

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Adams County

### Othello

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1427](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

## Benton County

### Benton City

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1940](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Tri-Cities Shooting Association

**Grant Awarded: \$76,000**

#### Improving Range Facilities

The Tri-Cities Shooting Association will use this grant to build a canopy for twenty shooting positions, install custom shooting benches, and upgrade the concrete bullet shield at each station. The club also will build a short asphalt road for a safer transition from the state highway. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2448](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Chelan County

### **Chelan County Expanding Malaga Waterfront Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1949](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Improving Wenatchee Foothills Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$60,790**

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to maintain about thirty-three miles of trail across the Wenatchee Foothills Trail system in Chelan County. Due to years of backlogged trail maintenance and inadequate drainage, the trail system has eroded. The grant will pay for staff and heavy equipment needed to perform maintenance tasks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2549](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Caring for Lower Lake Chelan Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Chelan Ranger District will use this grant to maintain about 296 miles of trails in the lower Lake Chelan valley, which hosts more than two million visitors a year. Crews will remove overgrown brush and fallen logs, fix drainage structures and bridges, and rebuild trail surfaces. In addition, crews will groom winter trails for snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and fat tire bikers. The trails are used for hiking, Nordic skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and motorized activities. The work will improve access for very diverse trail users in all seasons and maintain high-quality experiences on unique trails such as Echo Ridge Nordic Trails and multiuse trails in the Sawtooth backcountry and Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2668](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Funding Wilderness Rangers**

**Grant Awarded: \$198,707**

The Wenatchee River Ranger District will use this grant to fund four seasonal rangers to patrol the Alpine Lakes, Henry M. Jackson, and Glacier Peak Wilderness areas for two seasons. Rangers will educate visitors, promote Leave-No-Trace techniques for reducing damage from outdoor activities, ensure visitors' safety, and enforce regulations. The rangers primarily will patrol the Enchantment permit area because of its high proportion of new-to-nature visitors. Visitation has skyrocketed there and now requires more rangers to keep up with public contacts and resource protection. Visitors include hikers, backpackers, climbers, horseback riders, sightseers, anglers, and wildlife viewers. The rangers will educate the public about the wilderness, why it is important, and how to preserve the wilderness character. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2447](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Multiuse Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Entiat and Chelan Ranger Districts will use this grant to fund a trail crew, support volunteers, and hire trail organizations to maintain 195 miles of multiuse trail in Chelan County for two years. The area's high elevation, a wildfire-prone landscape, and volcanic soil make the trails and surrounding environment susceptible to damage and the trail surfaces in need of annual maintenance. The districts will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair bridges and drainage structures, maintain trailheads and signs, and restore trail surfaces. The multiuse trails are in the heart of the popular, interconnected, 225-mile, multiuse trail system that runs from Lake Wenatchee across the Entiat and Chelan Mountains to Lake Chelan. The multiuse trail system is primarily in a roadless setting allowing all types of trail users to experience the high-elevation environment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2544](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Trails for Motorized Activities**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Wenatchee River Ranger District will use this grant to support a trail crew, partners, and volunteers to maintain more than 120 miles of trail in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County. Crews will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, and maintain signs. The ranger district also will use the grant to buy small tools and equipment and two electric bikes. Changing environmental conditions and more fires have taken a toll on trails and made it harder to keep up with routine maintenance. The Wenatchee River Ranger District is two hours from the greater Puget Sound area and popular for hiking,

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



biking, horse riding, and riding motorcycles and other motorized vehicles. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2601](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Upper Lake Chelan Basin Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Chelan Ranger District will use this grant to maintain about 350 miles of trail for nonmotorized activities in the upper Lake Chelan basin and the Entiat portion of the Glacier Peak Wilderness during two seasons. Crews will remove fallen trees, clear brush, repair trail surfaces and bridges, and replace and repair trail signs and drainage structures. The work will improve trail access and user safety, retain access on burned trails, and protect natural resources. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2634](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Wenatchee River Recreation Areas**

