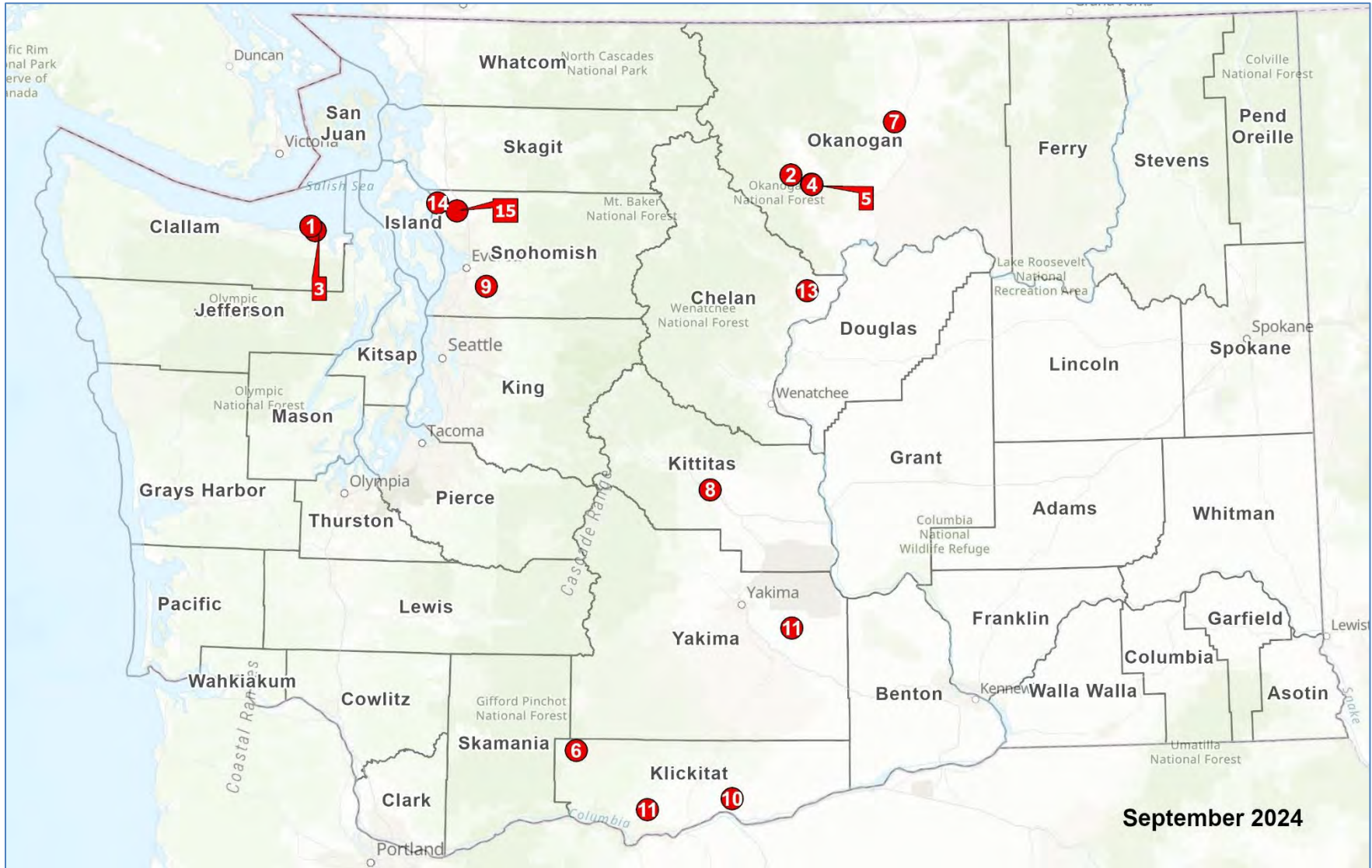
Table 1: Farmland Preservation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution: 2024-24

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ²	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	50.62	24-1691 A	North Olympic Land Trust	Heifer Farm	\$1,986,750	\$2,428,250	\$4,415,000
2	48.43	24-1922 A	Methow Conservancy	Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation	\$423,313	\$498,313	\$921,626
3	47.88	24-1694 A	North Olympic Land Trust	Cameron Farm Estates	\$624,150	\$762,850	\$1,387,000
4	47.71	24-1867 A	Methow Conservancy	Doubletree Farms Thrasher-Soodak Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$174,203	\$201,923	\$376,126
5	47.14	24-1908 A	Methow Conservancy	Christianson Mundy Road Agriculture Conservation Easement	\$246,550	\$285,516	\$532,066
6	46.75	24-1931 A	Columbia Land Trust	Trout Lake Phase Five	\$1,999,500	\$1,999,500	\$3,999,000
7	45.43	24-1813 A	Okanogan Land Trust	Carter Mountain Livestock Family Ranch	\$990,200	\$990,200	\$1,980,400
8	43.62	24-1885 A	State Conservation Commission	Foothills Farm Agricultural Easement	\$4,054,000		\$4,054,000
9	42.12	24-1962 A	Washington Farmland Trust	French Slough Farm Two	\$1,283,500	\$1,283,500	\$2,567,000
10	41.75	24-1798 A	State Conservation Commission	Luna Gulch Agricultural Easement	\$946,522		\$946,522
11	41.38	24-1857 A	State Conservation Commission	Swale Canyon Agricultural Easement	\$646,012		\$646,012
11	41.38	24-1892 A	State Conservation Commission	Williams Rangeland Protection	\$1,048,582		\$1,048,582
13	40.88	24-1811 A	State Conservation Commission	Hinterlands Agricultural Easement	\$4,215,000		\$4,215,000
14	40.5	24-1889 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Breum Family Farm	\$193,545	\$236,555	\$430,100
15	38.88	24-1887 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Rod Dairy	\$241,570	\$295,255	\$536,825
Total					\$19,073,397	\$8,981,862	\$28,055,259

²Project type: A=acquisition

State Map for Farmland Preservation Category Projects



Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Farmland preservation means protection of any land defined as farm and agricultural land in RCW 84.34.020(2) and farm and agricultural conservation land in 84.34.020 (8).³

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	16
Advisory Committee	2	Threat to the Land	10
Advisory Committee	3	Access to Markets	4
Advisory Committee	4	On-site Infrastructure	4
Advisory Committee	5	Building Envelope	4
Advisory Committee	6	Farmland Stewardship	6
Advisory Committee	7	Stewardship Practices	2
Advisory Committee	8	Benefits to the Community	6
Advisory Committee	9	Community Support	2
RCO Staff	10	Match	2
RCO Staff	11	Easement Duration	0
Total Points			56

Farmland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. Viability of the Site

What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(h))

2. Threat to the Land

What is the likelihood the land will not stay in agricultural use if it is not protected?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(c))

³ Chapter 79A.15.010 (5)

3. Access to Markets

How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(h)(iv))

4. On-site Infrastructure

How well is the land's agricultural productivity supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, houses, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(h)(ii))

5. Building Envelope

How much of the property is included in the building envelope?

6. Farmland Stewardship

What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(f))

7. Stewardship Practices

What stewardship practices (described in Question 6) will be included in the terms of the conservation easement as required stewardship practices for the duration of the easement?

8. Benefits to the Community

How will protecting the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community and area Native American tribes support the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(a))

9. Community Support

Are there one or more letters in the application that demonstrate community support for the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(a))

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

10. Match

Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

11. Easement Duration

What is the duration of the conservation easement?

Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁴	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
		Point Range	0-16	0-10	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-2	-10-0	
1	24-1691 A	Heifer Farm	14.88	9.50	3.75	4.00	3.25	4.38	1.38	5.50	2.00	2.00	0.00	50.63
2	24-1922 A	Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation	14.71	9.29	3.43	3.86	3.29	4.43	1.71	5.71	2.00	0.00	0.00	48.43
3	24-1694 A	Cameron Farm Estates	14.62	8.88	3.88	2.38	3.62	3.75	1.38	5.38	2.00	2.00	0.00	47.88
4	24-1867 A	Doubletree Farms Thrasher-Soodak Mundy Road Agricultural Conservation Easement	14.43	9.14	3.71	3.00	3.14	5.29	1.71	5.43	1.86	0.00	0.00	47.71
5	24-1908 A	Christianson Mundy Road Agriculture Conservation Easement	14.29	9.00	3.71	2.57	3.00	4.86	1.71	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	47.14
6	24-1931 A	Trout Lake Phase Five	14.50	8.62	3.88	4.00	2.88	5.12	0.5	5.25	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.75

⁴Project type: A=acquisition

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁴	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
7	24-1813 A	Carter Mountain Livestock Family Ranch	14.00	7.71	2.57	3.86	4.00	4.43	1.71	5.14	2.00	0.00	0.00	45.43
8	24-1885 A	Foothills Farm Agricultural Easement	13.50	8.25	3.62	3.38	3.88	4.75	0.12	4.62	1.50	0.00	0.00	43.63
9	24-1962 A	French Slough Farm Two	12.75	9.12	3.88	2.75	2.88	4.00	1.38	4.75	0.62	0.00	0.00	42.13
10	24-1798 A	Luna Gulch Agricultural Easement	14.38	8.00	2.88	3.75	4.00	3.75	0.12	3.25	1.62	0.00	0.00	41.75
11	24-1857 A	Swale Canyon Agricultural Easement	13.25	7.88	3.25	3.50	3.62	3.62	0.12	4.50	1.62	0.00	0.00	41.38
11	24-1892 A	Williams Rangeland Protection	13.12	7.50	3.62	3.25	3.12	3.88	0.12	4.75	2.00	0.00	0.00	41.38
13	24-1811 A	Hinterlands Agricultural Easement	13.12	7.38	3.50	3.25	3.12	4.00	0.12	4.50	1.88	0.00	0.00	40.88
14	24-1889 A	Breum Family Farm	13.62	8.12	3.38	3.12	2.88	2.50	0.75	3.75	0.38	2.00	0.00	40.50
15	24-1887 A	Rod Dairy	12.88	8.12	3.38	3.00	2.75	1.75	1	3.62	0.38	2.00	0.00	38.88

Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions (in rank order)

North Olympic Land Trust Conserving Heifer Farm

Grant Request: \$1,986,750

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on the 133.6-acre Heifer Farm in the Sequim-Dungeness area. Nearly 95 percent of the land is fully irrigated, prime farmland and another

5 percent has statewide important soils. The land has been a farm since 1859. The Smith family has been farming Heifer Farm since 1996, to support its dairy—one of two remaining dairies in a county that formally was known as the "milk basket" of Washington. The Smith family grows silage, hay, and crop seeds, and raises heifers they milk for Darigold. Heifer Farm features a historic barn, and because of its positioning in the valley tucked under the Olympic Mountains, frequently is photographed to represent Sequim. Preservation of this farm has both cultural and historic value. Heifer Farm also supports important habitat for tundra and trumpeter swans, many birds of prey, and western bumblebees. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1691)

Methow Conservancy Christianson Twisp River Agricultural Conservation

Grant Request: \$423,313

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to permanently protect a one-hundred-acre charismatic ranch at the confluence of the Twisp River and Poorman Creek that has been owned and farmed by the Christianson family since the 1890s. The farm is leased for grazing and the next generation of Christiansons are stepping in to farm the land. The farm has high-quality soils and water rights, which will be tied to the land forever as part of the conservation easement. In addition to farmland protection, the purchase provides an opportunity for restoration of streambank habitat and floodplains along the Twisp River, which will benefit salmon and other important wildlife species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1922)

North Olympic Land Trust Conserving Cameron Farm Estates

Grant Request: \$624,150

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 38.6 acres of farmland in the Sequim-Dungeness area. The farm is fully irrigated, 100 percent prime farmland, used to grow hay and row crops. The purchase will conserve this important farmland in the heart

of the greater agricultural landscape of the Dungeness Valley. The open fields provide bucolic relief for traffic along Woodcock and Towne Roads. The fields also are used by wildlife, including State-protected trumpeter swans, tundra swans, many birds of prey, and western bumblebees. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1694)

Methow Conservancy
Conserving Doubletree Farms

Grant Request: \$174,203

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to permanently protect 32.1 acres of the Doubletree Farm near Twisp. The land is part of the farm's dairy, which uses Jersey and Jersey-cross cows. Doubletree Farms sells its milk at local grocery stores, providing the only local state-certified milk for the Methow Valley. The farm contains high-quality soils and water rights, which will be tied to the land forever as part of the conservation easement. In addition to farmland protection, the purchase provides an opportunity for restoration of stream-bank habitat and floodplains along the Methow River, which could benefit salmon and other important wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1867)

Methow Conservancy
Protecting the Mundy Road Farm

Grant Request: \$246,550

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to permanently protect sixty-one acres of farmland on Mundy Road near Twisp. The land is part of the Doubletree Farm's dairy operation of Jersey and Jersey-cross cows. The land contains high-quality soils and water rights, which will be tied to the land forever as part of the conservation easement. The farm is large enough to sustain a farming operation on its own. In addition to farmland protection, the purchase provides an opportunity for restoration of stream-bank habitat and floodplains along the Methow River, which could benefit salmon and other important wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1908)

Columbia Land Trust
Conserving a Trout Lake Valley Dairy Farm

Grant Request: \$1,999,500

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 256 acres of prime farmland in Trout Lake Valley in northwest Klickitat County. Located at the base of Mount Adams, the land includes one of the largest organic cow dairies in the state. Prime farmland soils cover 94 percent of the land. In the summer, the land is used as dairy cow pasture and, in the winter, to grow hay and alfalfa that is converted to livestock feed. The farmland and its protection are key to the dairy's provision of organic milk throughout the Pacific

Northwest through the Darigold cooperative. Without protection, the farmland is at risk of development. In the winter and early spring, the farm's snow-free grass is used by part of the state's largest elk herd and in the spring, its wet pastures are visited by state endangered sandhill cranes. The conservation easement will protect this regionally important farm and prevent additional development along the Wild and Scenic White Salmon River, which runs through the larger property. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1931)

Okanogan Land Trust

Grant Request: \$990,200

Protecting the Carter Mountain Livestock Family Ranch

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to permanently protect 2,312 acres of ranchland and shrub-steppe habitat. Carter Mountain Livestock LLC is a multigenerational, family-owned operation specializing in cow and calf rearing and hay production that was established in 1900. The purchase will help preserve the agricultural viability of the operation and conserve thousands of acres of wildlife habitat. Conserving the land will create undeveloped corridors for big game and animals that depend on shrub-steppe habitat. Protection of the land will extinguish 622 development rights, creating a valuable opportunity to conserve ranchland that would otherwise have high development potential. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1813)

Washington State Conservation Commission

Grant Request: \$4,054,000

Conserving Foothills Farm

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on the 317-acre Foothills Farm in Kittitas County. The area is characterized by the pastoral landscape at the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains as well as its rich soils and valuable wildlife habitat. Preserving high-quality irrigated farmland like Foothills Farm has a multitude of benefits for the farming family, the agricultural community of Kittitas County, and the wildlife that use the unique habitats on the farm. In addition to extensive fields and hedgerows, the farm has multiple wetlands, is bisected by the Palouse to the Cascades Trail, and is bordered by the 3,600-acre Springwood Ranch, which the Trust for Public Lands recently bought. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1885)

Washington Farmland Trust

Grant Request: \$1,283,500

Conserving the French Slough Farm in Snohomish County

The Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to a buy voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 490 acres of French Slough Farm, extinguishing nearly fifty development rights. French Slough Farm is a fifth-generation

farm in the Snohomish River Valley, one mile southeast of the city of Snohomish. The farm has been under continuous ownership and production by the Bartelheimer Family since 1918. The land borders French Creek and the Pilchuck River at its confluence with the Snohomish River. Both the Pilchuck and Snohomish Rivers are priority migration and breeding habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, as well as chum salmon and cutthroat and bull trout. The conservation easement will ensure the property will be protected as working farmland and allow for compatible restoration targeting these priority species and habitats in the future. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1962)

**Washington State Conservation Commission
Conserving a Luna Gulch Farm**

Grant Request: \$946,522

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 1,326 acres to preserve the agricultural values of this Klickitat County farm forever. Located on the south side of Pleasant Valley, the farm is a fifteen-minute drive to Goldendale and offers expansive views of the Simcoe Mountains to the north and the Cascade Mountains to the west. One mile of Luna Creek, as well as several tributaries, travel through the property and support a run of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead trout. The land also includes oak forest and shrub-steppe habitat, and hosts golden eagles and the Townsends big eared bat. The farm is a mixture of crops, forage pasture, and rangeland grazing. To the north is 1,850 acres conserved by the State Conservation Commission. The two properties will combine to create a contiguous block of 3,176 acres of preserved farm and rangeland. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1798)

**Washington State Conservation Commission
Conserving Ranchland in Swale Canyon**

Grant Request: \$646,012

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to protect an 875-acre ranch in Swale Canyon, forever. The ranch provides grazing pasture and grows alfalfa-grass hay for livestock. The land has many different and valuable habitat types including an Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead-bearing stream and white-oak savannahs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1857)

**Washington State Conservation Commission
Conserving Yakima County Rangeland**

Grant Request: \$1,048,582

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to a buy voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 1,563 acres to preserve the agricultural conservation values forever. The land is in the Moxee

watershed of Yakima County, a valley with a rich agricultural history. The land has been used to raise cows. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1892)

**Conservation Commission
Conserving Hinterlands Farms**

Grant Request: \$4,215,000

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 336 acres of highly productive orchard and shrub-steppe habitat in Chelan County, near Manson. The land, owned by Hinterlands Farms, sits on the foothills overlooking Lake Chelan, where it has produced high-quality fruit for decades. The land has a broad diversity of soil types, and includes wetlands and shrub-steppe habitat used by birds and other wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1811)

**Washington Farmland Trust
Conserving Breum Family Farm in Snohomish County**

Grant Request: \$193,545

The Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 148.7 acres of Breum Family Farm, just west of Stanwood. The farm is an active, commercial farm specializing in growing row and seed crops, such as beets, spinach, and potatoes, as well as grass seed for commercial sale. The farm has prime soil for farming. The farmers use a crop rotation system, which helps maintain the integrity of the soil and is considered a soil management best practice. The easement will conserve the land as farmland forever, to ensure farming remains a viable commercial industry in the Stillaguamish Valley and deter more intense forms of residential, commercial, and industrial development in the floodplain. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1889)

**Washington Farmland Trust
Conserving Rod Dairy**

Grant Request: \$241,570

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 190 acres of Rod Dairy, an active dairy in the Stillaguamish River Valley, just south of Stanwood. The dairy has prime soil for farming and is used for grazing dairy cows and growing hay and livestock feed. The easement will conserve the land as farmland forever, to ensure farming remains a viable commercial industry in the Stillaguamish Valley and deter more intense forms of residential, commercial, and industrial development in the floodplain. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1887)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account: Forestland Preservation Category, Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

This memo describes the Forestland Preservation Category, the review process, and projects submitted for funding consideration. Staff will present additional information about the two projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the preliminary ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding grants following legislative appropriation of funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution #: 2024-25

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The primary focus of the Forestland Preservation Category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is to acquire development rights on working forestland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for timber production. A secondary goal is to support other benefits of preserving forestland such as jobs, recreation, protection of water and soil resources, carbon sequestration, habitat for wildlife, and scenic beauty.

The Forestland Preservation Category receives 10 percent of the funds in the Farm and Forest Account.¹ The remaining 90 percent is used for the Farmland Preservation Category.

¹Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(b) RCW

Program Summary

Before the last grant cycle, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved key policy changes² for the Farm and Forest Account. These policies apply to forestland projects submitted in the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles:

- Changed the review and evaluation processes to be written only.
- Eliminated the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement.
- Added a cost-increase policy for funded projects.

Board policies are outlined in [Manual 10c: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category](#). A summary of policies for this category is shown in the table below:

Forestland Preservation Category	
Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cities and towns• Counties• Qualified nonprofit nature conservancies• Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of property rights through a conservation easement.• Combination projects involving both acquisition and restoration or habitat enhancement.
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$500,000 maximum.• The restoration or enhancement total shall not exceed more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.• The maximum cost for a forest management plan is \$10,000.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-to-one matching share.• No match required for the Washington State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although public access is not required, it is allowed if explicitly provided for in the conservation easement.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each parcel proposed for protection must be classified as either timberland or forestland under county property tax definitions (Revised Codes of Washington 84.34.020(3)) and 84.33.035(5).• Applicants must submit a county approved timber management plan if required by the county's tax program.• Projects on property owned by a private, small forest landowner, must include correcting all fish passage barriers.