**Grant Awarded: \$124,000**

The Wenatchee River Ranger District will use this grant to fund a crew to maintain trailheads, campgrounds, day-use sites, and dispersed recreation sites in Chelan County. Crews will remove trash, maintain restrooms and bulletin boards, remove dangerous trees, and clean campsites, day-use areas, and trailheads. The Wenatchee River Ranger District sees more than one million visits annually to its twenty-six campgrounds, fifty-six trailheads, and more than three-hundred dispersed recreation sites. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2536](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Providing Patrols for Entiat Chelan Ranger District**

**Grant Awarded: \$60,000**

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will use this grant to pay for staff and volunteers and support partner organizations to patrol multiuse trails in the Entiat and Chelan Ranger District in Chelan County. The rangers will patrol about 455 miles of trail, thirteen campgrounds, and twenty-nine trailheads. The rangers will promote good riding practices and Leave-No-Trace techniques for reducing damage from outdoor activities. Much of the area has highly erosive pumice soil or fragile meadows. Rangers will contact visitors to prevent damage to these environments. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2721](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Scroggie Canyon**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1332](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

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

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1488](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Improving the Lake Wenatchee Boat Launch**

**Grant Awarded: \$754,000**

State Parks will use this grant to improve the boat launch on Lake Wenatchee. As the only formal public boat launch on the lake, it's very popular and there often are significant backups at the single-lane ramp. The overflow parking area usually is full and lacks designated parking spots. State Parks will build a boat ramp and boarding floats, pave and stripe the overflow parking area, and create a pedestrian path that connects the boat launch area to the day-use

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



restroom. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2697](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission      Grant Awarded: \$75,000** **Maintaining Lake Wenatchee Snow Trails**

State Parks will use this grant to maintain four Sno-Parks and up to 377 miles of trail in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for two winters. Work will include plowing access roads, removing snow as it accumulates in parking areas, and establishing and regularly grooming trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2431](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$2,640,000** **Replacing Moorage Floats at Twenty-Five Mile Creek State Park**

State Parks will use this grant to upgrade outdated boat launch facilities at the westernmost launch in Twenty-Five Mile Creek State Park. The ten guest moorage floats are in disrepair; the wood decking is deteriorating and splitting apart, and the metal framework has become exposed, creating safety hazards that have resulted in frequent dock closures. Nine new floats will replace the existing ones. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2713](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

**See more projects in Chelan County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Clallam County**

### **North Olympic Land Trust** **Conserving Cameron Farm Estates**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1694](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **North Olympic Land Trust Conserving Heifer Farm**

**Grant Awarded: \$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, it frequently is photographed to represent Sequim. 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 project 24-1691](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Sequim Building an Inclusive Playground at Margaret Kirner Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1479](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Maintaining North Olympic Trails for Motorized Uses**

**Grant Awarded: \$193,088**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain forty-eight miles of off-road vehicle trail, a campground, and trailheads in the Foothills and Sadie Creek trail systems near Port Angeles. The department will reroute sections of trail, maintain drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, maintain bridges and signs, remove litter, and maintain restrooms. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2316](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

**See more projects in Clallam County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



### Clark County

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$315,000** **Renovating the Merrill Lake Natural Recreation Conservation Area**

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 project 24-1637](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$138,000** **Restoring Washougal Oaks**

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 project 24-1812](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission   Grant Awarded: \$802,731 Renovating the Battle Ground Lake Equestrian Parking Lot**

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 project 24-1480](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Clark County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Columbia County**

### **Blue Mountain Land Trust Conserving Jasper Mountain Reserve**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 trail have been built, and two more miles are planned. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1928](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Columbia County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Cowlitz County

### Cowlitz County

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1623](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Longview

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1954](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Port of Woodland

**Grant Awarded: \$500,000**

#### Building the Austin Point Water Recreation Park

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 project 24-1876](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Grant Awarded: \$2,008,890**

#### Conserving Hoffstadt Hills and Access to the Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1336](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Cowlitz County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

### Douglas County

#### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Mid-Columbia Shrub-Steppe

**Grant Awarded: \$6,001,250**

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 project 24-1330](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

#### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring Barclay Crane Shrub-Steppe

**Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1862](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Ferry County