² Resolution #2022-05

Evaluation Summary

Between July 22 and August 13, 2024, the WWRP Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed two project proposals using a written evaluation process. They accessed RCO's PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module to score projects using board-adopted criteria. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of forestland preservation and management in Washington. The advisory committee members participating in this grant cycle are:

Community Member

- Barb Aberle, Olympia
- Jaynee Haygood, Vancouver
- Denise Sackner, Mukilteo
- Sue Wright, Vancouver

Forest Industry and Nonprofit Organizations

- Cathy Baker, The Nature Conservancy
- Laurie Benson, The Trust for Public Land
- Daniel Wear, Sustainable Northwest

Tribal and State Agency Members

- Brody Coval, Department of Natural Resources
- Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Advisory committee members were asked to comment on any fatal flaws with the applications and help ensure they are worthy of funding consideration. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A: *Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the advisory committee on July 22, 2024, and a post-evaluation meeting on August 15, 2024. Key topics of discussion for the committee included use of a written evaluation process, program policies, the number of applications submitted this year, the likelihood of funding for the projects evaluated, and in general, the challenges applicants faced in the recent past.

The Forestland Advisory Committee has used the virtual "in-person" process and a written process in the past. The committee typically reviews two to four projects each grant cycle and while they miss meeting together and having an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, the written process seems to work. The committee said the process and communication was fine, but more importantly they were satisfied with the ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this ranked list supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *Attachment A Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Project List*, via Resolution 2024-25.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the list to the Governor for funding consideration. Before submitting the list to the Legislature, as part of the proposed capital budget, the Governor may remove but cannot add projects to the board-approved list. Like the Governor, the Legislature too may remove but cannot add projects to the list. The Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation for the biennium and approve a final project list as part of the capital budget. Staff will verify completion of all application requirements and will ask the board to approve the final list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting. Item 6 in the board materials describes the full funding process.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-25, including *Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for the Forestland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores
- E. Forestland Preservation Category Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-25
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS two Forestland Preservation Category projects are being considered for funding from the Farm and Forest Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS the applications meet the program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10c: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation*, including criteria regarding county tax designation as either forestland or timberland; and

WHEREAS these projects were reviewed by a team of community, nonprofit, and government representatives using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved criteria , thereby supporting the board’s goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS the forestland projects meet criteria for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board’s strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington’s fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Forestland Preservation Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the project list for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Forestland Preservation Category
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-25

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	35.11	24-1886 A	Whatcom County	Canyon Creek Forest	\$500,000	\$1,139,000	\$1,639,000
2	33.22	24-1983 A	Whatcom County	Maple Falls Forest	\$454,500	\$454,500	\$909,000
Total					\$954,500	\$1,593,500	\$2,548,000

³Project type: A=acquisition



State Map for the Forestland Preservation Category Projects

Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Forestland preservation means protection of any land designated as either timberland in RCW 84.34.020(3) or forestland in 84.33.035(5).⁴

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	15
Advisory Committee	2	Forestland Stewardship	8
Advisory Committee	3	Stewardship Practices	2
Advisory Committee	4	Threat to the Land	8
Advisory Committee	5	Community Values	4
Advisory Committee	6	Community Support	2
Advisory Committee	7	Multiple Benefits	2
RCO Staff	8	Match	2
Total Points			43

Forestland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. Viability of the Site

What is the viability of the site for commercial timber production?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (13(d))

2. Forestland Stewardship

What stewardship practices beyond the Forest Practices Act are in place that support timber production or provide ecologic benefits?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (12(e))

3. Stewardship Practices

What voluntary stewardship practices (described in Question 2) will be included in the terms of the conservation easement or lease as required stewardship practices?

⁴ Chapter 79A.15.010 (6)

4. Threat to the Land

What is the likelihood the land will be converted to some other use than forestland if it's not protected?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (12(c))

5. Community Values

How will protecting the land for timber production provide benefits to the community? Do the community and area Native American tribes support the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (12(a), (b), and (d))

6. Community Support

Are there one or more letters in the application that demonstrate community support for the project?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (12(a))

7. Multiple Benefits

Does the project include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?

Does the project include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with conservation and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130 (2)(e)

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

8. Match

Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Forestland Stewardship	3. Stewardship Practices	4. Threat to the Land	5. Community Values	6. Community Support	7. Multiple Benefits	8. Match	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-8	0-2	0-8	0-4	0-2	0-2	0-2	
1	24-1886 A	Canyon Creek Forest	12.11	6.33	1.78	6.00	3.44	2.00	1.44	2.00	35.11
2	24-1983 A	Maple Falls Forest	11.56	6.22	1.78	6.33	3.56	2.00	1.78	0.00	33.22

⁵Project type: A=acquisition

Forestland Preservation Category Project Descriptions

Whatcom County Conserving Canyon Creek Forest

Grant Request: \$500,000

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 610 acres of forestland, twenty miles east of Bellingham on Canyon Creek. The purchase will extinguish thirty development rights and ensure the land remains available for a working forest in Whatcom County. The owners would like to use the land to educate the forest industry and community about forest management and forest health. Protection of this land also contributes to Whatcom County's goal of supporting natural resource-based industries, such as forestry, in rural areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1886)

Whatcom County Conserving the Maple Falls Forest

Grant Request: \$454,500

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, 280 acres of the Maple Falls Forest, twenty-five miles east of Bellingham. The acquisition will extinguish fourteen development rights and ensure the land remains available for a working forest in Whatcom County. The landowner wishes to continue working in the forest and to educate people about the forest industry and forest management and health. Protection of the forest also contributes to Whatcom County's goal of supporting natural resource-based industries, such as forestry, in rural areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1983)

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Community Forests Program: Review of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karen Edwards, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

This memo describes the Community Forests Program’s evaluation process and offers a summary of the applications received during the 2024 grant cycle. Thirteen project proposals were evaluated and ranked. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting, providing an opportunity for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to review the ranked list of projects in accordance with the budget proviso. Following board review, staff will submit the ranked list to the Governor and Legislature for funding consideration.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-26

Purpose of Resolution: Review the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Community Forest Program (CFP) was initiated in 2020 when the Legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to work with the Washington Department of Natural Resources and other stakeholders to develop funding criteria and a ranked list of community forest projects for funding consideration in the 2021-23 biennial budget. The budget proviso establishing the program requires Recreation and Conservation Funding Board review of the project proposals. Consistent with this requirement, staff are presenting the 2025-27 projects for board consideration.

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

Applicants submitted thirteen project proposals requesting just over \$34 million during this grant cycle. The requested grant funds combined with over \$18.6 million in match would be used to acquire about 9,822 acres.

Program Summary

Below is the program profile as outlined in [Manual 25: Community Forests Program](#):

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, counties, and other political subdivisions of the state • Native American tribes • Nonprofit conservation organizations • State agencies working directly with one or more of the above
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition (fee title only) • Combination acquisition and restoration or recreation development
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No minimum • \$3,000,000 maximum • \$30,000 maximum for a community forest management plan. • The total cost for restoration and development activities cannot exceed 10 percent of the total project budget.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applicants must contribute at least 15 percent match. • 10 percent of the total costs must be from a non-state, non-federal source (does not apply to Native American tribes).
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access is required.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds are intended to preserve actively managed forests for economic, social, and environmental benefits along with community benefits such as recreation, watershed protection, community education, resource stewardship, and more. • Sponsors must submit a community forest management plan prior to project completion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and development work is allowed on acquired property only. • The value of conservation easements or other less than fee interests that contribute to the community forest are eligible to satisfy the match requirement.
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Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Between July 22 and August 13, 2024, members of the CFP Advisory Committee reviewed applicants’ written responses to the evaluation criteria, then scored and ranked projects. Advisory committee members selected and appointed by the RCO director include representatives from state and tribal governments; nonprofit organizations; community members; and the forest industry. These individuals are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of community forests. Members participating this year include the following:

Community Member

- Denise Sackner, Mukilteo
- Jaynee Haygood, Vancouver
- Sue Wright, Vancouver

Forest Industry and Nonprofit Organizations

- Cathy Baker, The Nature Conservancy
- Laurie Benson, The Trust for Public Land

Tribal and State Agency Members

- Brody Coval, Department of Natural Resources
- Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

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

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff offered two training opportunities, May 1 and 7, 2024, for advisory committee members on use of PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module and RCO’s new conflict of interest policy. A recorded training was available to advisory committee members

who missed the training or needed a refresher. Also, staff hosted a pre-evaluation meeting for the CFP Advisory Committee on July 22, where staff provided a program overview and the evaluation criteria. Advisors appreciated discussing the criteria at that meeting.

On August 15, RCO staff invited advisory committee members to participate in a post evaluation meeting. The committees debriefed and assessed the technical review and evaluation process, and the scoring results. Members felt the process was organized and efficient. They received the materials needed, felt using the online tools made the job easier, and were satisfied with the resulting ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board review *Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-26

Next Steps

Following board review of the project list, staff will forward the ranked list of projects to the Office of Financial Management for funding consideration in the 2025-27 biennium.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-26, including *Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for the Community Forests Program Projects
- C. Community Forests Program Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Community Forests Program Evaluation Scores

E. Community Forests Program Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-26
Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will submit thirteen Community Forests Program projects for funding consideration; and

WHEREAS all projects meet the program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 25, Community Forests Program*, including criteria regarding public benefits, forestland benefits, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by a team of nonprofit organizations, citizens, and state, local, and tribal representatives using criteria approved by the RCO director; and

WHEREAS the results of these evaluations are being reviewed in an open public meeting, thereby fulfilling the requirement outlined in the budget proviso that established the program; and

WHEREAS the projects will acquire land for forestry purposes, thus supporting the legislative goal to help sustain the community, economic and environmental benefits provided by Washington’s working forestland, and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board’s goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board has reviewed the ranked list of projects depicted in the *Community Forests Program, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby acknowledges that this project list is complete and ready for submittal to the Governor and Legislature for further consideration.

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Community Forests Program
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-26

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	51.62	24-1993 A	Mount Adams Resource Stewards	Mount Adams Community Forest: Klickitat Rim Phase Two	\$3,000,000	\$616,000	\$3,616,000
2	51.60	24-1522 A	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest Phase Two	\$3,000,000	\$842,000	\$3,842,000
3	50.75	24-1492 A	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Community Forest Phase Four	\$3,000,000	\$3,309,000	\$6,309,000
4	50.62	24-1847 C	Outdoor Discovery Project	Carbon Canyon Community Forest	\$3,000,000	\$553,500	\$3,553,500
5	49.62	24-1679 A	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Green Mountain Community Forest	\$3,000,000	\$3,600,000	\$6,600,000
6	48.43	24-1941 A	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Double Bluff Acquisition	\$3,000,000	\$4,131,750	\$7,131,750
7	47.88	24-1441 A	Whatcom Land Trust	Stewart Mountain Community Forest Phase Three Acquisition	\$2,962,590	\$522,810	\$3,485,400
8	46.75	24-1942 A	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Lagoon Point Community Forest	\$2,967,135	\$3,007,383	\$5,974,518
9	45.43	24-1919 A	Columbia Land Trust	Grays River Community Forest Phase One	\$3,000,000	\$530,000	\$3,530,000
10	45.20	24-1900 A	Hoquiam	Hoquiam Community Forest	\$2,918,475	\$515,025	\$3,433,500
11	40.75	24-1926 A	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Peshastin Creek Community Forest Acquisition	\$164,900	\$29,459	\$194,359
12	40.25	24-1565 C	Okanogan Land Trust	Havillah Farms Community Forest	\$3,000,000	\$750,500	\$3,750,500
13	37.00	24-1531 C	Wilkeson	Wilkeson's Skookum Mine and Timber Resource Addition	\$1,114,392	\$196,658	\$1,311,050
Total					\$34,127,492	\$18,604,085	\$52,731,577

¹Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination

State Map for Community Forests Program Projects



Community Forests Program Evaluation Criteria Summary

Community Forests Program Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map • Project goals and objectives 	Not scored
1. Forestland Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest resources • Property features • Landscape context • Additional benefits and threat 	15
2. Public Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic benefit • Recreational and cultural benefits • Environmental benefits • Income use 	15
3. Stewardship and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finances • Operation and management • Future development and restoration • Organizational experience 	Acquisition 15 Combination 12
4. Development and Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and restoration goals • Budget • Timeline • 	Combination 3
5. Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Governance structure • Organizational capacity • 	All projects 15
Total Points Possible 60		

Community Forests Program Detailed Scoring Criteria

1. Forestland Benefits

What are the specific forestland values this project will protect?

2. Public Benefits

How will the community forest be developed or maintained to provide public recreational, educational, cultural, environmental, and economic opportunities?

3. Stewardship and Management

What are the primary anticipated management objectives for the community forest and how will they likely be funded and achieved

4. Development and Restoration

What are your plans for development and/or restoration activities on the property acquired?

5. Community Engagement and Support

What is the community engagement process used for developing or implementing this project

Community Forests Program Projects Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ²	Project Name	1. Forestland Benefits	2. Public Benefits	3. Stewardship and Management	4. Development and Restoration	5. Community Engagement	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-15	0-3	0-15	
1	24-1993 A	Mount Adams Community Forest: Klickitat Rim Phase Two	13.12	12.75	13.25		12.50	51.63
2	24-1522 A	Cle Elum Ridge Community Forest Phase Two	13.20	12.60	12.00		13.80	51.60
3	24-1492 A	Nisqually Community Forest Phase Four	11.88	12.88	12.25		13.75	50.75
4	24-1847 C	Carbon Canyon Community Forest	12.50	12.88	10.25	2.38	12.62	50.63
5	24-1679 A	Green Mountain Community Forest	12.38	13.25	12.75		11.25	49.63
6	24-1941 A	Double Bluff Acquisition	12.29	12.43	11.86		11.86	48.43
7	24-1441 A	Stewart Mountain Community Forest Phase Three Acquisition	12.25	11.38	11.38		12.88	47.88
8	24-1942 A	Lagoon Point Community Forest	12.62	11.62	11.75		10.75	46.75
9	24-1919 A	Grays River Community Forest Phase One	13.00	11.43	11.57		9.43	45.43
10	24-1900 A	Hoquiam Community Forest	12.20	11.20	12.60		9.20	45.20

²Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination

Rank	Project Number and Type ²	Project Name	1. Forestland Benefits	2. Public Benefits	3. Stewardship and Management	4. Development and Restoration	5. Community Engagement	Total
11	24-1926 A	Peshastin Creek Community Forest Acquisition	10.38	9.75	10.12		10.50	40.75
12	24-1565 C	Havillah Farms Community Forest	9.25	9.75	8.75	2.00	10.50	40.25
13	24-1531 C	Wilkeson's Skookum Mine and Timber Resource Addition	8.50	9.62	7.25	2.00	9.62	37.00

Community Forests Program Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Expanding the Mount Adams Community Forest

The Mt. Adams Resource Stewards will use this grant to buy 861 acres to more than triple the size of the Mount Adams Community Forest. This second phase acquisition is along the Glenwood Highway, eight miles east of unincorporated Glenwood. The goal of the community forest is to protect and manage a working forest that has been the backbone of several rural communities and land-based livelihoods in Klickitat County. The forest is actively managed for logging, wildfire resiliency, recreation, wildlife habitat, and maintenance of the rural character of the region. The proposed addition includes a mix of tree types and ages, including mixed conifer plantations; mature, naturally regenerated Douglas fir and ponderosa second growth; a stand of old-growth trees; and pine-oak woodland. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1993)

Kittitas Conservation Trust

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Buying the Cle Elum Ridge Forest

The Kittitas Conservation Trust and Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 8,450 acres of Cle Elum Ridge to expand the adjacent Teanaway Community Forest. The land is above Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Ronald, providing the towns with their idyllic backdrop and access to the Teanaway Community Forest and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest beyond. This project, which is the second and final phase, will protect the land from residential and resort development. The land is entirely forested with mainly ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. The overall goal is for the entire Cle Elum Ridge to become part of the department's 50,241-acre Teanaway Community Forest and to be managed for trail use, fire resiliency, wildlife habitat, and water quality and quantity in the Yakima River basin. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1522)

Nisqually Indian Tribe

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Expanding Nisqually Community Forest

The Nisqually Indian Tribe will use this grant to buy 1,381 acres of commercial timberlands and critical salmon habitat to expand the 4,120-acre Nisqually Community Forest. The land is next to the community forest, and contains part of Busy Wild Creek, which is the headwaters of the Mashel River, the largest tributary to the Nisqually River. After the Nisqually River, Busy Wild Creek is ranked as the watershed's highest freshwater priority for protection and restoration in both the Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead recovery plans. Both species are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The portion of Busy Wild Creek to be purchased is federally designated critical habitat for both. The plan for the forest is to restore old-growth forest characteristics while supporting forestry jobs. The purchase

also will provide an opportunity to extend education and research programs and public access for mountain biking, hunting, and cross-country skiing. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1492)

Outdoor Discovery Project

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Creating the Carbon Canyon Community Forest

The Outdoor Discovery Project will use this grant to buy 1,246 acres of forestland to create a community forest in the Carbon River valley next to Mount Rainier National Park. The land includes one hundred acres along waterways that are home to Endangered Species Act-listed fish and birds including Chinook salmon, bull trout, marbled murrelet, and northern spotted owl. The land is next to protected public lands and the purchase will reduce fragmentation of wildlife habitat. The Outdoor Discovery Project also will build a campground, day-use areas, and hiking trails. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1847)

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Conserving Green Mountain Community Forest

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to conserve 719 acres of prime forestland next to Bremerton as the Green Mountain Community Forest. Nestled in a matrix of fifteen thousand acres of public forestlands, the land is an ideal location for a community forest with high public recreation value, critical habitat, and sustainable timber production. The forest has high timber productivity, trees of diverse ages, and well-maintained roads. Part of the popular Ueland Tree Farm, which hosts more than eighty thousand visitors annually, the forest includes well-used hiking trails and a natural fitness training area for sailors stationed at Naval Base Kitsap. The forest contains critical headwaters of Chico Creek, the most productive salmon system on the Kitsap Peninsula, and wetland complexes crucial for groundwater storage and cool, consistent summer flows. The forest also connects to a Rhododendron Preserve with rare Puget Sound lowland old-growth forest, the Bremerton watershed reserve, Green Mountain State Forest, and active timberland owned by the City of Bremerton, all of which makes the site highly critical to maintaining a contiguous forested landscape. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1679)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

Conserving the Double Bluff Community Forest

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy 257 acres of forestland on Whidbey Island, conserving the land forever, as the Double Bluff Community Forest. Undeveloped blocks of land this size are rare on Whidbey Island. The Island is experiencing rapid conversion of forestland to residential development. Healthy and well-managed forestland is critical for community and ecological resilience and the overall health of the Salish Sea. The Double Bluff Community Forest will help ensure that future residents and visitors can enjoy the recreational and ecological benefits of this forest long into the future. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1941)

Whatcom Land Trust**Grant Request: \$2,962,590****Expanding Stewart Mountain Community Forest**

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 1,113 acres of upland and creekbank forest along Sygitowicz and Hard Scrabble Falls Creeks to add to the Stewart Mountain Community Forest. The purchase is the third phase of a proposed 5,500-acre community forest on Stewart Mountain. The land contains steep, forested slopes and salmon-bearing tributaries to the South Fork Nooksack River. The community forest will be managed as a working forest to optimize a wide variety of ecological, economic, and community benefits such as watershed health, sustainable jobs, wildlife habitat, and recreational access. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1441)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust**Grant Request: \$2,967,135****Conserving Lagoon Point Community Forest**

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy 260.5 acres to create the Lagoon Point Community Forest. Whidbey Island is experiencing an influx of new residents and many acres of forestland are being developed for homes. The Lagoon Point Community Forest will be a model of working forest and community resilience. Conserving and managing the forest will include long-rotation timber harvests for forest health and revenue generation. Conservation of the forest also will support carbon dioxide storage, wildlife habitat, Puget Sound water quality protection, aquifer recharge, and educational opportunities. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1942)

Columbia Land Trust**Grant Request: \$3,000,000****Creating the Grays River Community Forest**

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy 528 acres along Fossil Creek, north of the community of Grays River, for the first phase of the Grays River Community Forest. The community forest will support the community's values of sustainable forest use to create money for public services; public access for fishing, hunting, birding, and other recreation; stabilization of steep slopes to reduce flooding; and healthy river and salmon habitat. Grays River supports the largest chum salmon population in the Columbia River system. Chum salmon are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The community forest also will provide continuity to marbled murrelet critical habitat owned by the land trust and Washington Department of Natural Resources. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1919)

Hoquiam**Grant Request: \$2,918,475****Expanding Hoquiam Community Forest**

The City of Hoquiam will use this grant to buy nearly 406 acres to expand Hoquiam Community Forest. The land includes the Little Hoquiam River and Fry Creek, which support coho salmon and other fish, and a mixed Douglas fir and western hemlock forest. The land will be managed as a cohesive community forest with goals of protecting the watersheds and critical habitat, allowing logging to support community

services, and providing recreation opportunities. The land also will allow for expansion of city trails along the Little Hoquiam River, providing access to the riverfront for the public. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1900)

**Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Conserving Peshastin Creek Community Forest**

Grant Request: \$164,900

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation will use this grant to buy 22.3 acres of undeveloped land next to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and develop a community forest management plan. The land includes Peshastin Creek, which flows along the length of the property. Tribal staff will work to maintain healthy creek, forest, and creekbank habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, and northern spotted owls. The land is near U.S. Route 97, providing easy public access for walking, short hikes, and enjoyment of nature. This project is part of tribe's larger effort to protect, restore, and conserve critical spawning areas and habitat for salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1926)

**Okanogan Land Trust
Buying and Restoring the Havillah Farms Community Forest**

Grant Request: \$3,000,000

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to buy and restore 1,291 acres for the Havillah Farms Community Forest, thirteen miles northeast of Tonasket in the Okanogan Highlands. The land is next to U.S. Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources land and is being used for grazing, wheat growing, and recreating. The land contains state priority wildlife habitat consisting of mixed conifer forest, shrub-steppe, regenerating forest and steppe, wetlands, springs, and a half-mile of salmon-bearing Antoine Creek. The land trust will restore thirty-seven acres by removing invasive plants, replanting, and placing woody structures along the creekbanks. In the forest, the land trust will thin and limb trees and plant one hundred acres to accelerate natural regeneration. The area will continue to be used for logging and livestock grazing, and by wildlife, including steelhead trout, lynx, and gray wolves. The land trust also will build trails extending from Forest Service trails for hiking, biking, bird watching, and harvesting of culturally significant native plants. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1565)

**Wilkeson
Conserving Coal Mining History and a Forest**

Grant Request: \$1,114,392

The Town of Wilkeson will use this grant to buy and develop 137 acres just south of the town. Once a coal mining slope in the heart of Wilkeson's uptown, and most recently a working forest, the land will be used for recreation, logging, and education about the town's history. The Town will complete a preliminary design of a walking bridge for site access, design a loop trail to the Skookum Mine including informational graphics, and complete a cultural resource survey. The Town will showcase the Skookum Slope, which is the entrance to a more than 150-year-old coal mine. The Town also will feature coal mining from the mine to the coal washing station, to the coke ovens for purification.