#### Ferry County Parks and Recreation District 2 Improving the ORV Campground

**Grant Awarded: \$356,670**

The Ferry County Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to improve the fifty-one-acre ORV Campground off State Route 21, one mile south of Republic. The improvements will enhance the campground's infrastructure, safety, and amenities, creating a more accessible and welcoming environment. The park district will improve the restroom building by insulating and repairing its interior and exterior, upgrading the well system, and replacing and modernizing plumbing, lighting, and electrical systems. The park district also will buy a tractor for ongoing park maintenance, install a small home as a permanent caretaker and campground host residence, add electrical hookups for six to eight campsites, and install Internet access equipment to provide coverage throughout the campground. In addition, the park district will put picnic tables in each campsite, grade and add gravel the main road and individual campsite access points, install outdoor and solar lighting to improve safety, and add signs and fencing around the campground. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2359](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

**See more projects in Ferry County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

### Garfield County

#### Garfield Designing a Boat Ramp and Dock

**Grant Awarded: \$61,500**

The City of Garfield will use this grant to engineer and design a boat ramp and dock on the south side site at Central Ferry, the only remaining public boat ramp since the closing of Central Ferry park in 2015. The new ramp and dock will ensure safe and continual access at this public boating facility. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2260](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



### **Pomeroy Lighting the Pomeroy Baseball Field**

**Grant Awarded: \$202,715**

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 project 24-2029](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

## **Grant County**

### **Electric City Renovating Coulee Playland Facilities**

**Grant Awarded: \$575,456**

The City of Electric City will use this grant to renovate the Coulee Playland mooring to meet federal architectural barriers act and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The City will replace the boat mooring slip and fueling slip and build campsites, parking, and pathways that accommodate people with disabilities. It will upgrade the restroom and showers as well. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2415](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Grant County Maintaining the Moses Lake Sand Dunes Facilities**

**Grant Awarded: \$65,000**

The Grant County Sheriff's Department will use this grant to maintain the off-road vehicle areas in Grant County, focusing on the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. The department will maintain the four toilets and additional event portable toilets, two large dumpsters, signs, and fencing, which often is damaged by weather or activity. The sand dunes area offers overnight camping, making maintenance critical for a clean and safe environment for both campers and off-road vehicle users. The Sheriff's Office partners with local off-road groups who volunteer to help maintain the area. An estimated 206 people daily visit the east entrance from April to September. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2264](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Beezley Hills for Pygmy Rabbits**

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

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 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 project 24-1469](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Developing a Shooting Range at North Potholes**

**Grant Awarded: \$150,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to design and build a target shooting site at north Potholes in the Desert Unit of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area in Grant County. The site will have a parking lot with a parking stall and pathway accessible to people with disabilities, backstops at one hundred, two hundred, and three hundred yards, a gravel pad for the firing line, barrier rock, a maintenance gate, signs, and kiosks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2699](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Updating Restrooms and Parking at Four Boating Facilities**

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

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve boating facilities at Evergreen Reservoir, Lind Coulee Island, Heart Lake, and Windmill Lake by replacing the restrooms and parking pads with ones that are easier to use and access for people with disabilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2523](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

## **Grays Harbor County**

### **Aberdeen Converting Pioneer Park Field 3 to Artificial Turf**

**Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1711](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Port of Grays Harbor Renovating the Friends Landing Boat Launch**

**Grant Awarded: \$650,000**

The Port of Grays Harbor will use this grant to renovate the upland boat launch amenities at Friends Landing on the Chehalis River, to make it safer and easier to access. The Port will pave the boat launch parking lot and repave the entryway, build a loading ramp and parking spaces for people with disabilities, add more than three hundred feet of paths around the parking lot, update the parking and safety lines for pedestrians, and install a payment station, information kiosk, and a portable restroom, all of which will accommodate people with disabilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2285](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **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 project 24-1337](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Redeveloping the White Bridge Boat Ramp**

**Grant Awarded: \$88,300**

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



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



Peninsula. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1998](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission   Grant Awarded: \$633,400** **Improving a Lake Sylvia Park Trail**