About fifty-seven acres will be logged to generate money for the town. RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1531)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Youth Athletic Facilities:
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-27

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked lists of projects shown in Attachment A.

Background

The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Program provides funds to acquire, develop, or renovate outdoor athletic facilities. The program priority is to enhance or develop facilities that serve people through the age of eighteen who participate in sports and athletics. The program encourages multi-generational use, which means applicants may submit proposals for facilities sized for adults, but primarily serving youth.

There are two YAF categories. The Large Grants Category provides funds to purchase land or develop or renovate athletic facilities used for playing competitive sports. The Small Grants Category provides funds to develop and renovate lower cost athletic facilities in small communities. Improvements for both categories may include athletic

fields, hard courts, outdoor swimming pools, running tracks, and support amenities such as restrooms and parking.

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

Program Summary

There were four key changes to YAF for this grant cycle.¹ First, acquisition only projects are now eligible in the Large Grant Category. Second, the board increased the grant limits for both categories. Third, applicants may no longer use Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Local Parks Category grants as match. And finally, the board approved updates to the evaluation criteria to improve recreation access in communities with less parks and open space access. Board policies and the evaluation criteria are included in [Manual 17: Youth Athletic Facilities](#).

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

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

¹ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolutions 2023-26, 2023-27, and 2023-28

Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation • Combined land acquisition and development or renovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or renovation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 to \$1,500,000 • No limit on the total project cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$350,000 maximum • Total project cost may not exceed \$700,000.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 percent of the appropriation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 percent of the appropriation
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 percent • Exception: Match may be reduced for communities in need, underserved populations, counties in need, or communities providing facilities in federal disaster areas. 	
Public Access	Required	
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must include items found within the field of play that are essential for competitive sport to occur. Exception: this requirement does not apply to stand-alone accessibility improvement projects in the Small Grants category. • Property acquired must be developed within five years and retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Facilities renovated or developed must remain for public outdoor recreation for a minimum of twenty years after RCO accepts the project as complete. 	

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Forty-four Large Grants Category and eight Small Grants Category projects, requesting nearly \$44 million, were evaluated by members of the YAF Advisory Committee from August 1-30, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the RCO director, include citizen and local agency representatives who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering and design, and community or youth athletics.

The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Besse Bailey, Otis Orchard²
- Andrew Chapman, Spokane
- Garrett Michaud, Redmond
- Brent Stenman, Poulsbo
- Jason Ruud, Pasco
- Jenna Paglia, Chelan
- Sheri Schultz, Mill Creek

Local Agency Members

- Andrea Clay, Pierce County
- Nick Farline, City of Kennewick
- Sean Conway, City of Renton
- Bob Leonard, City of Everett
- Ariel Smith, City of Long Beach

Advisory committee members reviewed the project proposals virtually and used RCO's PRISM system for scoring the projects according to board adopted criteria. The presentations were streamed live online to support public transparency. The meetings were also recorded and posted to RCO's website. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in Attachment A: *Youth Athletic Facilities, Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

RCO staff hosted two virtual meetings with the YAF Advisory Committee. The August 1, 2024, orientation meeting provided an opportunity for staff to review key policies and the evaluation criteria and the use of the PRISM Online Review and Evaluation module with the committee.

The committee met to debrief and assess the evaluation process and scoring results on September 5, 2024. Members said the new Introduction was helpful and the first criterion on *Need-Local Priorities* helped set the tone for the proposal. Several felt that the Project Design Fit and Budget overlapped and ended up with similar scores. There was also overlap between the three criteria on Project Engagement. Finally, some found it challenging to compare urban and rural projects in terms of a reasonable service area and drive times to an athletic facility.

Advisory Committee members were glad that the board approved a larger budget request given the significantly higher grant limits this cycle. Overall, members were satisfied with the materials provided, the evaluation criteria, and the resulting ranked list.

² Participated in evaluation of the YAF Small Grants Category only.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these ranked lists supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding support board-adopted priorities in the 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan.

Public Comment

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

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve Resolution 2024-27, including Attachment A: *Youth Athletic Facilities, Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects*.

Next Steps

If the board approves the preliminary ranked lists, staff will forward the lists to the Governor for funding consideration for the upcoming biennium, as part of RCO's proposed capital budget. The board will approve the final lists and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-27, including *Youth Athletic Facilities, Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects*
- B. State Map of Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category Projects
- C. Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Evaluation Scores for Large Grants Category
- E. Evaluation Scores for Small Grants Category
- F. Project Descriptions for Large Grants Category
- G. Project Descriptions for Small Grants Category

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-27
Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category
Preliminary Ranked Lists of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS fifty-two Youth Athletic Facilities projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS the projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 17: Youth Athletic Facilities*; and

WHEREAS these projects were evaluated by a team of local agency representatives and community members using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved and adopted evaluation criteria thereby supporting the board’s strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

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

WHEREAS the projects acquire, develop, and renovate public outdoor athletic facilities, thereby supporting board priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan* and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the preliminary ranked lists of projects depicted in the *Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category and Small Grants Category, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*, below; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Large Grants Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	83.45	24-1768 D	Jefferson County	Memorial Field Infrastructure Replacement	\$345,560	\$148,167	\$493,727
2	83.43	24-1797 D	Centralia	Borst Park Ball Field Lights	\$1,050,000	\$450,000	\$1,500,000
3	83.09	24-1921 D	Winthrop	Winthrop Rink, On Thin Ice	\$1,209,950	\$518,550	\$1,728,500
4	82.84	24-1952 D	Seattle	Hutchinson Playfield and Court Renovation	\$968,215	\$1,420,049	\$2,388,264
5	82.35	24-1440 D	Pierce County	Sprinker Multipurpose Sport Fields 2A	\$1,500,000	\$6,735,000	\$8,235,000
6	82.23	24-1923 D	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	Peck Community Sports Park Lighting	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$1,200,000
7	82.18	24-1483 D	White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District	White Salmon Valley Pool	\$1,500,000	\$5,720,462	\$7,220,462
8	82.00	24-1893 D	Spokane Valley HUB	HUB Synthetic Fields North	\$1,500,000	\$2,794,948	\$4,294,948
9	81.95	24-1726 D	YMCA Pierce and Kitsap Counties	Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1A	\$1,500,000	\$5,275,152	\$6,775,152
10	81.14	24-1748 D	Mountlake Terrace	Evergreen Playfield Number Four Lighting Improvement	\$326,500	\$326,500	\$653,000
11	80.91	24-1603 D	Poulsbo	Poulsbo Regional Multiuse Athletic Fields	\$1,500,000	\$7,230,000	\$8,730,000
12	80.75	24-1375 D	Everett	Lion's Park Skate Dot Construction	\$204,868	\$136,912	\$341,780
13	80.45	24-1604 D	Port Angeles Marathon Association	Monroe Sports Field Lighting, Restroom, and Scoreboard	\$548,779	\$235,191	\$783,970
14	79.95	24-1815 D	Kent	Garrison Creek Park Sports Court Renovation	\$1,000,000	\$1,917,563	\$2,917,563
15	79.86	24-1866 D	Hoquiam	Olympic Stadium Field Lighting and Restrooms	\$960,000	\$240,000	\$1,200,000
16	79.50	24-1917 D	Sumner	Bill Heath Sports Complex Lighting Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$2,200,000	\$3,700,000
16	79.50	24-2016 D	Walla Walla	Martin Field Synthetic Turf Playfield	\$1,471,000	\$164,000	\$1,635,000
18	79.18	24-1953 D	Longview	Cloney Park Skatepark and Pumptrack Revitalization	\$1,500,000	\$1,569,479	\$3,069,479

³Project type: D=development

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
19	79.07	24-2001 D	Ephrata	Ephrata Sports Complex Addition	\$530,000	\$700,000	\$1,230,000
20	78.84	24-1562 D	Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County	Oak Harbor Boys and Girls Club Sports Court	\$744,402	\$352,156	\$1,096,558
20	78.84	24-2028 D	Sunnyside	Sunnyside Pump Track	\$1,144,400	\$550,600	\$1,695,000
22	78.60	24-1966 D	Kennewick	Lawrence Scott Park Ball Field Lights	\$232,500	\$234,500	\$467,000
23	78.45	24-1593 D	Seattle	Walt Hundley Playfield Replacement and Upgrades	\$1,400,448	\$1,468,780	\$2,869,228
23	78.45	24-1785 D	Lynnwood	Meadowdale Playfields Dugouts and Lighting	\$595,000	\$1,105,000	\$1,700,000
25	78.23	24-2006 D	Chewelah	Chewelah Youth Sports Complex	\$800,000	\$200,000	\$1,000,000
26	76.55	24-1697 D	Everett	Forest Park Pickleball Courts	\$841,993	\$841,993	\$1,683,986
27	76.50	24-1421 D	Ellensburg	Mount View Park Tennis Court Construction	\$454,200	\$302,800	\$757,000
27	76.50	24-2018 D	Lynden	Bender Fields Complex Lighting	\$375,000	\$250,000	\$625,000
29	76.45	24-1996 D	Fife	Dacca Park Athletic Track Resurfacing	\$392,343	\$261,563	\$653,906
30	76.05	24-1693 D	Shoreline	Shoreline Park Playfields A and B Light Replacement	\$486,906	\$486,906	\$973,812
31	75.34	24-1539 D	Federal Way	Celebration Park Soccer Field Eight Turf Conversion	\$1,500,000	\$350,000	\$1,850,000
32	74.73	24-1682 D	Olympia	Little Baseball Association Park Baseball Fields Renovation Phase Two	\$1,325,000	\$1,325,000	\$2,650,000
33	74.20	24-1956 A	Renton	Cedar River Park Stoneway Parcel Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$18,564,000	\$20,064,000
34	72.50	24-1757 D	Snohomish County	Martha Lake Airport Park Pickleball	\$1,075,635	\$880,065	\$1,955,700
35	72.14	24-2005 D	Mount Rainier Futbol Club	Athletic Club Pickleball Courts	\$1,500,000	\$1,619,500	\$3,119,500
36	72.00	24-1880 D	Quincy	Lauzier Park Soccer Field Development	\$1,500,000	\$803,777	\$2,303,777
37	71.36	24-1667 D	Oak Harbor	Pickleball Court Development	\$780,000	\$520,000	\$1,300,000
38	71.00	24-1806 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Sehmel Ball Field Turf Replacement	\$817,173	\$817,173	\$1,634,346
39	70.95	24-1515 D	Seattle	Smith Cove Playfield Natural Turf Renovation	\$634,081	\$1,177,579	\$1,811,660
40	70.23	24-1957 D	Stanwood	Heritage Park Multiuse Fields and Parking Lot	\$1,107,533	\$1,107,534	\$2,215,067
41	69.64	24-1844 D	Burlington	Maiben Park Basketball Courts	\$1,032,290	\$442,411	\$1,474,701

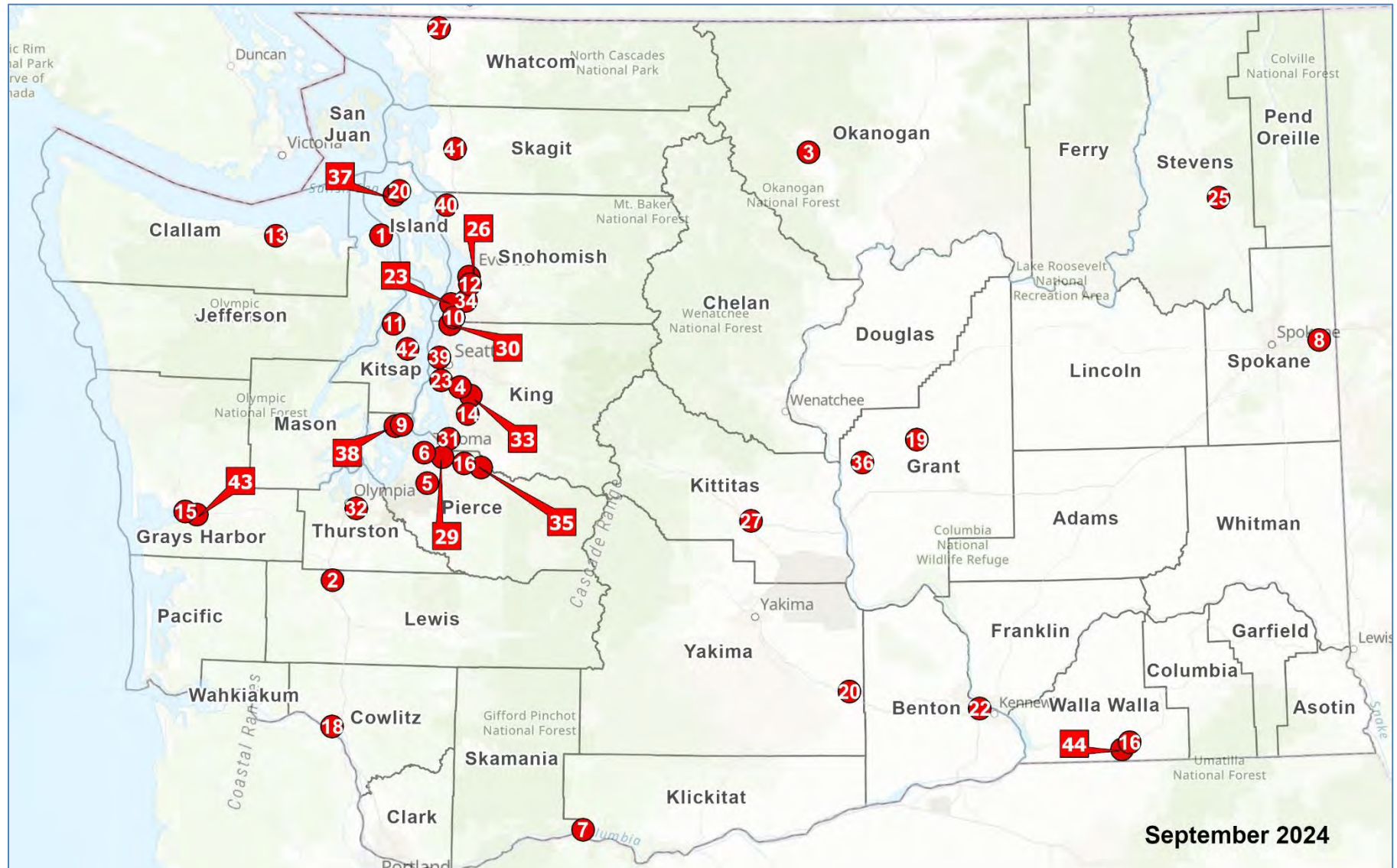
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
42	66.86	24-1651 D	Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Battle Point Park Turf Replacement	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$1,300,000
43	64.27	24-1705 D	Aberdeen	Pioneer Park Pickleball and Basketball Courts	\$333,960	\$45,000	\$378,960
44	60.64	24-1964 D	College Place	Kiwanis Park Phase Two Renovation	\$1,089,228	\$121,026	\$1,210,254
Total					\$42,026,964	\$72,859,336	\$114,886,300

Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ⁴	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	84.25	24-1427 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Basketball Courts	\$346,500	\$38,500	\$385,000
2	81.33	24-1977 D	Raymond	Eighth Street Park Renovation Pump Track Phase	\$317,250	\$35,250	\$352,500
3	78.92	24-1496 D	Tenino	Tenino City Park Basketball and Pickleball Court	\$40,460	\$22,340	\$62,800
4	78.33	24-1845 D	Burlington	Jason Boerner Memorial Park Basketball Court	\$350,000	\$100,001	\$450,001
5	76.96	24-1640 D	Buckley	Miller Park Community Courts	\$271,119	\$271,119	\$542,238
6	73.92	24-2010 D	Palouse	Palouse Pool Improvements	\$68,404	\$68,405	\$136,809
7	73.42	24-2029 D	Pomeroy	Pomeroy Baseball Field Lighting	\$350,000	\$150,000	\$500,000
8	71.00	24-1930 D	Orting	Charter Park Pump Track	\$204,750	\$204,750	\$409,500
Total					\$1,948,483	\$890,365	\$2,838,848

⁴Project type: D=development

State Map for Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category Projects



State Map for Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category Projects



Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Criteria Summary

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

Youth Athletic Facilities Criteria Summary		
Question		Maximum Points
Unscored		
	Project Introduction	0 points
Scored by the Advisory Committee		
1	Need–Local Priorities	20 points
2	Project Scope	15 points
3	Project Design–Fit	10 points
4	Project Design–Budget	5 points
5	Project Engagement–Methods	7.5 points
6	Project Engagement–Community	7.5 points
7	Project Engagement–Partnerships	5 points
8	Sustainability	5 points
9	Facility Management	5 points
10	Availability	5 points
11	Readiness to Proceed	5 points
Scored by RCO		
12	Green Space Availability	3 points
13	Social Vulnerability	3 points
14	Health Outcomes	3 points
15	Matching Shares	0.5 point
16	Proximity to People	0.5 point
17	Growth Management Act Preference	0 points
Total Points:		100

Detailed Scoring Criteria, Youth Athletic Facilities⁵

Project Introduction. Introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need-Local Priorities.** Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.
2. **Project Scope.** Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.
3. **Project Design-Fit.** Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities. Applicants may choose to describe design elements such as parking and site access, accessibility features, environmental considerations, green infrastructure, cultural or historic interpretation, mitigation of public use impacts, etc.
4. **Project Design-Budget.** Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready?
5. **Project Engagement-Methods.** RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic, or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.
6. **Project Engagement-Community.** How has community input influenced the project design?⁶
7. **Project Engagement-Partnerships.** Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area.

⁵ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolutions 2023-27 and 2023-28

⁶ For acquisition projects, RCO staff suggests focusing on how community input influenced site selection.