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 weather 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 project 24-1389](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission   Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1704](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Island County**

### **Port of South Whidbey   Grant Awarded: \$262,500** **Replacing Boarding Floats at Possession Beach Waterfront**

The Port of South Whidbey will use this grant to replace six deteriorating boarding floats at its most used boat ramp on south Whidbey Island. The floats were built in 1987 with heavy timber and Styrofoam floatation and are deteriorating, creating a potential safety and environmental issue. Replacement floats will consist of light-permeable surfaces and non-slip decking, reducing the risk of injury. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2307](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



See more projects in Island County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties.](#)"

## Jefferson County

### Jefferson County Replacing Memorial Field Infrastructure

**Grant Awarded: \$345,560**

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 project 24-1768](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding the Dabob Bay Natural Area

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1548](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

See more projects in Jefferson County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties.](#)"

## King County

### Conservation Northwest Educating Visitors in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley

**Grant Awarded: \$10,000**

Conservation Northwest will use this grant to support its Wildlife Ambassador Project, a collaborative program with the U.S. Forest Service that teaches hikers how to recreate safely in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River valley and reduce human-wildlife conflict. Due to increased

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



use of trails, the Forest Service has struggled to keep up with maintenance and has been forced to close the campground at times. This program provides in-person outreach at recreation areas and educates visitors about how to recreate safely and with respect to wildlife and habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2483](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Covington**

**Grant Awarded: \$1,939,511**

#### **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 264<sup>th</sup> 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 project 24-1353](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Des Moines**

**Grant Awarded: \$348,750**

#### **Upgrading Boarding Floats at Redondo Beach Park**

The City of Des Moines will use this grant to upgrade the float string at the Redondo Beach Park boat launch ramp, which was installed in 1980 and has degraded to the point of failure by rot and marine borers. The City will replace the creosote timber and concrete approach wedge that anchors the north boarding float string with one that will be accessible to people with disabilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2501](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance**

**Grant Awarded: \$10,000**

#### **Establishing a Trail School Program**

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will use this grant to establish a Trail School Program that educates and cultivates volunteers into skilled volunteer leaders capable of supporting and maintaining trails. Training will cover topics ranging from planning and design to construction and maintenance and include classroom sessions and fieldwork, along with hands-on experience in tool safety and trail maintenance. Funds will be used for staff time, travel, materials, participants, trainings across the state, and development of advanced training sessions. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2368](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Supporting a Sawyer Education Program**

**Grant Awarded: \$10,000**

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will use this grant to support its Volunteer Sawyer Education Program. The program provides volunteers with the required classroom, mentoring, and practical evaluations needed to obtain a U.S. Forest Service National Sawyer Certification Card, which is required to operate chainsaws and crosscut saws on U.S. Forest Service lands and some state and county partners. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2367](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Issaquah Sportsmen's Club Improving Rifle and Pistol Range Safety**

**Grant Awarded: \$28,037**

The Issaquah Sportsmen's Club will use this grant to improve the rifle and pistol range in the Issaquah Sportsmen's Club in King County. The club will install electrical utilities to extend and enhance the range lighting system, upgrade light fixtures, and install steel targets for pistol calibers. The additional lighting will allow for use of the fifty-yard and one-hundred-yard targets in the evenings as well as improve safety and visibility across all targets in low light. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2579](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

### **Kent Buying Park Land**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1776](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Kent Renovating Uplands Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1703](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Training Trailhead Ambassadors**

**Grant Awarded: \$7,058**

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will use this grant to support its Trailhead Ambassador Program. These ambassadors teach visitors how to protect public lands in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, which is a corridor of natural and recreation lands and communities spanning 1.5 million acres from Seattle to Ellensburg along Interstate 90. Trailhead ambassadors aim to inspire the next generation of public land stewards and reduce the damage caused by crowds at popular trails and trailheads. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2793](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Redmond Building Southeast Redmond Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1762](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Seattle Developing a Park in Lake City**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1590](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Seattle** **Renovating Hutchinson Park Playfield**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1952](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **Seattle** **Renovating Hutchinson Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 it 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 project 24-1588](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Shoreline** **Buying Land Along Ronald Bog for a Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$702,000**