8. **Sustainability.** Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant's sustainability plan or how ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan.
9. **Facility Management.** Does the applicant have the ability to operate and maintain the facility?
10. **Availability.** When the project is complete, how often will it be available for competitive youth sports in a calendar year?
11. **Readiness to Proceed.** What is the timeline for completing the project? Will the sponsor be able to complete the project within three years?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

12. **Green Space Availability.** Green space availability scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than eight acres per one thousand residents), Medium (three to eight acres per one thousand residents), and Low (less than three acres per one thousand residents) green space per capita.
13. **Social Vulnerability.** Social vulnerability scores use a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, or population living in poverty. The scores are based on information from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#).
14. **Health Outcomes.** This score is from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#), which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking.
15. **Matching Shares.** Is the applicant providing the minimum required match?
16. **Proximity to People.** Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. Is the project in an area meeting this definition?⁷
17. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?⁸

⁷ Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.250

⁸ Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Does not apply to tribal governments.)

Youth Athletic Facilities: Large Grants Category Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-7.5	0-7.5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-0.5	0-0.5	-1-0.0	
1	24-1768 D	Memorial Field Infrastructure Replacement	17.82	12.82	8.91	4.45	6.82	6.41	4.55	4.09	4.45	4.00	4.64	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	83.45
2	24-1797 D	Borst Park Ball Field Lights	16.73	12.14	8.91	4.45	6.68	5.32	4.18	4.00	4.64	4.27	4.36	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	83.43
3	24-1921 D	Winthrop Rink, On Thin Ice	18.00	13.09	9.27	4.55	6.27	6.27	4.82	4.18	4.73	4.45	4.45	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	83.09
4	24-1952 D	Hutchinson Playfield and Court Renovation	16.55	12.27	8.73	4.18	6.55	6.55	4.27	4.00	4.91	4.45	4.64	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	82.84
5	24-1440 D	Sprinker Multipurpose Sport Fields 2A	15.60	11.55	8.80	4.10	6.30	6.30	4.40	4.30	4.50	4.70	3.80	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	82.35
6	24-1923 D	Peck Community Sports Park Lighting	16.36	11.86	8.18	4.27	6.27	6.14	3.82	4.18	4.55	4.00	4.09	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	82.23

⁹Project type: D=development

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
7	24-1483 D	White Salmon Valley Pool	18.18	12.95	8.73	4.27	6.55	6.55	4.55	4.00	4.73	4.00	4.18	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	82.18
8	24-1893 D	HUB Synthetic Fields North	16.80	12.00	8.60	4.30	6.60	6.30	4.60	4.30	4.80	4.40	4.30	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	82
9	24-1726 D	Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1A	16.55	13.09	9.09	4.82	6.27	6.68	4.64	4.18	4.45	4.36	4.82	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	81.95
10	24-1748 D	Evergreen Playfield Number Four Lighting Improvement	16.73	11.59	7.82	4.55	6.55	6.14	4.36	4.64	4.73	4.45	4.09	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	81.14
11	24-1603 D	Poulsbo Regional Multiuse Athletic Fields	16.73	12.14	8.91	4.36	6.55	6.41	4.55	4.09	4.18	4.45	4.55	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	80.91
12	24-1375 D	Lion's Park Skate Dot Construction	13.40	11.40	8.00	4.10	6.45	6.30	4.10	4.10	4.40	4.60	4.40	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	80.75
13	24-1604 D	Monroe Sports Field Lighting, Restroom, and Scoreboard	15.82	11.32	8.55	4.55	6.68	5.73	3.36	4.27	4.36	4.27	4.55	3.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.45
14	24-1815 D	Garrison Creek Park Sports Court Renovation	16.00	11.32	8.55	3.55	6.14	5.86	3.45	3.73	3.91	4.18	4.27	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	79.95

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
15	24-1866 D	Olympic Stadium Field Lighting and Restrooms	17.27	11.59	8.91	4.00	5.73	5.59	4.18	3.64	4.18	4.27	4.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	79.86
16	24-1917 D	Bill Heath Sports Complex Lighting Improvements	15.27	11.32	8.91	3.45	6.14	5.18	4.18	4.27	4.73	4.45	4.09	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	79.5
16	24-2016 D	Martin Field Synthetic Turf Playfield	16.91	11.59	8.00	3.36	5.32	5.73	3.91	3.73	4.36	4.73	4.36	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	79.5
18	24-1953 D	Cloney Park Skatepark and Pumptrack Revitalization	14.91	11.32	8.55	4.36	5.73	6.00	3.82	3.82	4.09	4.27	3.82	3.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	79.18
19	24-2001 D	Ephrata Sports Complex Addition	15.82	11.45	8.36	4.55	6.27	5.59	3.73	4.18	3.91	4.36	4.09	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	79.07
20	24-1562 D	Oak Harbor Boys and Girls Club Sports Court	17.64	12.41	8.55	4.00	5.59	5.18	4.36	3.73	4.09	4.27	4.27	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	78.84
20	24-2028 D	Sunnyside Pump Track	16.36	11.73	9.09	4.00	5.45	4.91	4.36	4.00	4.45	4.27	4.45	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	78.84
22	24-1966 D	Lawrence Scott Park Ball Field Lights	15.80	12.15	8.00	3.50	5.25	5.40	3.50	4.00	4.40	4.40	4.70	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	78.6
23	24-1593 D	Walt Hundley Playfield Replacement and Upgrades	15.09	12.14	8.73	3.82	4.64	4.91	2.73	4.00	4.64	4.55	3.73	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	78.45

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
23	24-1785 D	Meadowdale Playfields Dugouts and Lighting	15.82	11.73	8.73	4.36	6.55	6.55	3.91	4.18	4.73	4.27	4.64	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	78.45
25	24-2006 D	Chewelah Youth Sports Complex	18.36	11.86	8.91	4.09	6.68	5.32	4.45	3.82	3.64	4.00	4.09	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.23
26	24-1697 D	Forest Park Pickleball Courts	15.40	11.10	8.00	4.00	6.15	5.70	3.60	3.80	4.50	3.70	4.10	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.55
27	24-1421 D	Mount View Park Tennis Court Construction	16.18	11.32	8.00	4.27	5.05	5.45	3.09	3.82	4.45	3.73	4.64	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.5
27	24-2018 D	Bender Fields Complex Lighting	17.27	12.27	8.36	4.00	3.95	4.77	3.64	3.82	4.36	4.09	4.45	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.5
29	24-1996 D	Dacca Park Athletic Track Resurfacing	16.36	11.73	8.36	4.18	4.64	3.95	3.45	3.73	4.45	4.27	3.82	2.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.45
30	24-1693 D	Shoreline Park Playfields A and B Light Replacement	13.82	10.77	7.82	4.27	6.41	5.18	3.91	3.91	4.82	4.45	4.18	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.05
31	24-1539 D	Celebration Park Soccer Field Eight Turf Conversion	14.00	10.50	7.45	3.91	5.32	5.32	3.45	4.00	4.45	4.64	4.55	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	75.34

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
32	24-1682 D	Little Baseball Association Park Baseball Fields Renovation Phase Two	16.00	11.59	8.55	3.91	5.73	5.18	3.82	4.09	4.73	4.27	4.36	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	74.73
33	24-1956 A	Cedar River Park Stoneway Parcel Acquisition	15.40	11.10	7.80	4.00	5.25	4.65	4.00	3.90	4.10	3.50	4.50	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	74.2
34	24-1757 D	Martha Lake Airport Park Pickleball	13.45	10.91	8.00	3.64	5.73	5.45	4.18	3.36	4.82	3.64	3.82	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	72.5
35	24-2005 D	Athletic Club Pickleball Courts	14.00	10.77	8.00	3.82	6.27	5.32	3.73	4.00	4.36	4.27	4.09	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	72.14
36	24-1880 D	Lauzier Park Soccer Field Development	14.73	10.91	7.64	3.64	6.00	5.59	2.00	3.64	4.09	4.27	4.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	72
37	24-1667 D	Pickleball Court Development	13.64	10.36	8.55	4.00	5.18	5.32	3.27	3.82	4.09	4.18	4.45	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	71.36
38	24-1806 D	Sehmel Ball Field Turf Replacement	14.55	10.64	7.27	3.45	5.45	6.14	3.27	3.64	4.82	4.27	4.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	71
39	24-1515 D	Smith Cove Playfield Natural Turf Renovation	14.18	10.77	7.45	3.45	5.73	5.45	3.73	4.00	4.82	4.00	4.36	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	70.95

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁹	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
40	24-1957 D	Heritage Park Multiuse Fields and Parking Lot	14.55	9.41	7.45	3.45	5.45	5.86	3.45	3.73	4.09	4.09	4.18	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	70.23
41	24-1844 D	Maiben Park Basketball Courts	14.00	11.18	8.00	3.55	4.50	4.36	3.09	3.36	3.55	4.55	4.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	69.64
42	24-1651 D	Battle Point Park Turf Replacement	14.91	10.09	7.45	3.91	5.18	4.91	3.18	3.55	4.55	3.36	4.27	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	66.86
43	24-1705 D	Pioneer Park Pickleball and Basketball Courts	11.64	10.36	7.27	3.64	3.95	4.64	0.91	2.82	4.00	3.82	3.73	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	64.27
44	24-1964 D	Kiwanis Park Phase Two Renovation	13.64	9.55	4.91	2.91	3.95	3.27	2.82	2.55	3.18	3.27	3.09	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	60.64

Youth Athletic Facilities: Small Grants Category Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹⁰	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
Point Range			0-20	0-15	0-10	0-5	0-7.5	0-7.5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-0.5	0-0.5	-1-0.0	
1	24-1427 D	Kiwanis Park Basketball Courts	16.83	12.50	9.00	4.33	6.12	6.12	4.08	3.67	4.58	4.25	4.25	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	84.25
2	24-1977 D	Eighth Street Park Renovation Pump Track Phase	17.50	11.88	8.67	3.42	5.62	6.25	4.33	3.67	4.25	4.25	4.50	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	81.33
3	24-1496 D	Tenino City Park Basketball and Pickleball Court	16.83	11.75	8.33	4.25	5.62	5.62	2.83	4.00	4.25	4.00	4.67	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	78.92
4	24-1845 D	Jason Boerner Memorial Park Basketball Court	15.83	11.25	8.00	3.67	6.12	5.88	3.25	3.42	3.25	4.08	3.83	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.25	0.50	0.00	78.33
5	24-1640 D	Miller Park Community Courts	16.00	11.00	8.50	3.83	6.88	6.00	4.58	3.92	4.08	4.58	4.08	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	76.96

¹⁰Project type: D=development

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹⁰	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	3. Project Design - Fit	4. Project Design - Budget	5. Project Engagement - Methods	6. Project Engagement - Community	7. Project Engagement - Partnerships	8. Sustainability	9. Facility Management	10. Availability	11. Readiness to Proceed	12. Green Space Availability	13. Social Vulnerability	14. Health Outcomes	15. Matching Shares	16. Proximity to People	17. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
6	24-2010 D	Palouse Pool Improvements	17.83	11.88	8.50	4.75	5.38	5.00	3.42	3.00	4.25	3.50	4.42	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.92
7	24-2029 D	Pomeroy Baseball Field Lighting	17.00	11.12	8.17	3.83	4.25	5.38	3.92	3.33	4.25	4.42	4.25	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	73.42
8	24-1930 D	Charter Park Pump Track	13.67	10.62	8.50	4.08	5.62	5.50	3.33	3.42	4.42	4.08	4.25	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	71

Large Grants Category Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2025-2027

Jefferson County

Grant Request: \$345,560

Replacing Memorial Field Infrastructure

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation will use this grant to replace the scoreboard, football goal posts, and fencing in Memorial Athletic Field, which is in the heart of downtown Port Townsend. Memorial Field is the only public athletic field in Port Townsend, and the only stadium and lighted field in Jefferson County. The field serves recreational and competitive youth softball, soccer, and football. The field hosts youth club sports, youth interscholastic sports, youth free drop-in sports, youth sports camps, as well as adult sports including men's semiprofessional soccer. The fence was built in 1947, the goal posts are homemade and too short, and the scoreboard is more than thirty years old. A new fence is needed to prevent deer from living and defecating on the field, getting stuck in soccer goals, and damaging the playing surface. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1768)

Centralia

Grant Request: \$1,050,000

Adding Lights to Borst Park Ballfields

The City of Centralia will use this grant to install lighting on four fields in the Borst Park Sports Complex. The lighting will allow the fields to be used more and expand opportunities for the community to gather for evening games. The four fields are where local and regional teams play softball and fast pitch, little baseball, and adult slow pitch. One field also accommodates multi-sport activities, such as soccer. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1797)

Winthrop

Grant Request: \$1,209,950

Improving the Winthrop Rink Infrastructure

The Town of Winthrop will use this grant to replace the aging ice refrigeration plant and upgrade the player safety infrastructure at the Winthrop Rink in Okanogan County. The rink is the only ice-skating facility in a hundred miles. It serves both a local user group in the Methow Valley and a countywide user group that travels from as far away as Oroville, Omak, and Brewster to ice-skate and play hockey. The Town will upgrade the aging and outmoded ice refrigeration plant, remodel its indoor mechanical rooms, and upgrade player and audience safety infrastructure, which includes player box walls and safety barriers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1921)

Seattle
Renovating Hutchinson Park Playfield

Grant Request: \$968,215

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the 2.7-acre playfield in Hutchinson Park, which is in the Rainier Beach neighborhood in southeast Seattle. The City will repair the soil conditions and drainage of one of the two softball fields and convert it into two soccer fields. For the other softball field, the City will repair soil and drainage conditions so it is playable throughout the year and improve it to allow use by people with disabilities. The playfields have very poor soil and drainage, rendering them unplayable for most of the spring softball and baseball season. The City also will resurface a basketball court into an area for basketball and futsal, resurface a tennis court, and build a pickleball and a basketball half-court. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1952)

Pierce County
Building Ball Fields in the Sprinker Recreation Center

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to build two youth ball fields in the Sprinker Recreation Center's sports complex. The County will two fields will be synthetic turf fields with a multipurpose field overlay across the outfields. The County also will prepare the site, install drainage and lighting, and add dugouts, field netting, and scoreboards on each field. The improvements will broaden use of the complex year-round for multiple sports. The current grass fields have poor drainage and cannot handle the year-round demand that turf fields can. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1440)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Adding Lighting in the Peck Community Sports Park

Grant Request: \$600,000

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to install energy efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights on the new multiuse field in the Peck Community Sports Park. Tacoma Public Schools is developing an all-season turf field to serve the surrounding community and provide a home field for the Stadium High School baseball team. The addition of field lighting will extend playable hours at the field, increase community access, and improve safety. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1923)

White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District
Building the White Salmon Valley Pool

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to build a lap pool and mechanical room. The project includes a pool, a 3,600-square-foot bathhouse with restrooms, changing rooms, a mechanical room, and sales counters. The pool will have eight, twenty-five-yard lanes and a diving board. The pool will provide a safe place

for water and safety education, competitive athletics, local and affordable recreation, and a sense of community and accessibility for all. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1483)

Spokane Valley HUB

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Helping Build a Synthetic Turf Field at Liberty Lake

The Spokane Valley HUB will use this grant to design, prepare the site, and buy synthetic turf for a multiuse field in the Liberty Lake community. Spokane County lacks accessible synthetic turf fields, with only two available for public use despite a population of more than 500,000. The new field will provide year-round opportunities for field sports such as soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby, ultimate Frisbee, and t-ball. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1893)

YMCA

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Beginning Construction of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex

The YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties will use this grant to build two synthetic turf, multiuse fields in the Gig Harbor Sports Complex off Harbor Hill Drive. The YMCA also will improve a community access trail and install irrigated landscaping, field lighting, fencing, a driveway, a storage shed, 102 parking stalls, and aluminum benches. The fields will support soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other sports. The fields will double the community's lit turf sports field options and address long waitlists for field reservations. This is the first phase of a larger, three-phase project to develop a six-field sports complex. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1726)

Mountlake Terrace

Grant Request: \$326,500

Improving Lighting at Evergreen Playfield 4

The City of Mountlake Terrace will use this grant to add lighting to Evergreen Playfield 4 in the Evergreen Playfield Complex. The City will install five metal poles with energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights in addition to two pole-top lights on adjacent field poles. Lighting the field will allow for diamond sports and will finish lighting the full length of the playfield. The field is used mostly for youth baseball, softball, and soccer. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1748)

Poulsbo

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Building the Poulsbo Regional Multiuse Athletic Fields

The City of Poulsbo will use this grant to develop the six-acre, regional, multiuse athletic fields. The City will prepare the site by grading the land and building retaining walls, parking lots, sidewalks, and pathways. The City will build two multiuse, artificial turf

sports fields with lighting and fencing, and install team shelters, bleachers, storage shelters, signs, fencing, and backstops. This project fulfills a two-decade plan to develop this land with sports fields. The site is within walking distance of two colleges and will accommodate sports tournaments. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1603)

Everett

Grant Request: \$204,868

Building a Skate Dot in Lion's Park

Everett Parks and Community Services will use this grant to build a first-of-its-kind skate dot in Lion's Park. At about 2,300 square feet, the skate dot will include a half pipe, quarter pipe, grinding curb, and a meandering skate sidewalk. Established in 1975, the park serves as an important gathering place for residents of the Pinehurst-Beverly Park Neighborhood in Everett. In this area, the lack and cost of available land make it nearly impossible to build larger skate parks. The skate dot strategy will distribute skating opportunities in existing parks and green spaces. The Lion's Park skate dot will include a mature evergreen under which youth can watch their fellow skaters. Lion's Park is integral to the Boys & Girls Club at the southern boundary of the park and supports the organization's many youth-based sports and outdoor recreation programming. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1375)

Port Angeles Marathon Association

Improving Monroe Sports Field

Grant Request: \$548,779

The Port Angeles Marathon Association will use this grant to improve the Monroe sports field. The association will add lights to one field, creating the only lighted turf sports field in fifty-five miles. The field is used for soccer, football, and other sports and the lights will allow evening and year-round play. The association also will install a digital scoreboard and a restroom. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1604)

Kent

Grant Request: \$1,000,000

Renovating the Garrison Creek Park

The City of Kent will use this grant to renovate Garrison Creek Park. The City will expand the parking lot, create a children's play area, build a bike pump track, add lighting, create a dedicated space for pickleball, and improve the sport court surfaces for tennis, futsal, and basketball. The work will ensure there is a safe and durable space for this historically underserved area of the community to access outdoor athletic facilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1815)

Hoquiam
Renovating the Field Lighting at Olympic Stadium**Grant Request: \$960,000**

The City of Hoquiam will use this grant to add field lighting and five restrooms at the historic Olympic Stadium. The 1938 structure is one of the only remaining wooden stadiums in the country. It is home to the school district football, baseball, and soccer teams as well as college and youth baseball and football organizations, youth athletic camps, and community events. The current halogen lights will be replaced with LED (light-emitting diode) lights that will provide high-quality illumination, enhance visibility, and reduce the risk of accidents and injuries on the field and in the stands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1866)

Sumner
Improving the Bill Heath Sports Complex**Grant Request: \$1,500,000**

The City of Sumner will use this grant to improve the baseball field in the Bill Heath Sports Complex. The City will replace the lights on wood poles with LED (light-emitting diode) lights on metal poles. The City also will replace the fencing with black vinyl chain link fencing with guards for safety, and update the restroom-maintenance building to improve access and functionality. The work will increase recreation opportunities by allowing year-round baseball, Little League baseball, soccer, and lacrosse practice and competition. Originally dedicated in 1998, this baseball field serves the surrounding community, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Puyallup, Edgewood, Orting, and unincorporated Pierce County. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1917)

Walla Walla
Creating a Synthetic Turf Playfield at Martin Field**Grant Request: \$1,471,000**

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to install the first synthetic turf field at Martin Field in Memorial Park. The City will convert a lit natural grass field to artificial turf, allowing an additional eighteen hundred hours of use a year. There are no public, synthetic turf fields available for community use in Walla Walla County or neighboring Columbia County. Martin Field is used by the City's programs, community club sports, the school district, and Whitman College. The neighborhood around the park is one of the most vulnerable and underserved in the city. Play time on Martin Field will be expanded from four days a week to seven. The renovation will allow youth sports to be played outdoors year-round. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2016)

Longview
Revising Cloney Park Skatepark and Pump Track

Grant Requested: \$1,500,000

The Longview Parks Department will use grant to improve Cloney Park. The City will install a concrete skatepark, restore the historic Mount Saint Helens Snake Run, and replace a dirt track with a pump track that meets competition standards. A pump track is a series of looped paths for bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and scootering. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1953)

Ephrata
Building the Ephrata Sports Complex Addition

Grant Request: \$530,000

The City of Ephrata will use this grant to build six fenced pickleball courts, a full-sized basketball court, and a futsal court next to the Ephrata Skate Park. The courts will be used for programs, tournaments, leagues, and open play for the public and neighboring schools. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2001)

Boys & Girls Club
Oak Harbor Boys & Girls Club Sports Court

Grant Request: \$744,402

The Boys & Girls Club of Oak Harbor will use this grant to build an outdoor, covered sports court at the club's Ely Street site. The club doesn't have a gym or any formal outdoor recreational play space. The court would be a space for activities such as fitness challenges, playground games, basketball, soccer, pickleball, and volleyball. The court will allow for more hours of daily exercise and heart-healthy activities for youth. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1562)

Sunnyside
Building a Pump Track near Sunnyside

Grant Request: \$1,144,000

The City of Sunnyside will use this grant to build a bicycle pump track in Sunnyview Park. A pump track is a series of looped paths for bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and scootering. Pump tracks provide an accessible and exciting activity for all levels of riders from beginners learning to balance to those more experienced working on skills. With the loop design, adults can watch or ride and supervise kids with different skills and interests. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2028)

Kennewick
Improving the Lawrence Scott Park Ball Field

Grant Request: \$232,500

The City of Kennewick will use this grant to replace the light fixtures with LED (light-emitting diode) lights, install scoreboards, and improve the surface and drainage in the spectator area that is causing infield flooding in Lawrence Scott Park. The new lighting will require less energy, improve visibility for players, and extend playable hours further into the evening. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1966)

Seattle
Improving Walt Hundley Playfield

Grant Request: \$1,400,448

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to make comprehensive upgrades to Walt Hundley Playfield, in the High Point neighborhood of West Seattle. The City will replace the synthetic turf field, add backstop nets behind the goals and spectator seating for people with disabilities, improve pathways, and complete a walking loop trail around the field. The City also will renovate the restrooms to be accessible to people with disabilities and to ensure operation during colder months. The eleven-acre playfield functions as a recreational and competitive hub for youth athletics. The field hosts practices and games for organizations such as Highline Premier Football Club, West Seattle Soccer Club, and Seattle Youth Soccer Association. The centerpiece of the park, the lighted synthetic turf field, is past its expected life and its playability has deteriorated. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1593)

Lynnwood
Upgrading Dugouts and Lighting in Meadowdale Playfields

Grant Request: \$595,000

The City of Lynnwood Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Department will use this grant to upgrade five athletic fields at Meadowdale Playfields. The City will replace field lighting and add dugout covers to two turf fields used for soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse, baseball, and softball and to three softball fields. The current lighting is nearly forty years old and has reached the end of its useful life. None of the five fields have dugout covers. The lights will allow the fields to be used more. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1785)

Chewelah
Creating the Chewelah Youth Sports Complex

Grant Request: \$800,000

The City of Chewelah will use this grant to build three youth ball fields, creating the Chewelah Youth Sport Complex. Youth baseball and softball have no dedicated fields and must use school fields when available. The sport complex would be built on six acres off U.S. Route 395. Supporting amenities will include parking, an access road, a

central restroom, and circulation paths. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2006)

Everett

Grant Request: \$841,993

Building Pickleball Courts in Forest Park

Everett Parks and Community Services will use this grant to build the city's first multicourt, dedicated, pickleball courts. The City will build twelve pickleball courts, eight of which will be constructed by converting two tennis courts into courts for basketball, street hockey, and pickleball. A third court will be built with four dedicated pickleball courts sized and designed for regulation play and available for sanctioned competitive play in partnership with the Mukilteo-Everett Pickleball Club. The City also will install energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights, fencing, benches, a drinking fountain with bottle filler, and landscaping, which will replace an underused area of horseshoe play at the periphery. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1697)

Ellensburg

Grant Request: \$454,200

Building Tennis Courts in Mountain View Park

The Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build eight tennis courts at Mountain View Park. The courts will provide free recreational opportunities for the local community, serve as a location for tennis lessons, and host the high school tennis team. There are only eight tennis courts in the city and the immediate area and those are on the campus of Central Washington University. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1421)

Lynden

Grant Request: \$375,000

Replacing Lighting in the Bender Fields Complex

The City of Lynden will use this grant to replace the lighting, electrical panel, and scoreboard on four baseball-softball fields in the Bender Fields Complex. The lights and scoreboard were installed in 1982 and are showing evidence of more than forty years of overuse and a dated power supply. Parts are no longer available to repair them and the light poles are starting to lean and move in the wind. The fields are the only lighted sites in town and are reserved well in advance of the dates needed by recreational leagues, clubs, churches, and other community organizations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2018)

Fife

Grant Request: \$392,343

Resurfacing the Track in Dacca Park

The City of Fife will use this grant to resurface the athletic track in the Dacca Park Sports Complex. The City will remove the latex track surface, clean and repair any underlying

damage, and lay a track surface. The restoration will ensure that the track meets safety standards and provides optimal performance for youth athletes and community members. Dacca Park is in the heart of Fife and its eight-lane track opened to the public in 2007. The track surfacing is bubbling, and pieces of the surface are now loose. The upgraded track will benefit various youth sports, including soccer, football, and track and field. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1996)

Shoreline
Replacing Shoreline Park Playfields A and B Lights

Grant Request: \$486,906

The City of Shoreline will use this grant to install lighting at Shoreline Park's two synthetic turf fields, playfields A and B. The new lighting will replace the halide lighting system that was installed before 1995. Updating the lights with a more energy efficient system will reduce light pollution and energy consumption while providing more focused light for safer play conditions. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1693)

Federal Way
Converting a Celebration Park Soccer Field to Artificial Turf

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The City of Federal Way will use this grant to convert Celebration Park Field 8 from grass to artificial turf. The field is 107,000 square feet. By transitioning to artificial turf, the City expects to see an increase in athletic opportunities for the community, where more than 107 different languages are spoken and 67 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1539)

Olympia
Renovating Fields in LBA Park

Grant Request: \$1,325,000

The City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate three ball fields at Little Baseball Association (LBA) Park in southeast Olympia. The City will renovate Fields 1, 3, and 4, which are used mostly for youth baseball and softball. Field 2 was renovated in 2020. The City will install new backstops and dugouts, improve access for people with disabilities to the field and common areas, replace aging irrigation components, and recondition both infield and outfield surfaces with a soil mix and turfgrass suited for high-use athletic fields. The City also will install a turf underdrain system on Field 3 to address poor drainage. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1682)

Renton
Expanding Cedar River Park

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The City of Renton will use this grant to help buy about 12.5 acres to expand Cedar River Park, near downtown Renton. The land is along the Cedar River and primarily hosted industrial uses in the past and now is largely vacant. The park is one of the most heavily used community parks in Renton's system with upwards of 42,000 visits annually. It contains a community center, aquatic center, theater, an athletic field, and access to local and regional trails. The City would use the new land to expand recreational offerings, including multiuse sports fields, pathways, support amenities and facilities, and potentially water access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1956)

Snohomish County
Building Pickleball Courts in Martha Lake Airport Park

Grant Request: \$1,075,635

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism will use this grant to develop eight pickleball courts, complete with fencing, seating, and paved pathways, at Martha Lake Airport Park. The community park is in an unincorporated, rapidly densifying urban area that lacks sufficient active outdoor recreation amenities. The courts will allow for tournaments, lessons, and recreational play. This will be the first multi-court layout in the County's parks system, and begins to address the enthusiastic demand for this sport. The County also will enhance access to the pickleball courts by renovating the parking lot and building a crosswalk at the park entry. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1757)

Mount Rainier Futbol Club
Designing Pickleball Courts in the Bonney Lake Athletic Complex

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The Mount Rainier Futbol Club will use this grant to complete studies, design, engineering, groundwork, and some construction for a covered pickleball facility in the Bonney Lake Athletic Complex, in Buckley. The project is a public private partnership involving the City of Bonney Lake, Mount Rainier Athletic Club, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Muckleshoot Tribe. Serving as the anchor for a multi sport complex, the facility eventually will feature an educational trail connecting to the Foothills Trail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24 2005)

Quincy
Developing the Lauzier Park Soccer Fields

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

The City of Quincy will use this grant to build three lighted soccer fields in Lauzier Park. The City has nearly five hundred youth playing soccer and two to three leagues of adults who play most of the year. The City has no lighted soccer fields. The new fields will add capacity for more play, and lighting will allow the fields to be used into the evening.

Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1880)

Oak Harbor

Grant Request: \$780,000

Building Pickleball Courts in Oak Harbor

The City of Oak Harbor will use this grant to build eight pickleball courts at Fort Nugent Park. Whidbey Island has very few public pickleball courts and the tennis courts double as pickleball courts in Oak Harbor parks. The next closest pickleball courts are twenty miles away in Anacortes. New courts will allow pickleball enthusiasts and the City to organize matches and tournaments. The location in Fort Nugent Park is ideal because the park's concessions, restrooms, and playground are within walking distance from the court site. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1667)

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

Grant Request: \$817,173

Replacing Sehmel Ball Field Turf

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to replace the turf on three ball fields in Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. The park district will returf the infields, warning tracks, and pitching warm-up areas for one baseball field and two softball fields. The ball fields primarily are used for baseball and softball and provide a place for youth soccer and community events. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1806)

Seattle

Grant Request: \$634,081

Renovating the Smith Cove Playfield

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate a multiuse playfield in the south Magnolia neighborhood. The uneven grass field does not drain well and becomes a mud pit that is unplayable for much of the year. The City will transform Smith Cove into a youth athletics hub. Unlike the current field, the renovated field will drain better and require minimal upkeep. This means that activities such as youth soccer, youth lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, and baseball can be played year-round. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1515)

Stanwood

Grant Request: \$1,107,533

Renovating Multiuse Fields and Parking in Heritage Park

The City of Stanwood will use this grant to renovate two soccer-lacrosse fields, build a soccer-lacrosse field, and add parking at the Heritage Park Recreation Complex. The renovations will allow the City to provide more field space to meet the growing demand for soccer and lacrosse and provide higher quality fields for tournaments. The City will

add new topsoil and seeding to the existing fields. The City also will extend water service to allow irrigation of both the new and the improved fields, buy an irrigation reel, and install drainage at the new field. The City also will build a new parking lot and pave a path from the parking lot to the fields for safer access to the park. Heritage Park is the only site for youth fields in the area. This lack of fields makes games the priority and limits practices. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1957)

Burlington

Grant Request: \$1,032,290

Building Basketball Courts in Maiben Park

The City of Burlington will use this grant to develop three multi-sport courts by resurfacing and striping two basketball courts to include pickleball, and creating a new basketball and tennis court combination. In addition, the City will install a cover over the two renovated basketball courts, add a rain garden and a walking path connected to three renovated parking stalls, and provide amenities in Maiben Park. The park anchors one end of the city's emerging civic corridor that connects Railroad Park to the west with the city's library, a future community center, and the Senior Center. Beyond Maiben Park sit other public amenities including Lucille Umbarger Elementary to the south and the Jack & Helen Doyle Dog Park to the east. This civic corridor offers a unique opportunity to create cohesive urban connections and reinvigorate interest in the city's core. Five thousand people live within a half-mile of the park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1844)

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks District

Grant Request: \$650,000

Replacing Battle Point Park Turf

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks District will use this grant to replace the artificial turf on the multipurpose fields in Battle Point Park. The turf, installed in 2009, has met the end of its useful life. The new turf will allow year-round use, particularly by regional tournaments and clinics. District-run athletic camps host the most diverse populations and sporting interests on these fields. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1651)

Aberdeen

Grant Request: \$333,960

Building Pickleball Courts in Pioneer Park

The City of Aberdeen will use this grant to build two pickleball courts and resurface a basketball court in Pioneer Park. Aberdeen has only one outdoor pickleball court open to the public. With the growing popularity of the sport, the demand for courts has increased. In addition to building two pickleball courts, the City will resurface it's a pickleball court and basketball court. The City also will build sidewalks along Cushing and Lawrence Streets, which are next to Pioneer Park, and add parking between the road and new sidewalks. Finally, the City will replace the court area fencing, add fencing,

and install benches, garbage cans, signs, and covered areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1705)

**College Place
Continuing Renovation of Kiwanis Park**

Grant Request: \$1,089,228

The City of College Place will use this grant to make repairs and install lights in Kiwanis Park. The City will install energy-efficient LED (light-emitting diode) lights for the pickleball and basketball courts. The City also will replace the irrigation system and sod for multiuse fields in the north half of the park, and repair the gazebo roof. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1964)

Small Grants Category

Project Descriptions (In Rank Order) 2025-2027

Othello **Grant Request: \$346,500**
Renovating Basketball Courts in Kiwanis Park

The City of Othello will use this grant to renovate the basketball court area in Kiwanis Park. The forty-year-old courts are too small, cracked beyond repair, and have outlived their useful lives. The City will build two full-sized lighted courts and an all-inclusive Bankshot court, install benches, landscape, and add safety features and walkways. The renovated courts will serve as a venue for the Othello Youth Summer Basketball League and be available for use by schools, adult leagues, nonprofits, and families. Othello youth are 39 percent of the city population, with many being underserved and disadvantaged (75 percent of Othello students qualify for free and reduced lunch and 27 percent live in poverty). Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1427)

Raymond **Grant Request: \$317,250**
Replacing a Skatepark with New Pump Track

The City of Raymond will use this grant to remove a worn-out skatepark from a parking lot and build a pump track in 8th Street Park. The pump track will be built on the same side of the road as other park features, such as the softball field, tennis and basketball courts, and playground. A pump track is a series of paved looped paths for bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and scootering. The City also will install lighting around the park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1977)

Tenino **Grant Request: \$40,460**
Building Basketball and Pickleball Courts in Tenino City Park

The City of Tenino will use this grant to build a half-court basketball court and full pickleball court in Tenino City Park. These will be the only outdoor basketball half-court in Tenino and the only pickleball court in south Thurston County. The courts will serve the youth of Tenino and the Tenino School District, adults, and seniors. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1496)

Burlington**Grant Request: \$350,000****Building a Basketball Court in Jason Boerner Memorial Park**

The City of Burlington will use this grant to build a full-sized basketball court in Jason Boerner Memorial Park. The City will stripe the court to include both a full court playing experience and practice and pickup games. Located on the west side of Burlington in an area of apartments, the court will replace some of the lawn. The City also will create a path that leads to the court from new on-street parking on North Norris Street. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1845)

Buckley**Grant Request: \$271,119****Building Community Courts in Miller Park**

The City of Buckley will use this grant to build a multiuse tennis and grass volleyball court in the new Miller Park. The asphalt court will have the capability to be converted into one tennis court or four pickleball courts. When done, this project will have built the only tennis court in the city and the only outdoor volleyball court, giving residents a fresh avenue for recreation and competition. The City also will install fencing, landscape, and build a restroom and pathways. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1640)

Palouse**Grant Request: \$68,404****Improving the Palouse Pool**

The City of Palouse will use this grant to refurbish its pool. The City will replace the boiler, upgrade lighting, change the restroom to include a nongendered changing area, and replace the roof. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-2010)

Pomeroy**Grant Request: \$350,000****Lighting the Pomeroy Baseball Field**

The City of Pomeroy will use this grant to add lighting to the baseball field in the community ball field complex. The lights will allow for more games and practices further into the evenings and give more opportunities to community youth teams. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-2029)

Orting**Grant Request: \$204,750****Building a Pump Track in Charter Park**

The City of Orting will use this grant to build a pump track in Charter Park. A pump track is a series of paved looped paths for bicycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and

scootering. The track will accommodate people of all ages and athletic abilities and provide intergenerational recreation opportunities. The addition of a pump track creates new recreational competition possibilities not available in Orting or surrounding areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1930)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account:
Approval of Preliminary Ranked List for 2025-27

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Assistant Section Manager

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2024-28

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the preliminary ranked list of projects shown in Attachment A for submission to the Governor.

Background

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

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

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

Program Summary

Here is a summary of the ALEA program:

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

Revenue and Fund Distribution

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

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

- Funding aquatic lands restoration and enhancement projects,

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

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

During the last three biennium, the Legislature has opted to use all or a portion of state bond monies to fund ALEA projects.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fifteen ALEA projects, requesting more than \$7.8 million, were submitted for funding consideration. The ALEA Advisory Committee used Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted criteria to virtually review and rank projects on August 27-28, 2024. Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the RCO director, include state and local agency representatives and citizens who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, habitat restoration, engineering, and design.

The following members participated this year:

Community Members

- Hubie Dolan, Seattle
- Dylan Gamble, Snoqualmie
- Chen-Yen Goh, Camano Island
- Dave Hays, Olympia
- Bailey Tomlinson, Bellingham

Local Agency Members

- Carrie Hite, City of Port Townsend²
- Erin Lavery-Mullins, Island County Community Health Advisory Board
- Mike Perfetti, City of Tukwila

State Agency Members

- Heather Kapust, Department of Ecology
- Brittany Poirson, Department of Natural Resources
- Chris Waldbillig, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Jessica Logan, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Advisory committee members reviewed the proposals virtually using video conferencing and RCO's PRISM system for scoring the projects according to criteria adopted by the board. The presentations were livestreamed to support public transparency. The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are shown in the *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*.

² Participated in the evaluation sessions only.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 28 and during the post-evaluation meeting on September 4, staff met with the ALEA Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials, technical review and evaluation meetings, evaluation criteria, and scoring results.

ALEA advisory committee members appreciated the extra effort applicants put into preparing for the evaluation meeting and incorporating suggestions from technical review. Advisors felt that the new *Introduction* was helpful, and most applicants did a good job providing some context and frame of reference for their projects.

Evaluation Criteria

The committee talked about responses to the *Development Design-Budget* criterion and due to the wide variety of costs, think applicants should focus on budget development process, not just the list of itemized costs. This would help advisory committee members have some confidence in the budget and the opportunity for projects to be more successful. They also noted that many applicants covered the new *Project Engagement* criteria a little too quickly. And finally, their ability to assess accessibility is limited when scoring the *Development Design-Fit* criterion if the project is proposing something beyond the legally required minimum.