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 project 24-1805](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **Tukwila** **Grant Awarded: \$1,071,830** **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 project 24-1802](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** **Hiring Backcountry Rangers for the Wilderness Areas Grant Awarded: \$250,000**

The Snoqualmie Ranger District will use this grant to fund rangers and interns for two years to patrol backcountry destinations on five hundred thousand acres, including the Alpine Lakes, Norse Peak, and Clearwater Wilderness areas. Rangers and volunteers will patrol more than four hundred miles of trail and hundreds of destination lakes, streams, and summits used annually by more than four hundred thousand hikers, backpackers, climbers, mountain bikers, anglers, hunters, foragers, horseback riders, and others. Rangers contact visitors in the field and monitor natural and cultural resources and backcountry facilities on trails that can receive more than one thousand visitors in a single day. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2517](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** **Maintaining Snoqualmie Area Trails Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Snoqualmie Ranger District will use this grant to fund trail crews, contractors, and coordination of volunteer groups to maintain 507 miles of trails for two years. Crews will remove fallen trees and overgrown brush, fix drainage structures, repair bridges, restore slide areas, remove boulders, and improve trail surfaces. Funds also will be used to buy equipment. The trail system traverses Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Clearwater Wilderness, and Norse Peak Wilderness systems. An estimated three hundred thousand visitors a year use the trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2722](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** **Maintaining the Snoqualmie Front Country**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Snoqualmie Ranger District will use this grant to support seasonal staff for two years to maintain more than fifty trailheads, eight campgrounds, and hundreds of dispersed campsites used by more than five hundred thousand visitors annually. The crews will maintain trailheads, repair facilities, mitigate hazards, repair vandalism, and clean campsites. Throughout the year, visitors from the Seattle area flock to the district for hiking, horseback riding, camping, off-road vehicle riding, recreational target shooting, hunting and fishing, and climbing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2581](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** **Providing Front Country Patrols**

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

The Snoqualmie Ranger District will use this grant to help pay for front country environmental education and community outreach programs. The grant will support forest protection officers, educators, information specialists, and a volunteer program in the summers and winters for two years. Steadily declining budgets and retiring employees have decreased the Forest Service's ability to respond to recreation needs. More than one million people visit the district's fifty trailheads, six developed campgrounds, and hundreds of popular dispersed camping sites annually. The district encompasses three hundred thousand acres of which 189,000 are accessible to a broad range of visitors including campers, hikers, equestrians, off-road vehicle riders, recreational target shooters, and hunters. The district expects to reach nearly twenty-eight thousand visitors through this project, with an emphasis on novice visitors who may desire to do the right thing to protect natural resources, but lack knowledge and skills. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2758](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Cleaning South Puget Sound Facilities**

**Grant Awarded: \$188,512**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to hire a crew to clean and maintain forty-seven restrooms in the Green Mountain, Tahuya, Hood Canal, Elbe Hills, Tahoma, Tiger Mountain and Raging River State Forests, as well as the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Areas in the busy South Puget Sound region. Routine cleaning will reduce long-term maintenance costs and potentially decrease vandalism that frequently occurs in the facilities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2396](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Developing the Teneriffe-CCC Connector Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 reroute access to the trail from forest roads next to private property, reducing conflicts between landowners and recreationists. By building 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 project 24-1344](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Funding Staff in the Snoqualmie Corridor**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund a full-time specialist to patrol about two hundred miles of trail, twelve trailheads, and several day-use sites in the Interstate 90 Snoqualmie Corridor, in eastern King County. The department also will buy small tools, minor equipment, and educational materials. This grant also will fund several seasonal employees to work in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, and seasonal outreach interns to work in partnership with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's Trailhead Ambassador program to provide information to visitors in the Snoqualmie Corridor and Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2395](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Maintaining Snoqualmie Corridor Trails and Facilities**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain more than 160 miles of trail, four trailheads, and two day-use areas in the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area, Tiger Mountain State Forest, Raging River State Forest, Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area, and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Resources Conservation Area, in eastern King County outside North Bend. These trails and recreation sites for nonmotorized users are among Washington's most frequented and offer year-round recreational opportunities to the four