The committee noted that the number of project presentations scheduled in a single day can be challenging. Overall, the committee was pleased with the quality of the projects, the evaluation process, and the preliminary ranked list.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

recreation opportunities. Projects considered for funding in the ALEA program support board-adopted priorities in the *2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve *the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects* via Resolution 2024-28.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward the ranked list to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2025-27 biennium. The Governor submits the ALEA projects list to the Legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The board will approve the final ranked list and make funding decisions at its June 2025 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-28, including the *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Preliminary Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects
- C. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Scores
- E. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-28
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2025-27**

WHEREAS fifteen Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Program projects are being considered for funding; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS the projects enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to such lands and associated waters, thereby supporting policies in the 2023 Recreation and Conservation Plan and the board’s strategy to provide partners with funding for both conservation and recreation opportunities statewide;

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

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

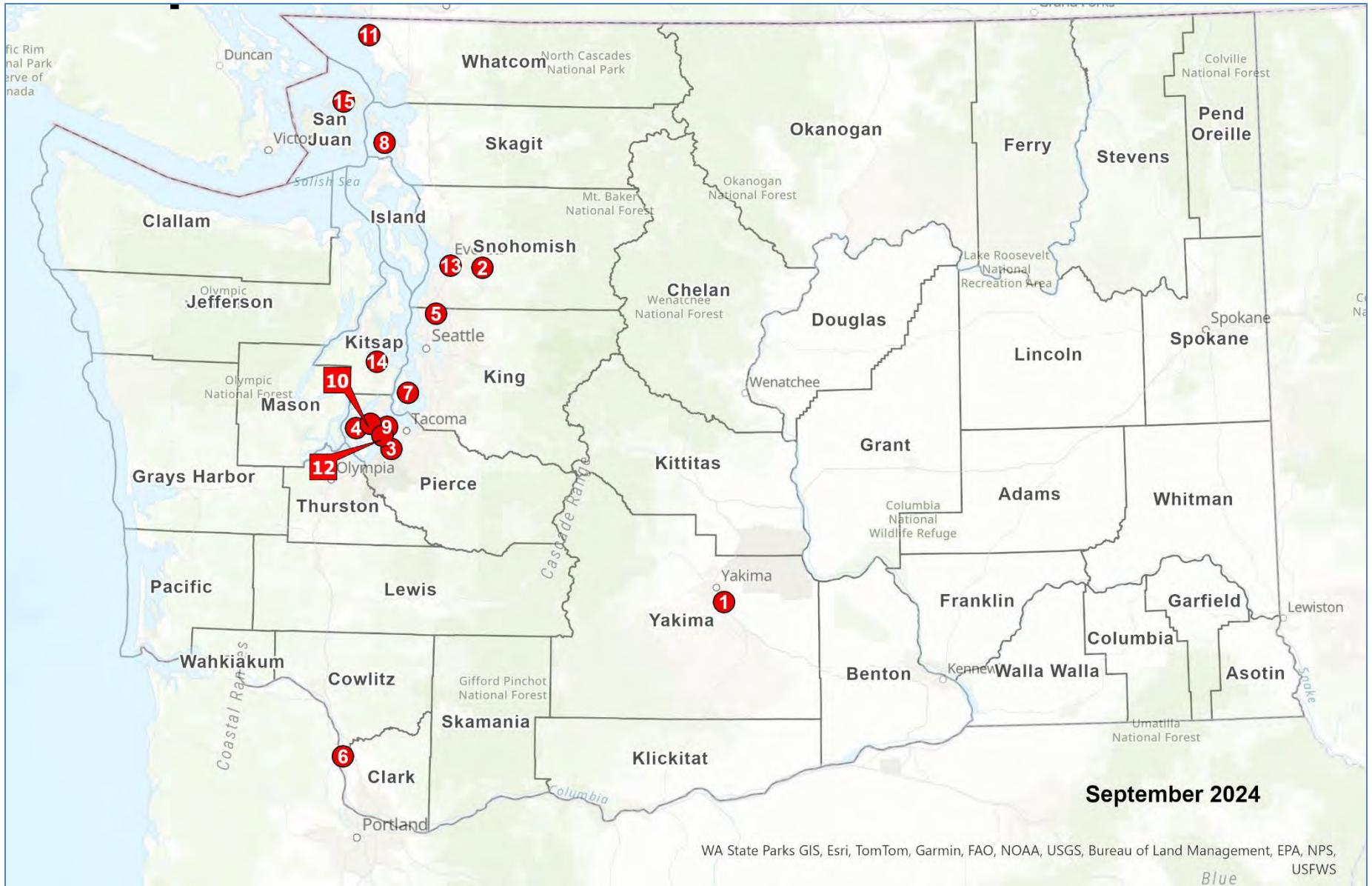
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
Preliminary Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-28

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	88.79	24-1951 A	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Frog's Home Acquisition	\$706,803	\$706,804	\$1,413,607
2	85.21	24-1341 D	Snohomish County	Flowing Lake Dock and Waterfront Access	\$500,000	\$796,332	\$1,296,332
3	84.71	24-1944 D	Lakewood	Edgewater Park Waterfront Improvements	\$500,000	\$3,970,153	\$4,470,153
4	84.32	24-1625 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lakebay Marina Shoreline Restoration	\$205,001	\$205,001	\$410,002
5	77.58	24-1934 D	Lake Forest Park	Lakefront Park Development	\$500,000	\$7,807,094	\$8,307,094
6	77.08	24-1876 D	Port of Woodland	Austin Point Water Recreation Park	\$500,000	\$1,595,699	\$2,095,699
7	76.88	24-1521 D	Vashon Park District	Tramp Harbor Dock Replacement	\$500,000	\$2,740,433	\$3,240,433
8	76.75	24-1927 C	Anacortes	Heart Lake Shoreline Restoration	\$472,000	\$472,000	\$944,000
9	74.88	24-1766 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Narrows Park Accessibility Improvements	\$500,000	\$646,304	\$1,146,304
10	74.21	24-1724 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	DeMolay Sandspit Accessibility and Park Upgrades	\$500,000	\$3,050,480	\$3,550,480
11	74.04	24-1979 D	Whatcom County	Birch Bay Beach Park Development	\$500,000	\$4,760,600	\$5,260,600
12	73.29	24-1894 D	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Fox Island Fishing Pier and Beach Access	\$460,560	\$460,579	\$921,139
13	73.06	24-1759 C	Everett	Lowell Riverfront Trail Development and Restoration	\$500,000	\$944,748	\$1,444,748
14	72.17	24-1780 D	Port Orchard	Port Orchard Waterfront Plaza Phase Two	\$500,000	\$2,303,551	\$2,803,551
15	71.1	24-1803 A	San Juan County Land Bank	Dolphin Bay Beach Acquisition	\$1,000,000	\$2,216,000	\$3,216,000
Total					\$7,844,364	\$32,675,778	\$40,520,142

³Project type: A=acquisition, C=combination of two or more acquisition, development, or restoration elements, D=development, R=restoration

State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects



Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

This program strives to fund projects focused on two main program purposes:

1. Protection and Enhancement: to improve or protect aquatic lands for public purposes.
2. Public Access: to provide and improve public access to aquatic lands.⁴

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

Evaluation Criteria Summary Tables

Projects Meeting BOTH Program Purposes Protection or Enhancement AND Public Access

Applicants whose projects meet both program purposes of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands and providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address all elements under each applicable criterion. The project types allowed for these projects are Acquisition; Acquisition, Development, and Restoration; Development and Restoration

Questions for Both Program Purposes	Project Type	Points
Unscored		
Project Introduction	All Project Types	0 points
Scored by Advisory Committee		
1 Fit with Public Access Goals	All Project Types	7.5 points
2 Fit with Protection Goals	All Project Types	7.5 points
3 Need for Public Access– Local Priorities	All Project Types	12.5 points
4 Need for Protection	All Project Types	12.5 points
5 Project Scope–Public Access	All Project Types	7.5 points
6 Suitability for Protection	All Project Types	7.5 points
7 Urgency and Viability	Acquisition Projects	15 points
	Acquisition, Development, and Restoration Projects	5 points

⁴Revised Code of Washington 79.105.150(1)

Questions for Both Program Purposes		Project Type	Points
8	Development Design-Fit	Development and Restoration Projects	5 points
		Acquisition, Development, and Restoration Projects	2.5 points
9	Development Design-Budget	Development and Restoration Projects	2.5 points
		Acquisition, Development, and Restoration Projects	2.5 points
10	Restoration Design and Viability	Development and Restoration Projects	7.5 points
		Acquisition, Development, Restoration Projects	5 points
11	Project Engagement-Methods	All Project Types	7.5 points
12	Project Engagement-Community	All Project Types	7.5 points
13	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Project Types	5 points
Scored by RCO			
14	Green Space Availability	All Project Types	3 points
15	Social Vulnerability	All Project Types	3 points
16	Health Outcomes	All Project Types	3 points
17	Proximity to People	All Project Types	1 point
18	Growth Management Act Preference	All Project Types	0 points
Total Points:			100

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Protection or Enhancement

Projects that meet the single program purpose of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands should address the relevant elements within each question. The project types allowed are Acquisition, Acquisition and Restoration, and Restoration. Here are the specific criteria an applicant will address.

Questions for Protection or Enhancement Only		Project Type	Points
Unscored			
	Project Introduction	All Project Types	0 points
Scored by the Advisory Committee			
2	Fit with Protection Goals	All Project Types	15 points
4	Need for Protection	All Project Types	20 points
6	Suitability for Protection	All Project Types	15 points
7	Urgency and Viability	Acquisition Projects	20 points
		Acquisition and Restoration Projects	10 points
		Restoration Projects	20 points
10	Restoration Design and Viability	Acquisition and Restoration Projects	10 points
11	Project Engagement-Methods	All Project Types	7.5 points
12	Project Engagement-Community	All Project Types	7.5 points
13	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Project Types	5 points
Scored by RCO			
14	Green Space Availability	All Project Types	3 points
15	Social Vulnerability	All Project Types	3 points
16	Health Outcomes	All Project Types	3 points
17	Proximity to People	All Project Types	1 point
18	Growth Management Act Preference	All Project Types	0 points
Total Points:			100

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Public Access

Projects meeting the single program purpose of providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address the relevant elements within each question. The project types allowed are Acquisition, Acquisition and Development, and Development. . Here are the specific criteria an applicant will address.

Questions for Public Access Only		Project Type	Points
Unscored			
	Project Introduction	All Project Types	0 points
Scored by the Advisory Committee			
1	Fit with Public Access Goals	All Project Types	15 points
3	Need for Public Access–Local Priorities	All Project Types	20 points
5	Project Scope–Public Access	All Project Types	15 points
7	Urgency and Viability	Acquisition Projects	20 points
		Acquisition and Development Projects	10 points
		Development Projects	15 points
8	Development Design-Fit	Acquisition and Development Projects	5 points
		Development Projects	5 points
9	Development Design-Budget	Acquisition and Development Projects	5 points
		Development Projects	5 points
11	Project Engagement-Methods	All Project Types	7.5 points
12	Project Engagement-Community	All Project Types	7.5 points
13	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Project Types	5 points
Scored by RCO			
14	Green Space Availability	All Project Types	3 points
15	Social Vulnerability	All Project Types	3 points
16	Health Outcomes	All Project Types	3 points
17	Proximity to People	All Project Types	1 point
18	Growth Management Act Preference	All Project Types	0 points
Total Points:			100

ALEA Scoring Criteria

Project Introduction. In less than a minute, introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Advisory Committee Scored

1. **Fit with Public Access Goals.** How well does this project improve or provide public access to aquatic lands? *(Public Access projects or Both)*
2. **Fit with ALEA Protection Goals** *(RCW 79.105.150)*
How well does this project fit the goals to enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands? *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
3. **Need for Public Access-Local Priorities**
Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need. *(Public Access projects or Both)*
4. **Need for Protection**
What is the need for this project and how will this project address the applicant's protection and enhancement priorities? *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
5. **Project Scope–Public Access.**
Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose. *(Public Access projects or Both)*
6. **Suitability for Protection**
Is the site well suited for the intended uses? *(Protection or Enhancement projects or Both)*
7. **Urgency and Viability.**
Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site? *(All acquisition or combination projects answer this question.)*
8. **Development Design-Fit**
Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities. *(Only projects including development answer this question.)*

9. Development Design-Budget

Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready? *(Only projects including development answer this question.)*

10. Restoration Design and Viability

How does the project address the stated restoration or enhancement need? Is the project well designed? Will the project lead to sustainable ecological functions and processes over time? *(Only projects including restoration answer this question.)*

11. Project Engagement-Methods.

RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on projects. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area. *(All projects)*

12. Project Engagement-Community.

How has community input influenced the project design? *(All projects)*

13. Project Engagement-Partnerships.

Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area. *(All projects)*

RCO Staff Scored *(All projects)***14. Green Space Availability**

Scores are determined using spatial data analysis from RCO's equity review of grant programs. For that review, census tracts were classified as having High (more than eight acres per one thousand residents), Medium (three to eight acres per one thousand residents), and Low (less than three acres per one thousand residents) green space per capita.

15. Social Vulnerability (applicant does not answer in evaluation session).

Social vulnerability scores use a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions such as limited English, crowded housing, and population living in poverty. The scores are based on information from the Washington Tracking Network's Information by Location mapping tool.

16. Health Outcomes (applicant does not answer in evaluation session).

This score is from the Washington Tracking Network's [Information by Location mapping tool](#), which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking.

17. Proximity to People

RCW 79A.25.250

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

18. Growth Management Act Preference

RCW 43.17.250

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Fit with Public Access Goals	2. Fit with Protection Goals	3. Need for Public Access - Local Priorities	4. Need for Protection	5. Project Scope - Public Access	6. Suitability for Protection	7. Urgency and Viability	8. Development Design-Fit	9. Development Design-Budget	10. Restoration Design and Viability	11. Project Engagement -	12. Project Engagement -	13. Project Engagement -	14. Green Space Availability	15. Social Vulnerability	16. Health Outcomes	17. Proximity to People	18. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
		Point Range	0-15	0-15	0-20	0-20	0-15	0-15	0-20	0-15	0-5	0-20	0-7	0-7	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-1.0	-1-0.0	
1	24-1951 A	Frog's Home Acquisition		14.25		19.33		14.75	19.00				5.25	5.88	4.33	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	88.79
2	24-1341 D	Flowing Lake Dock and Waterfront Access	14.00		17.33		14.00			13.50	4.50		7.00	6.62	4.25	1.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	85.21
3	24-1944 D	Edgewater Park Waterfront Improvements	12.50		17.33		12.50			13.50	3.83		6.62	6.25	4.17	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	84.71
4	24-1625 R	Lakebay Marina Shoreline Restoration		13.91		18.00		13.64				17.09	6.00	5.86	3.82	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	84.32
5	24-1934 D	Lakefront Park Development	13.00		16.00		12.50			11.75	3.17		6.75	6.50	3.92	2.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	77.58
6	24-1876 D	Austin Point Water Recreation Park	12.00		16.00		12.00			12.00	4.08		5.88	5.12	3.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	77.08
7	24-1521 D	Tramp Harbor Dock Replacement	12.25		16.50		12.75			12.25	4.25		6.00	5.62	4.25	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	76.88
8	24-1927 C	Heart Lake Shoreline Restoration	6.88	7.00	10.62	7.50	6.38	6.50		4.50	1.83	6.25	6.00	5.88	4.42	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	76.75

⁵Project types: A=acquisition, C=combination of two or more acquisition, development, or restoration elements, D=development, R=restoration
RCFB October 2024

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁵	Project Name	1. Fit with Public Access Goals	2. Fit with Protection Goals	3. Need for Public Access - Local Priorities	4. Need for Protection	5. Project Scope - Public Access	6. Suitability for Protection	7. Urgency and Viability	8. Development Design-Fit	9. Development Design-Budget	10. Restoration Design and Viability	11. Project Engagement -	12. Project Engagement -	13. Project Engagement -	14. Green Space Availability	15. Social Vulnerability	16. Health Outcomes	17. Proximity to People	18. Growth Management Act Preference	Total
9	24-1766 D	Narrows Park Accessibility Improvements	12.50		14.67		11.50			11.50	4.00		6.38	6.25	4.08	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	74.88
10	24-1724 D	DeMolay Sandspit Accessibility and Park Upgrades	12.25		15.50		11.75			11.25	3.92		6.25	6.38	3.92	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	74.21
11	24-1979 D	Birch Bay Beach Park Development	11.25		15.17		12.00			12.25	3.92		5.62	5.75	4.08	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	74.04
12	24-1894 D	Fox Island Fishing Pier and Beach Access	12.00		14.50		11.75			11.50	4.08		6.25	6.12	4.08	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	73.29
13	24-1759 C	Lowell Riverfront Trail Development and Restoration	6.00	5.00	9.48	7.50	5.62	5.75		4.50	2.25	6.00	5.88	5.50	3.58	1.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	73.06
14	24-1780 D	Port Orchard Waterfront Plaza Phase Two	10.50		14.17		9.50			11.50	4.25		5.50	5.25	3.50	1.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	72.17
15	24-1803 A	Dolphin Bay Beach Acquisition	5.75	6.88	9.17	8.65	5.88	7.00	13.50				4.50	4.88	3.92	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	-1.00	71.1

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Descriptions (In Rank Order)

Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation **Grant Request: \$706,803** **Conserving Land along the Yakima River**

Forterra and the Yakama Nation will use this grant to buy 176 acres of environmentally and culturally significant land, known as Frog's Home. The land is along the Yakima River and Union Gap Canal in Moxee, south of Yakima and next to the Yakama Reservation. The land contains side channels of the Yakima River, which are habitat for Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout. The purchase will allow the Nation to permanently eliminate livestock grazing, improve river and wetland buffers, and restore the former ranch to improve the amount and quality of water in the Yakima River for migrating fish. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of this project. (24-1951)

Snohomish County **Grant Request: \$500,000** **Improving Accessibility at Flowing Lake Park**

The Snohomish County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department will use this grant to replace an aged floating dock in Flowing Lake Park and make the waterfront area more accessible to people with disabilities. The waterfront and dock are old and present many access issues. The County will install a floating dock that includes an accessible kayak launch and fishing areas, an extended fishing pier, safety railings, and accessible benches. The County also will add a path through the day-use area. Other improvements include adding or replacing paved walkways to improve accessibility, adding educational signs and overlooks along the waterfront, and improving accessible parking. The new dock will have a grated surface to allow sunlight to reach the water below and the County will remove invasive plants and add native plants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1341)

Lakewood **Grant Request: \$500,000** **Developing Edgewater Park**

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to begin developing the 2.8-acre Edgewater Park on the northeast shore of Lake Steilacoom. The work will create new water access, improve safety, and restore shoreline habitat. The City will build a fishing pier, trails, a swimming area, parking, a launch for hand-carried boats, pocket beaches, and site furnishings. The City also will restore shoreline habitat by removing invasive plants, planting wetlands and buffers with native plants, and reducing erosion. Lake Steilacoom is the second largest lake in the city at just more than three hundred acres and supports

many species of fish and other wildlife. This park is the only public access to the lake. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1944)

**Washington Department of Natural Resources
Restoring Lakebay Marina Shoreline**

Grant Request: \$205,001

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the shoreline of Lakebay Marina to its natural condition and provide access to the water for swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, and other hand-powered boats. The department will remove a wood bulkhead, including twenty-eight creosote pilings, grade the shoreline, and replant it. The work will restore and improve natural processes of sediment movement and sandspit growth and create habitat that could benefit surf smelt, sand lance, Chinook salmon, bocaccio, and bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1625)

**Lake Forest Park
Developing Lakefront Park**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The City of Lake Forest Park will use this grant to develop a 3.3-acre park on the northwest shores of Lake Washington, near the city's Town Center. The City will build a dock for swimmers and kayakers, a grassy area, a plaza, a picnic shelter, a bathhouse, a playground, and community gathering spaces, all near the highly used Burke-Gilman Trail. The new park will provide access to a sandy beach. The City also will renovate the Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve area of the park to be a more natural forested buffer. This will enhance the salmon-bearing stream and shoreline buffer there. The City also will add viewing platforms and educational and interactive signs. The City lacks public access to the water and park space that is walkable to residents, and has a low ratio of park acres to population. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1934)

**Port of Woodland
Building the Austin Point Water Recreation Park**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Port of Woodland will use this grant to create a park with access to the Columbia and Lewis Rivers. The park will include paths, restrooms, lookouts with shade structures, parking, lighting, a fish-cleaning station, shoreline fishing, and increased access to a primitive boat launch. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1876)

**Vashon Park District
Replacing Tramp Harbor Pier**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Vashon Park District will use this grant to replace the Tramp Harbor fishing pier. Crews will replace the more than 340-foot-long, creosote wood pier with one that is 343 feet long and made with steel or fiberglass grating and concrete pilings. The dock, located at Dockton Road Southwest, is closed. The new dock will allow light to penetrate the water, which is good for wildlife there, including surf smelt, Pacific cod, geoducks, clams, crab, squid, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The Tramp Harbor pier is the only deepwater fishing pier on Vashon Island. The park will be used for fishing, wildlife watching, picnicking, and gathering shellfish. Crews also will improve the parking and add an interpretive sign. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1521)

**Anacortes
Restoring Heart Lake Shoreline**

Grant Request: \$472,000

The City of Anacortes will use this grant to restore shoreline habitat, move a parking lot, improve a boat launch, and reroute traffic at Heart Lake in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The City will replace a gravel parking lot with native shoreline habitat and regrade and pave the lower parking area, directing water into a bioswale to clean it before it enters the lake. The City also will improve and move the boat launch and separate pedestrians from vehicles to improve visitor safety. The work will improve access to the boat launch for people with low mobility. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1927)

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park
Improving Accessibility in Narrows Park**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to improve accessibility in Narrows Park so people using wheelchairs can see and reach Puget Sound. The beach access ramp is narrow, outdated, and steep with handrails that restrict movement, and the path to the picnic area is gravel. The park district will redesign and install a pathway to the gazebo viewpoint and improve access to the beach below. It also will add a wheelchair-accessible restroom and pathways to picnic areas. Narrows Park is on Lucille Parkway Northwest, at the end of a scenic drive down a wooded ravine in Gig Harbor. This project will provide access for people of all abilities to enjoy stunning views of the Narrows Bridge and enjoy the beach and its abundant sea life. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1766)

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Improving Access to the DeMolay Sandspit**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to remove buildings and structures from the DeMolay sandspit and refurbish the area to allow access by people with disabilities. Long treasured by residents, the spit has been difficult to reach by people with mobility issues. The park district will remove a 1950s blockhouse and septic system, a 1920s wellhouse, and an old access road and driveway used to get to the beach. The park district will add parking and a drop-off area, an accessible pathway to the beach, two restrooms, a picnic shelter, and signs. The park district also will replant disturbed areas and add other site amenities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1724)

**Whatcom County
Developing Birch Bay Beach Park**

Grant Request: \$500,000

The Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department will use this grant to design and develop a day-use park on Birch Bay in western Whatcom County. The land is in the central business district and shoreline area of the community and has 3.6 acres of uplands and 9.6 acres of tidelands with 400 feet of waterfront. The waterfront and tidelands are a major attraction in Birch Bay and the new park will allow visitors safe access to a picnic area, beach, and tidelands. The park will include parking, restrooms, activity areas, walking paths, lights, and planting improvements. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1979)

**Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
Improving Fox Island Fishing Pier Access**

Grant Request: \$460,560

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to improve the Fox Island fishing pier and access to the beach for hand-launching boats. Located on the eastern tip of Fox Island, the pier is used for recreational fishing, wildlife viewing, and shoreline access. The park district will replace the pathway to the pier with a path for people using wheelchairs, install a crushed rock path from the restroom to the pier, install a picnic shelter, repair fencing, and improve the trail to the beach for hand-launched watercraft. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1894)

**Everett
Developing and Restoring the Lowell Riverfront Trail**

Grant Request: \$500,000

Everett Parks and Community Services will use this grant to develop and restore the Lowell Riverfront Trail along the Snohomish River in the historic Lowell neighborhood.