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



million residents of the Puget Sound metropolitan area. Many of western Washington's most iconic recreational destinations are in this area, including West Tiger #3, Mailbox Peak, and Dirty Harry's Balcony and Peak for hikers and trail runners; East Tiger Mountain and Raging River mountain bike trail systems; Poo Poo Point for free flight pilots, paragliders, and hang gliders; and Exit 38-Far Side Climbing Area for climbing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2472](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources Renovating the Mount Si Trailhead**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1773](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1763](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission      Grant Awarded: \$48,055** **Caring for Pyramid Peak Snowmobile Trails**

State Parks will use this grant to clear snowmobile trails, remove winter storm and trail debris and snow drifts, and plow snow to provide safe and accessible parking for visitors to the 112-mile Pyramid Peak snowmobile trail system. The work will maintain around 2,643 miles of groomed trail for two winters plus keep Sno-Parks and access roads plowed and safe for public use. The trail system lies on the west side of the Cascade Mountains, close to State Route 410, and provides quick access for Seattle and west side residents to ride groomed winter trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2434](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission      Grant Awarded: \$880,000** **Redeveloping the Lake Sammamish Boat Launch**

State Parks will use this grant to design, permit, and plan the redevelopment of the Lake Sammamish boat launch, which is used by about fifty thousand vehicles a year. The planning and design work will include removal and replacement of a damaged boat ramp, floats (existing steel pile will remain), and restroom, and stormwater mitigation if needed. The vehicle approach and parking will be redesigned as well to better accommodate the volume of users. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2303](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Lake Forest Park      Grant Awarded: \$500,000** **Developing Lakefront Park**

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 project 24-1934](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

**See more projects in King County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Kitsap County

### **Bainbridge Island Land Trust Conserving Land Near Little Manzanita Bay**

**Grant Awarded: \$1,299,883**

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 project 24-1978](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club Renovating a Clubhouse**

**Grant Awarded: \$35,031**

The Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club will use this grant to renovate its clubhouse kitchen by replacing the cabinets, flooring, and appliances and repairing leaking propane lines and dry rot in flooring. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2617](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

### **Great Peninsula Conservancy Conserving Green Mountain**

**Grant Awarded: \$2,988,500**

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 project 24-1678](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Kitsap County Buying Land for Illahee Preserve Heritage Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$675,000**

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.

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1770](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources      Grant Awarded: \$4,490,300** **Conserving Land in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area**

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 project 24-1461](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources      Grant Awarded: \$213,666** **Funding Patrols in Kitsap and Mason Counties**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund a recreation warden and additional department police services to patrol two hundred miles of trail, five campgrounds, seven trailheads, and day-use areas. Staff will work in the Tahuya, Green Mountain, and Hood Canal State Forests, the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, and other land, mostly in Kitsap and Mason Counties. Staff will focus on off-road vehicle use compliance and fixing safety concerns for all trail users. Staff also will support Forest Watch and Camp Host volunteers who educate visitors about rules and principles of good stewardship. Additionally, staff will help manage organized trail events in the forests and buy equipment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2283](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources      Grant Awarded: \$223,403** **Maintaining Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests Trails**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to help fund three employees to maintain 185 miles of off-road vehicle trails, four campgrounds, seven trailheads, and seasonal day-use sites in Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests, and throughout the Hood Canal district. The staff will cut overgrown brush, repair bridges and drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, reroute small sections of trail, maintain signs, and clean restrooms, campsites, and parking areas. The staff also will support volunteers and events. Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests' off-road vehicle trails are open year-round, providing opportunities for use in the winter when most other developed off-road vehicle trails are closed. Visit RCO's online Project



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2282](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring State Land in the Western Kitsap Forest**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1558](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Kitsap County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Kittitas County**

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Funding Alpine Lakes Wilderness Patrols**

**Grant Awarded: \$150,000**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to help fund two rangers and up to four volunteer interns to provide education and enforcement patrols on trails and at camp destinations in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The staff will educate visitors about how to protect the wilderness and trails. The district's portion of Alpine Lakes Wilderness is one of the most popular areas in Washington for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, horse packing, hunting, fishing, mountaineering, and climbing. The wilderness and adjacent areas contain sixteen trailheads, two hundred miles of trail, multiple high-country routes, more than sixty lake destinations, and more than nine hundred wilderness campsites. Due to rapid population increases, the area now receives more than eighty thousand annual visits. The staff will promote Leave-No-Trace techniques for reducing damage from outdoor activities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2451](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Cle Elum Trail for Nonmotorized Uses      Grant Awarded \$120,582**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to pay for a trail crew to maintain 326 miles of trail for nonmotorized uses. The crew will remove fallen trees, clear overgrown brush, restore trail surfaces, repair drainage structures, install signs, reroute small sections of trail, and repair stream approaches. This work is necessary to mitigate hazards, prevent resource damage, and provide for enjoyable user experiences in wilderness and other backcountry settings. The trails are used for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding and packing, mountain biking, and trail running. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2455](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Naches Motorized Trails      Grant Requested \$75,000**

The Naches Ranger District will use this grant to fund a trail crew to maintain 75 percent of its more than three hundred miles of motorcycle and 4x4 trails and perform deferred maintenance on 15 percent or fifty miles of trail in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Crews will remove overgrown brush and fallen trees, repair drainage structures and trail surfaces, and maintain signs. The trails annually host forty-five thousand motorcycle, Jeep, and off-road vehicle riders, who enjoy their variety of trails, diverse landscapes, sunny weather, and closeness to urban centers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2706](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining North Zone Backcountry Trails      Grant Awarded: \$191,500**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to fund a four-person crew, volunteers, contractors, and youth crews to maintain off-road vehicle trails and trailheads in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest north of Interstate 90 in Kittitas County. Crews will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, and maintain signs. The district also will buy supplies for the maintenance of hand tools and machinery essential for this work. The trails are used for off-road vehicle riding, dirt biking, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. By reducing erosion, sedimentation, and trail damage, the project helps protect waterways and species such as salmon and steelhead and bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2453](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest** **Maintaining South Zone Backcountry Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$188,000**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to fund a four-person crew, volunteers, youth crews, or contractors to maintain 185 miles of multiuse trails in Kittitas County. The crews will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, maintain signs, and restore trail surfaces. The district also will buy supplies for the maintenance of hand tools and machinery for this work. The trails are used for off-road vehicle riding, dirt biking, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. By reducing erosion, sedimentation, and trail damage, the project helps protect waterways and species such as salmon and steelhead and bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2454](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest** **Maintaining the Cle Elum Front Country**

**Grant Awarded: \$145,000**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to pay for two interns, contractors, partners, and two employees to maintain seventeen campgrounds, thirty trailheads, four-hundred dispersed camping and day-use sites, five boat launches, and two rental cabins in Kittitas County. Crews will remove dangerous trees, clean up trash and dump sites, collect fees, clean restrooms, install signs and bulletin boards, repair facilities and parking lots, and maintain picnic tables and fire rings. The closeness to Puget Sound, coupled with a diverse array of outdoor recreation opportunities, brings hundreds of thousands of summer visitors to the district. This work will provide upkeep and basic operation of these high-use sites, protect natural areas next to recreation sites, and prevent degradation of areas critical to threatened and endangered species, such as spotted owls and bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2457](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest** **Providing Education and Enforcement**

**Grant Awarded: \$100,000**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to fund one full-time officer and support its large volunteer program for two years. The staff and volunteers provide education and enforcement on nearly four hundred miles of trail, at seven campgrounds, and at more than thirty multiuse trailheads in Kittitas County. The trail system is one of the most heavily used in the state, serving thousands of users each weekend. The staff and volunteers help protect natural resources, provide information, and teach safe motorized travel principles. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2452](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**

#### **Renting Portable Restrooms**

**Grant Awarded: \$33,400**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to rent portable toilets to be placed in high-use dispersed camping areas from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Dispersed camping takes place outside of formally constructed campgrounds. These campsites are created by campers, not planned by the Forest Service, and do not usually include amenities such as toilets. Providing sanitation in areas with very heavy recreational use will reduce public health hazards and protect ecologically sensitive stream banks and streams used by species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, such as bull trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2458](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**