Parts of the trail are eroding and becoming a health and safety concern. The City will build about seven hundred feet of trail and elevated boardwalk that will protect wetlands. The City also will replant the shoreline, remove asphalt and creosote timber piles from the site's former turn-of-the-century industrial use, and install interpretive signs about the river environment. The work will give the public access to the riverfront, a multiuse trail, and a destination with scenic viewing locations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1759)

Port Orchard

Grant Requested: \$500,000

Building the Port Orchard Marina Plaza

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to convert a waterfront parking lot into a waterfront plaza between the planned Community Event Center and existing marina. The City will rebuild the Bay Street pedestrian path along the waterfront and create a plaza that gives residents and boaters a place to sit and enjoy the waterfront. The finished plaza will include lighting, decorated pavers, improved signs, seating, a stage, and a shade canopy for events. The plaza also will accommodate a multimodal pathway running through the site along the water. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1780)

San Juan County Land Bank

Grant Request: \$1,000,000

Conserving Dolphin Bay Beach

The San Juan County Land Bank will use this grant to buy 23.8 acres of waterfront on Orcas Island. The land is undeveloped and includes forests, an intermittent stream, and thirteen hundred feet of shoreline on East Sound. The purchase will protect shoreline and upland forests from development and create a public preserve in an area without public access. Forests cover about seventeen acres and include maple, pine, fir, and cedar trees. The shoreline includes a pocket beach. East Sound is recognized as a high-priority area for possible use by Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, and is one of the county's five spawning grounds for Pacific herring. Public access to the shoreline is limited on this island because there are very few undeveloped waterfront areas left. This purchase will give the public a preserve to hike, view wildlife, and access saltwater in a remote and distinct area of the island. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1803)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: October 29, 2024

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund
Approval of Final Ranked List and Delegation Authority
for Awarding Grants for 2025-27

Prepared By: DeAnn Beck, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted twenty-five federal Land and Water Conservation Fund project proposals for consideration. This memo describes the program, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting and ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the final ranked list of projects and delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to award grants pending Congressional approval of funds and Legislative approval of spending authority in the state capital budget.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2024-29

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the final ranked list of projects as shown in Attachment A and delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to award grants.

Background

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program provides matching grants to states to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources for current and future generations. Rules governing the program are in the [LWCF Federal Financial Assistance Manual](#). Grants fund the purchase of land and development of recreation facilities, including campgrounds, playgrounds, trails, fishing access, swimming pools, ice-skating rinks, athletic fields, picnic sites, and various support amenities.

A prerequisite for a state’s participation in this program is the adoption of a state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) and development of an open project selection process. The National Park Service (NPS) approved Washington’s current [SCORP](#), *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (2023-2028)* on March 1, 2023. The SCORP sets priorities used to develop state program policies and the project evaluation criteria. Board policies and the evaluation criteria for LWCF are in [Manual 15: Land and Water Conservation Fund](#).

Program Summary

While there were no program policy changes for the LWCF Program this year, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted new evaluation criteria to address priorities in recently completed studies including the equity review and SCORP. A summary of general program policies is shown in the table below:

Land and Water Conservation Fund	
Eligible Applicants	State agencies, local agencies (cities/towns, counties, park, port, school, and special purpose districts), and federally recognized Native American tribes.
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development or renovation
Funding Limits	The minimum fund request is \$200,000 with a maximum request of \$2 million.
Match Requirements	A minimum 1:1 non-federal matching share is required for all applicants.
Public Access	Public access is required.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must establish planning eligibility. • Property acquired must be developed within three years. • Property acquired, developed, or renovated must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.

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

- Address any outstanding conversions or other non-compliance issues,
- Complete required environmental and public reviews of the project,
- Establish adequate control and tenure of property to be developed, and
- Have in hand required federal permits, including an approved Army Corp of Engineers permit, if needed. If the project does not need a federal permit,

applicants must provide documentation of that decision including which federal regulator made this determination.

Applicants must complete all items before the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) can submit the grant proposal to NPS for their consideration.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty-five LWCF projects, requesting over \$36 million, were evaluated by members of the LWCF Advisory Committee August 21-22. Participating advisory committee members, appointed by RCO's director, included the following representatives, who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about park and recreation resource management:

Community Members

- Kevin Killeen, Bellevue
- Ashlie Laydon, Bingen
- Esaac Mazengia, Shoreline
- Alex Stone, Seattle
- Dan Wilson, Spokane

Local Agency Members

- Jen Burbidge, Lacey Parks and Recreation Department
- Corey Delikat, City of Port Angeles
- Mo Hecht, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department
- Jason Lederer, Renton Parks and Recreation Department
- Al Vorderbrueggen, Spokane Parks and Recreation Department

State Agency Members

- Michael Hankinson, State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
- Theresa Keith, Department of Natural Resources, Olympia

Federal Agency Member (Ex-Officio)

- Ciara Anderson,¹ National Park Service, Denver, CO

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

¹Participated in the LWCF technical review meeting only.

The results of the evaluations are provided for board consideration in Attachment A, *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 22, and during the post-evaluation meeting on August 29, staff met with the LWCF Advisory Committee to debrief and discuss the application materials, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results.

Inclusive Playgrounds

The advisory committee discussed the evaluation criteria and commented that it was difficult to assess and define inclusive playgrounds. In some cases, applicants provided designs that included accessible surfacing and accessible play elements but did not appear to support fully inclusive playgrounds. It was suggested that RCO consider developing a framework or checklist to standardize inclusivity measurements. For example, require applicants to indicate the percentage of inclusivity and to show accessible parking, access routes, and related support amenities to assist evaluators with scoring projects claiming full accessibility.

Applications from Smaller Entities

The advisory committee noted that overall, projects sponsored by less populous communities did not rank very high this year. The staff-scored response for population was revised this year, which resulted in a population question that was worth fewer points than in the previous criteria. As part of this discussion, it was noted that smaller communities continue to have grant-writing challenges with fewer resources including professional staff to assist grant application preparation and delivery. RCO staff offered that the agency is working on technical assistance resources, which could help under-resourced communities prepare more competitive applications in the future.

Overall Assessment

Positives acknowledged by the advisory committee this year included projects that provided evidence of committed partners (with either financial or in-kind matching contributions) and projects that provided diverse and relevant opportunities for community engagement. Projects with proposed community want and need stood out. The committee also noted that even though data-driven information such as health statistics were staff-scored this year, it was still helpful for the evaluators when applicants used this information to support committee-scored criteria.

While the committee commented on a few surprises as to where projects ranked, overall members were comfortable with the resulting ranked list.

Program Funding

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

Current Funding

When the board approved the final ranked list for the last biennium, they delegated authority to the director to award grants using available funds through federal fiscal year 2023 and 2024, if needed. The director approved \$15.9 million in funding for thirteen projects that met the federal eligibility and readiness requirements.

The Secretary of the Department of the Interior sent a letter to Governor Inslee on July 23, 2024, with the LWCF Certificate of Apportionment for federal fiscal year 2024. Washington State's amount is shown below:

Source of Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Funds	Amount
LWCF Stateside Apportionment	\$3,299,613
GOMESA	\$2,316,382
Secretary of the Interior's Contingency Reserve Fund	\$1,280,604
Total	\$6,896,599

After approving use of \$4,080,303 in federal fiscal year 2024 funds for 2022 grant awards and pending administrative costs, the remaining funds were held over for the 2024 application cycle. This means there is \$2,816,296 currently available for the final ranked list shown in Attachment A.

Funding Strategy and Delegation Authority

RCO accepts applications once each biennium. With board approval, staff will use existing funds, funds for federal fiscal year 2025, and a portion of the 2026 apportionment for the projects shown in Attachment A.

While there are funds currently available, staff is not asking the board to award grants, but instead to delegate authority to the director to award grants. Before awarding these federal grants and issuing agreements to Washington state, NPS must review and document project readiness. This means completion of all pre-construction activities including receipt of federal permits and required environmental and cultural resources clearance.

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

Certification of Match Required

Applicants must provide a minimum one-to-one match for an LWCF grant. Applicants must certify that they have matching funds available before the funding meeting.² Applicants were advised of this requirement during the February 14 application webinar and via the materials posted on RCO's website. Also, staff notified applicants of this requirement on September 3 and grant managers emailed or called applicants who had not responded by the September 20, 2024, deadline. Most applicants certified match; however, staff do not have certifications for the following projects:

- Ranked 19 – Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground ([24-2020D](#)): Walla Walla did not certify match for this project because of its low ranking.
- Ranked 21 – Longview Park Development Phase One ([24-1970D](#)): Moses Lake did not certify match for this project because of its low ranking.
- Ranked 23 – Olmsted Park Playground and Sports Courts ([24-1327D](#)): Sedro Woolley did not certify match for this project because of its low ranking.
- Ranked 24– Sun Terrace Park Development Phase One ([24-1972D](#)): Moses Lake did not certify match for this project because of its low ranking.
- Ranked 25 – Luther Burbank Park Access Improvements ([24-2011D](#)): Mercer Island did not certify match for this project because of its low ranking.

These five applications are no longer eligible for funding consideration and are shown as “Not Eligible” on the final ranked lists in Attachment A.

Public Comment

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

Strategic Plan Link

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

² Washington Administrative Code 286-13-040(3)

making strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities. Also, projects considered for LWCF grants support board adopted priorities in SCORP.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the final ranked list of projects shown in *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects*. Also, staff recommends the board delegate authority to the RCO director to award grants, contingent on NPS review. In addition, with Congressional approval of funds for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026 and Legislative approval of additional spending authority in the state capital budget, the director will award grants to eligible alternates on the ranked list. Resolution 2024-29 is provided for board consideration.

Next Steps

If the board approves the final ranked list, the director will award grants to the ranked list of projects using money currently available and any additional funds that become available for the next two federal fiscal years. The Legislature will set the LWCF funding authority in the state capital budget pending Congressional approval of stateside funding for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The director will report on the funding decisions in the quarterly director's report.

Attachments

- A. Resolution 2024-29, including *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects*
- B. State Map of Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects
- C. Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Criteria Summary
- D. Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Scores
- E. Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Descriptions

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2024-29
Land and Water Conservation Fund
Final Ranked List of Projects for 2025-27 and Delegation Authority**

WHEREAS twenty Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS the projects acquire and develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, thereby supporting policies in the *2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan* and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide; and

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

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

WHEREAS the projects have met program eligibility requirements as stipulated in the *LWCF Federal Financial Assistance Manual*, Washington Administrative Code 286, and *Manual 15: Land and Water Conservation Fund*; and

WHEREAS the State of Washington currently has some available federal funds and may receive additional apportionments for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026; and

WHEREAS the Legislature enacted the 2023-25 state capital budget, which includes spending authority for federal LWCF for the current biennium and may approve additional spending authority for the 2025-27 biennium;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects depicted in Attachment A: *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Final Ranked List of Projects* below, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board delegates authority to the director to award existing available funds and funds for federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to the projects based on the ranked list, subject to federal approval and Congressional funding; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

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

Date: _____

Land and Water Conservation Fund Final Ranked List of Projects

Resolution 2024-29

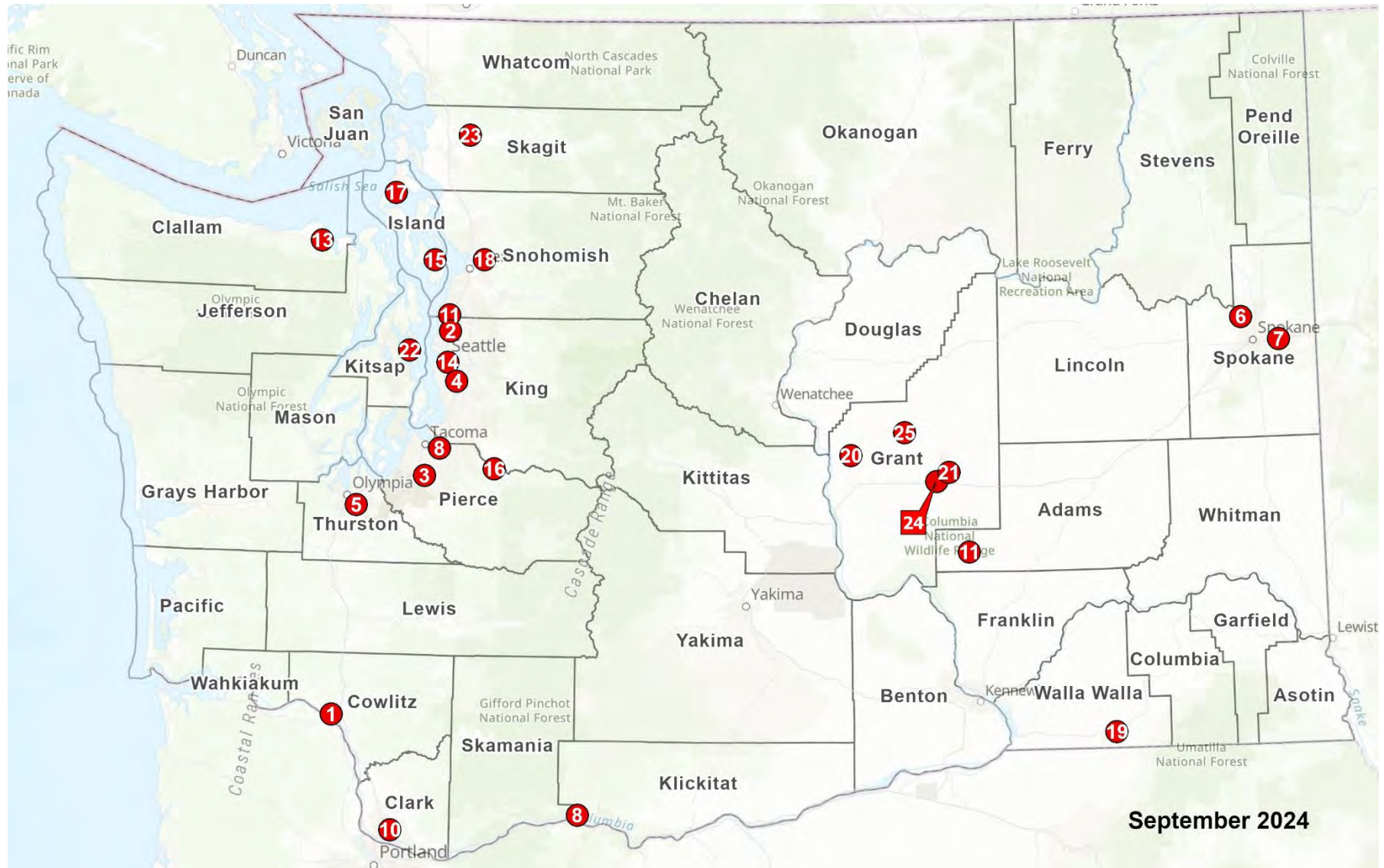
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	91.67	24-1793 D	Longview	Cloney Park Inclusive Playground	\$2,000,000	\$2,170,640	\$4,170,640
2	85.23	24-1589 D	Seattle	Lake City Natural Area New Park Development	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$2,200,000
3	85.17	24-1781 D	Pierce County	Sprinker Artificial Sports Fields 2B	\$2,000,000	\$6,625,000	\$8,625,000
4	85.00	24-1512 D	Seattle	Hutchinson Park Renovation	\$2,000,000	\$2,770,800	\$4,770,800
5	84.62	24-1405 D	Olympia	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase One	\$2,000,000	\$13,014,000	\$15,014,000
6	83.27	24-1898 D	Spokane	Meadowglen Neighborhood Park Development Phase One	\$2,000,000	\$3,788,000	\$5,788,000
7	83.17	24-1986 D	Spokane Valley	Balfour Playground and Spray Park	\$2,000,000	\$2,040,000	\$4,040,000
8	82.79	24-1476 D	White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District	White Salmon Valley Pool	\$2,000,000	\$5,220,462	\$7,220,462
8	82.79	24-1633 D	Fife	Colburn Park Phase Two Inclusive Playground	\$975,000	\$975,000	\$1,950,000
10	81.79	24-1787 D	Vancouver	Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park Phase Two	\$2,000,000	\$3,471,500	\$5,471,500
11	81.54	24-1747 D	Mountlake Terrace	Veterans Memorial Park Revitalization	\$1,317,780	\$1,317,780	\$2,635,560
11	81.54	24-1765 D	Othello	Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$1,250,000
13	81.25	24-1411 D	Sequim	Centennial Place Community Park Design and Build	\$1,512,419	\$1,512,419	\$3,024,838
14	80.45	24-1591 D	Seattle	Upper Doctor Jose Rizal Park Renovation	\$1,874,273	\$1,874,273	\$3,748,546
15	79.75	24-2007 D	South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District	South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center Pools	\$1,985,818	\$1,985,818	\$3,971,636
16	78.29	24-1702 D	Buckley	Miller Community Park	\$796,177	\$826,177	\$1,622,354
17	77.67	24-1546 D	Oak Harbor	Windjammer Park All Inclusive Play Environment	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$1,400,000
18	77.38	24-1814 D	Lake Stevens	Eagle Ridge Park Development	\$2,000,000	\$2,165,000	\$4,165,000
19	77.00	24-2020 D	Walla Walla	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000 ⁴

³Project type: D=development

⁴Applicant did not certify match. Project is not eligible for funding.

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ³	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
20	75.46	24-1879 D	Quincy	Lauzier Park Softball Field One Development	\$2,000,000	\$2,525,580	\$4,525,580
21	75.29	24-1970 D	Moses Lake	Longview Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000 ⁴
22	74.08	24-1401 D	Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$1,300,000
23	72.88	24-1327 D	Sedro Woolley	Olmsted Park Playground and Sports Courts	\$476,021	\$476,021	\$952,042 ⁴
24	72.08	24-1972 D	Moses Lake	Sun Terrace Park Development Phase One	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$1,100,000 ⁴
25	67.33	24-2011 D	Mercer Island	Luther Burbank Park Access Improvements	\$1,872,527	\$1,872,527	\$3,745,054 ⁴
Total					\$36,385,015	\$60,405,997	\$96,791,012

State Map for Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects



Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Criteria Summary

The [2023 Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan](#) and Recreation and Conservation Funding Board *Unified 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.⁵

Criteria Summary Table⁶

Criteria	Project Type	Maximum Points	Priority	
Unscored				
Project Introduction	All Project Types	0 points	Board Priority	
Scored by the Advisory Committee				
1	Need–Local Priorities	All Project Types	25 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
2	Project Scope	All Project Types	20 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
3	Immediacy of Threat and Viability	Acquisition	20 points	Board Priority
		Combination	5 points	
4	Project Design-Fit	Development Projects	10 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
		Combination Projects	5 points	
5	Project Design-Budget	Development Projects	5 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
		Combination Projects	5 points	
6	Project Engagement-Methods	All Project Types	7.5 points	Board Priority
7	Project Engagement-Community	All Project Types	7.5 points	Board Priority
8	Project Engagement-Partnerships	All Project Types	5 points	Board Priority
9	Sustainability	Development and Combination	5 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
10	Cost Efficiencies	All Project Types	5 points	Board Priority

⁵LWCF Federal Assistance Program Manual, Chapter 2(B)

⁶Evaluation instrument updated via Board Resolutions 2023-27 and 2023-28

Criteria	Project Type	Maximum Points	Priority
Scored by RCO			
11 Green Space Availability	All projects	3 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
12 Social Vulnerability	All projects	3 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
13 Health Outcomes	All projects	3 points	Recreation and Conservation Plan
14 Proximity to People	All projects	0.5 point	State Law
15 County Population Density	All projects	0.5 point	State Law
16 Applicant Compliance	All projects	0 points	National Park Service Priority
Total Points:		100	

Land and Water Conservation Fund, Detailed Scoring Criteria

Project Introduction. In less than one minute, introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Scored by the Advisory Committee

- 1. Need–Local Priorities.** Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.
- 2. Project Scope.** Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the project, including land acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.
- 3. Immediacy of Threat and Viability** (acquisition and combination projects only). Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site?
- 4. Project Design-Fit** (development projects only). Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities.
- 5. Project Design-Budget** (development projects only). Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready?
- 6. Project Engagement-Methods.** RCO encourages applicants to use a variety of methods to gather input on the project. How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of that participation for the population size, demographic, or socioeconomic conditions of the community or service area.
- 7. Project Engagement-Community.** How has community input influenced the project design?⁷
- 8. Project Engagement-Partnerships.** Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery,

⁷For acquisition projects, RCO staff suggests focusing on how community input influenced site selection.

or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance of the partnerships within the community or service area.

9. **Sustainability** (development and combination projects only). Sustainability reflects choices made to balance the desired benefits and potential impacts of a project on the surrounding landscape and community. Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant organizations's sustainability plan or how the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan were considered.
10. **Cost Efficiencies.** To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

11. **Green Space Availability.** Using spatial data, is the project located in a census tract that has existing low, medium or high green space availability?
12. **Social Vulnerability.** Using spatial data which uses a combination of sixteen social and economic conditions, projects are scored according to area and a corresponding social vulnerability rating.
13. **Health Outcomes.** Using spatial data which shows the Health Disparity Index scores and Poor Health Outcomes ranking, projects are scored according to area and a corresponding health outcome rating.
14. **Proximity to People.** Is the project in the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of five thousand or more?
15. **County Population Density.** Is the project in a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile?

Land and Water Conservation Fund Evaluation Scores

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁸	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Cost Efficiencies	11. Green Space Availability	12. Social Vulnerability	13. Health Outcomes	14. Proximity to People	15. County Population Density	16. Applicant Compliance	Total
Point Range			0-25	0-20	0-10	0-5	0-7.5	0-7.5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-3.0	0-3.0	0-3.0	0-0.5	0-0.5	-1-0.0	
1	24-1793 D	Cloney Park Inclusive Playground	22.92	18.17	9.83	4.25	7.00	7.25	4.58	4.42	4.75	3.00	2.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	91.667
2	24-1589 D	Lake City Natural Area New Park Development	21.82	17.45	8.73	4.36	6.95	6.95	4.27	4.73	4.45	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	-0.50	85.227
3	24-1781 D	Sprinker Artificial Sports Fields 2B	22.71	16.33	9.00	4.25	6.75	6.12	4.33	4.17	4.50	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	-0.50	85.167
4	24-1512 D	Hutchinson Park Renovation	22.27	17.27	8.91	4.55	7.09	6.95	3.91	4.45	4.09	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	-0.50	85
5	24-1405 D	Yelm Highway Community Park Phase One	23.54	17.67	9.50	4.25	6.12	7.12	4.67	4.33	4.42	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	84.625
6	24-1898 D	Meadowglen Neighborhood Park Development Phase One	22.05	17.27	9.82	4.18	6.95	6.68	3.09	4.27	3.45	2.00	1.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	-0.50	83.273

⁸Project type: D=development

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁸	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Cost Efficiencies	11. Green Space Availability	12. Social Vulnerability	13. Health Outcomes	14. Proximity to People	15. County Population Density	16. Applicant Compliance	Total
7	24-1986 D	Balfour Playground and Spray Park	21.25	17.00	9.00	3.75	6.50	6.25	3.83	4.17	3.42	3.00	1.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	83.167
8	24-1476 D	White Salmon Valley Pool	23.33	17.17	8.83	4.58	6.50	5.88	4.58	4.00	4.92	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.792
8	24-1633 D	Colburn Park Phase Two Inclusive Playground	20.62	16.17	9.17	4.50	6.50	6.50	3.50	4.25	3.58	2.00	3.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	82.792
10	24-1787 D	Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park Phase Two	21.46	17.00	8.83	4.08	6.62	6.38	4.08	4.33	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	81.792
11	24-1747 D	Veterans Memorial Park Revitalization	21.46	16.50	8.67	3.83	6.00	6.00	3.42	4.08	3.58	2.00	2.00	3.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	81.542
11	24-1765 D	Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation	21.46	16.83	8.33	4.08	5.62	5.38	3.25	4.08	4.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	81.542
13	24-1411 D	Centennial Place Community Park Design and Build	20.21	16.17	8.50	4.17	5.88	6.00	3.33	4.17	3.33	3.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	81.25
14	24-1591 D	Upper Doctor Jose Rizal Park Renovation	21.82	16.91	8.91	4.00	5.86	6.55	3.00	4.27	3.64	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	-0.50	80.455
15	24-2007 D	South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center Pools	22.08	14.83	9.00	4.33	6.88	7.12	4.17	3.67	4.17	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	79.75

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁸	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Cost Efficiencies	11. Green Space Availability	12. Social Vulnerability	13. Health Outcomes	14. Proximity to People	15. County Population Density	16. Applicant Compliance	Total
16	24-1702 D	Miller Community Park	21.67	16.00	8.00	4.42	5.62	6.25	4.33	3.75	4.25	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	78.292
17	24-1546 D	Windjammer Park All Inclusive Play Environment	20.00	15.67	8.17	4.17	6.25	6.00	4.17	3.92	4.33	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	77.667
18	24-1814 D	Eagle Ridge Park Development	20.00	16.00	8.33	4.17	5.88	7.00	4.08	4.00	3.92	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	77.375
19	24-2020 D	Pioneer Park Inclusive Playground	20.42	17.00	8.50	3.92	5.88	6.12	3.83	4.00	4.83	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	77
20	24-1879 D	Lauzier Park Softball Field One Development	19.38	15.67	8.17	4.50	6.50	5.25	3.00	4.08	3.42	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	75.458
21	24-1970 D	Longview Park Development Phase One	19.38	15.50	8.00	3.50	5.38	5.38	3.25	4.00	3.42	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	75.292
22	24-1401 D	Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark	19.17	15.67	8.67	4.25	6.50	5.75	4.25	3.83	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	74.083
23	24-1327 D	Olmsted Park Playground and Sports Courts	20.62	14.50	8.17	4.17	4.00	4.25	3.33	3.75	3.58	1.00	3.00	2.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	72.875
24	24-1972 D	Sun Terrace Park Development Phase One	19.79	15.67	8.00	3.58	5.38	4.75	3.50	3.75	3.17	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	72.083

Rank	Project Number and Type ⁸	Project Name	1. Need - Local Priorities	2. Project Scope	4. Project Design - Fit	5. Project Design - Budget	6. Project Engagement - Methods	7. Project Engagement - Community	8. Project Engagement - Partnerships	9. Sustainability	10. Cost Efficiencies	11. Green Space Availability	12. Social Vulnerability	13. Health Outcomes	14. Proximity to People	15. County Population Density	16. Applicant Compliance	Total
25	24-2011 D	Luther Burbank Park Access Improvements	18.54	14.00	7.50	3.92	4.75	4.38	3.25	4.00	3.50	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	-0.50	67.333

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

Longview

Grant Request: \$2,000,000

Building an Inclusive Playground in Cloney Park

The City of Longview will use this grant to build a fully inclusive playground at Cloney Park. The playground will have smooth surfacing, wide pathways, and diverse sensory experiences. The play equipment includes specifically designed inclusive pieces for swinging, sliding, and spinning. All play elements will offer wheeled access in, on, around, below, or through. The City also will build parking and restrooms and landscape the area. The park will have a nature-based design that draws from local heritage, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the lumber industry. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1793)

Seattle

Grant Request: \$1,100,000

Developing a New Park in Lake City

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop a loop pathway around a floodplain and Thornton Creek in a new park. Lake City is a racially diverse, underserved neighborhood in Seattle that has experienced inequitable and limited investment in parks, open space, trails, and recreation. The city will build a combination of gravel and concrete pathways, boardwalks, and bridges. As visitors meander through the park, there will be various viewpoints and seating areas for picnicking and socializing. In 2018, land along Thornton Creek, Seattle's largest watershed, was listed for sale. The community recognized it as an opportunity to create more green space in Lake City and to restore and protect the creek. When the site was purchased, there were two houses and hardscapes that have been removed and the area is ready for park development. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1589)

Pierce County

Grant Request: \$2,000,000

Developing Fields at Sprinker Recreation Center

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to develop two synthetic turf ball fields for youth competition with one multipurpose field overlay across the outfields at the Sprinker Recreation Center. The County also will add dugouts, field netting, and scoreboards on each field. These improvements will broaden use of the complex for multiple user groups and sports year-round. The current grass fields are in poor condition, have improper dimensions to meet the needs of older youth, and are unable to handle the increased year-round demand. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1781)

Seattle**Grant Request: \$2,000,000****Renovating Hutchinson Park**

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate Hutchinson Park. The city will completely renovate the playground for ages two and up, resurface sport courts, reconstruct the basketball court, repair the playfield, enhance natural areas, and add accessible pathways and a new entrance. The City will repair the soil conditions and drainage on the fields and convert one softball field into a soccer field. The Friends of Hutchinson Playground have advocated for park renovations for many years and after a shooting in the park in 2020 formed a friends group for the entire park. Since then, the group has collected surveys, organized the community, and met with city staff about its desired improvements. The two goals of this project are to rebuild the park so that is welcoming and supports the outdoor recreation needs of the community and to reduce crime in and around the park by activating it. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1512)

Olympia**Grant Request: \$2,000,000****Developing the Yelm Highway Community Park**

The City of Olympia will use this grant to begin developing the 72.8-acre Yelm Highway Community Park. The City will install a synthetic, lit rectangular field, playground, two full-size basketball courts, a soccer mini-pitch, two electronic interactive sport courts, twelve pickleball courts, walking paths, a restroom, picnic shelters, a dog park and a 162-stall parking area. The rectangular field will lay the groundwork for the future addition of four more rectangular fields. This will be Olympia's first dedicated soccer field in its park system. For decades, soccer players have requested dedicated, quality fields in Olympia. Additionally, players of other rectangular field sports are on the rise, such as lacrosse, rugby, football, and ultimate frisbee, and need field space. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1405)

Spokane**Grant Request: \$2,000,000****Beginning Development of the Meadowglen Neighborhood Park**

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Division will use this grant to begin building a neighborhood park and trailhead in the rapidly developing North Indian Trail neighborhood in northwest Spokane. More than 2,800 of the households there lack walkable access to a public park, making the neighborhood's park walkability score the worst in the city. The City will develop Meadowglen Park with a playground, restrooms, a parking lot and trailhead, pickleball courts, paved pathways and nature trails, and lawn areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1898)

Spokane Valley**Grant Request: \$2,000,000****Continuing Development of Balfour Park**

The City of Spokane Valley will use this grant to develop the second phase of Balfour Park by adding a playground and spray park. The park is in the most underserved area of the Spokane Valley and is next to a new library. In the first phase, the City built pathways, parking, a soccer mini pitch, a new Veterans Memorial and events plaza, a central plaza, and a multipurpose building with restrooms, mechanical rooms, and a police field office. After building the playground and spray park with this grant, the City will add basketball and pickleball courts, a large picnic shelter, and an outdoor amphitheater with covered stage in future phases. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1986)

The White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District**Building the White Salmon Valley Pool****Grant Request: \$2,000,000**

The White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to develop a lap pool and bathhouse. The pool will have eight, twenty-five-yard lanes and a diving board with twelve-foot depth. This pool will provide a safe place for water and safety education, competitive athletics, local and affordable recreation, and a sense of community and accessibility for all. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1476)

Fife**Grant Request: \$975,000****Adding an Inclusive Playground in Colburn Park**

The City of Fife will use this grant to transform a maintenance yard in Colburn Park into an inclusive playground. The City will install specialized play equipment to accommodate children with physical disabilities. The inclusive playground will be the first of its kind in Fife. In addition, the City will add covered picnic areas and parking stalls. The work will revitalize Colburn Park, doubling its overall footprint and transforming it into a vibrant and inclusive community park that fosters social interaction, promotes wellness, and contributes to environmental sustainability. The City will landscape the area using native plants to create a more environmentally friendly and biologically diverse habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1633)

Vancouver**Grant Request: \$2,000,000****Continuing Development of Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park**

The Vancouver Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department will use this grant to make the second round of improvements at Raymond E. Shaffer Community Park, a ten-acre wooded oasis in the heart of a densely developed area of north Vancouver. The park will serve an estimated 22,000 residents who don't have a nearby public park. The park is used for walking and cross-circulation through the neighborhood and nearby

elementary school. The City will add a playground, walking paths laced throughout a perimeter ring of mature evergreen trees, a restroom, a picnic shelter, a central lawn area for events, landscaping, benches, tables, and a parking lot with twenty-five spaces. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1787)

Mountlake Terrace

Grant Request: \$1,317,780

Revitalizing Veterans Memorial Park

The City of Mountlake Terrace will use this grant to complete designs and redevelop the upper plateau in Veterans Memorial Park. The City will renovate a playground, picnic shelter, pedestrian trail loop, and street frontage, and install a restroom. The parkland was acquired in 1960 as a play area and wildlife preserve and is in the heart of the redeveloping town center, next to the new Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Light Rail Station. The dense forest and diverse woodland character of this park, with more than one thousand trees, make it an important asset in balancing access to natural areas and park amenities, while preserving wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1747)

Othello

Grant Request: \$625,000

Renovating Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking

The City of Othello will use this grant to replace the playground equipment at Kiwanis Park. The playground equipment is outdated and doesn't meet safety regulations and accessibility standards for people with disabilities. The City will remove the 1980s equipment and replace it with a larger and universally accessible structure that features multiple interactive elements. The City also will install a rubber surface to improve safety and accessibility. The City will expand the parking lot as well. With a new design, modern equipment, and safe surfacing, the new area will be inclusive and efficient. Children up to fourteen years old are 33 percent of Othello's population, of which 27 percent live in poverty. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1765)

Sequim

Grant Request: \$1,512,419

Designing and Building Centennial Place Park

The City of Sequim will use this grant to finalize designs and begin building Centennial Place Park, on the corner of Sequim's main street intersection. The City will complete designs and begin building the park by adding native plants and lawns, built-in seating, a shaded performance stage, and lighting. The City hopes to make the park an inviting gateway to Sequim and a place where people can connect, infusing activity into the downtown core. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1411)

Seattle**Grant Request: \$1,874,273****Renovating Dr. Jose Rizal Park**

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the upper part of Dr. Jose Rizal Park, on the west side of Beacon Hill. Key elements include a renovated amphitheater, a new play area, a new picnic area, renovated restrooms, a lookout, and signs. The renovation will align with the opening of 270 affordable multifamily housing units under construction across the street. The City hopes these enhancements will transform the park into a safe and accessible destination for recreation and open space, while addressing the need for crime prevention and providing magnificent views. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1591)

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District**Grant Request: \$1,985,818****Adding Pools to the South Whidbey Aquatic Recreation Center**

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to develop two pools in a public aquatic recreation center on south Whidbey Island. No such public facility exists for the more than sixteen thousand residents on south Whidbey. The pools are designed to meet community needs for water safety, swim lessons, recreation, health and wellness, aquatic- and land-based fitness, rehabilitation, and special needs programs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2007)

Buckley**Grant Request: \$796,177****Developing Miller Community Park**

The City of Buckley will use this grant to transform land known as the Miller property into a 3.5-acre, centralized community park. The park will feature paved walking paths, a spacious playground, picnic shelters, and landscaped open areas providing views of Mount Rainier. Both passive and active outdoor recreational activities will be emphasized in the park. The City's goal is to establish a central hub for social interaction and recreation, fostering connections among established neighborhoods and newly developed areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1702)

Oak Harbor**Grant Request: \$700,000****Building an All-Inclusive Playground in Windjammer Park**

The City of Oak Harbor will use this grant to install the first all-inclusive playground on Whidbey Island, at Windjammer Park. The playground will include all-inclusive equipment and numerous sensory stations allowing children and their families to play together. The City also will landscape the area, install furnishings, and create shaded areas. The City is ideal for an all-inclusive play environment. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is designated as an Exceptional Family Base, meaning it is specially equipped to

support families with children with disabilities. In addition, the Oak Harbor School District reports 20 percent of its students have a disability. The national average is 15 percent. The closest all-inclusive playground is more than sixty-five miles away. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1546)

Lake Stevens

Grant Request: \$2,000,000

Developing a Portion of Eagle Ridge Park

The City of Lake Stevens will use this grant to develop a portion of the 27.9-acre Eagle Ridge Park, two miles from downtown. The city will install an amphitheater and outdoor classroom, a nature-themed playground, restrooms, parking, walkways, lighting, landscaping, and interpretive learning. The City will preserve wetland habitat that supports eagle breeding nests. The park is home to protected areas including eagle habitats, areas along waterways, mature forests, and wetlands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1814)

Walla Walla

Grant Request: \$1,500,000

Building an Inclusive Playground in Pioneer Park

The City of Walla Walla will use this grant to build an all-inclusive playground at Pioneer Park. The current playground is outdated and not accessible for people with disabilities. Pioneer Park is the crown jewel of Walla Walla's park system and used heavily by people from around the region. The City also will install a picnic shelter and build pathways. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2020)

Quincy

Grant Request: \$2,000,000

Developing a Softball Field in Lauzier Park

The City of Quincy will use this grant to develop its first lighted softball field in more than forty years. This is the first of a three-field softball tri-plex planned for Lauzier Park. The field will be used for Little League baseball and adult softball tournaments. The city's one lighted field was developed in the mid-1980s and has old and inefficient lighting, a short outfield fence, and an infield that has been encroaching into the outfield grass for years. The goal is to provide a newer and safer field. The City also will build a parking lot and a combination restroom and maintenance shop. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1879)

Moses Lake

Grant Request: \$500,000

Beginning Development of Longview Park

The Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to begin development of the 5.6-acre Longview Park. The site is in a lower income neighborhood that has no parks within a half-mile walk and houses with very few yards. The City will

clear and grade the area, landscape, and install a playground for preschoolers, picnic tables, a bike rack, and lawn. Future phases will see the addition of a bathroom, a futsal court, a basketball court, a pump track, a large picnic shelter, a skate dot, an artificial turf climbing mound, and a playground for school-age children. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1970)

Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District

Building the Strawberry Hill Park Skatepark

Grant Request: \$650,000

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District will use this grant to build a skatepark in the central community park. The new skatepark will connect to the twenty-year-old Rotary Skate Bowl, which is renowned for advanced "transition style" skating. The seventeen thousand square feet of new skating surface will serve diverse styles and skill levels, including scooter and roller and inline skating. The design for expansive open "street skating" responds to the community need for a more inclusive, urban-style skating environment. The expanded skatepark will be anchoring element in the Central Play Area that will tie the skating facilities to the picnic shelter, restrooms, mini-gym, and community center next door. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1401)

Sedro Woolley

Grant Request: \$476,021

Developing Olmsted Park Playground and Sports Courts

The City of Sedro Woolley will use this grant to develop a fully inclusive playground, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, paths, bike racks, seating, and landscaping at Olmsted Park. The playground will serve children ages five to twelve and contains fourteen ground-level components, climbing walls and nets, raised platforms, slides, swings, and a ground-level spinner. The sports courts are designed to be used by all ages. This project will complete the city's first public playground on the north side of State Route 20, where there is a large population of young families and where the city is experiencing the highest level of development. It also will be the first fully accessible playground in the city's system. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (24-1327)

Moses Lake

Grant Request: \$500,000

Beginning Development of Sun Terrace Park

The Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to begin development of the 11.4-acre Sun Terrace Park. The site is in a neighborhood that has no parks within a half-mile walk. The City will clear and grade the area and install a playground for preschoolers, picnic tables, and a lawn. Future phases will see the addition of a bathroom, a futsal court, a pickleball court, a modular pump track, a picnic shelter, and a playground for school-age children. The design also preserves the park's

shrub steppe habitat and wetland. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-1972)

Mercer Island**Grant Request: \$1,872,527****Improving Access to Luther Burbank Park**

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to upgrade the central campus of Luther Burbank Park to provide safer access year-round. The park's main parking lot is unlit and visitors regularly have their cars broken into or vandalized. The City will add lighting and wheelchair-accessible pathways to get visitors from the main parking lot to the rest of the park. Park visitors will be able to use the park during the dark winter months with greater comfort and security. The City also will add lighting to eight pickleball courts, increase parking, add a kiosk and signs, reinvigorate the fifty-year-old oak trees, and install a filtration swale to reduce pollutants in surface water. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (24-2011)