#### **Providing Front Country Patrols**

**Grant Awarded: \$90,000**

The Cle Elum Ranger District will use this grant to fund a full-time seasonal ranger and three interns to patrol popular dispersed recreation areas, major trailheads, and developed campgrounds in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for two years. Staff will focus on educating visitors about proper sanitation, campsite selection, paying fees, and environmental stewardship. Consistent staff presence reduces environmental damage, limits user conflicts, and fosters greater environmental stewardship. Along with education and enforcement patrols, staff will promote the "Respect the River" program to mitigate damage to the shoreline, bull trout, and other animals that live in the river from the impacts of extensive public use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2456](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

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

#### **Buying Land for the Yakima River Camp Access**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1339](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Building a Trail in Teanaway Community Forest**

**Grant Awarded: \$104,500**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to build about fifteen miles of trail for nonmotorized uses in the Teanaway Community Forest, ten miles northeast of Cle Elum. The second phase of a five-phase, multi-year construction plan, work will lengthen the loop systems, reroute user-built trails to move them off private property, and provide a trail connection through Rabbit Gulch to the Dingbat Creek area, providing public access to Mammoth Rock. Funds will be used for contactors, permits, staff time, materials, equipment rentals, and trail crew time. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2366](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **Washington State Conservation Commission Conserving Foothills Farm**

**Grant Awarded: \$3,951,414**

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 uses 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 project 24-1885](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grooming Stampede Pass Trails and Three Sno-Parks**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

State Parks will use this grant to maintain three Sno-Parks and eighty-nine miles of trail at Stampede Pass during two winters. Work will include plowing access roads, removing snow as it accumulates, and establishing and regularly grooming trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2433](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Restoring Shrub-Steppe in Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$384,434**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 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 project 24-1846](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Kittitas County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

### Klickitat County

#### **Columbia Land Trust Conserving a Trout Lake Valley Dairy Farm**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1931](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

#### **Columbia Land Trust Continuing Conservation of Klickitat Oaks**

**Grant Awarded: \$4,762,250**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1489](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **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 project 24-1338](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$643,800 Building the Pitt Trailhead in Klickitat Trail State Park**

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 project 24-1841](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **White Salmon Valley Pool Metropolitan Park District Building the White Salmon Valley Pool**

**Grant Awarded: \$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



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



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 project 24-1483](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

**See more projects in Klickitat County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## Lewis County

### Centralia

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1797](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### Vader

**Grant Awarded: \$443,045**

#### Developing McMurphy Park

The City of Vader will use this grant to develop McMurphy Park. The park has 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 project 24-1684](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Lewis County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## Mason County

### U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Forest Establishing a Trail Maintenance Crew

**Grant Awarded: \$194,000**

The Olympic National Forest will use this grant to hire four seasonal trail crew members to maintain 290 miles of trail in the Hood Canal and Pacific Ranger Districts of the Olympic National Forest. The crew will remove fallen trees, clear overgrown brush, restore trail surfaces, clean and repair drainage structures, and control erosion. The trails are used for hiking,



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



backpacking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2530](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Forest** **Grant Awarded: \$186,000** **Maintaining the Olympic National Forest Front Country**

The Olympic National Forest will use this grant to pay for volunteers, contractors, partners, and up to three interns to maintain sixteen campgrounds, seventy-seven trailheads, three rental cabins, numerous dispersed camping and day-use sites, and two boat launches in Mason County. Crews will remove dangerous trees, clean up trash and dump sites, collect fees, clean restrooms, install signs and bulletin boards, repair facilities and parking lots, and maintain picnic tables and fire rings. The Lake Quinault area is a popular hiking and camping destination and provides a broad range of other recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, sightseeing, boating, and more. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2533](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Forest** **Grant Awarded: \$203,000** **Providing Education and Enforcement**

The Olympic National Forest will use this grant to fund four seasonal staff for two years for education and safety patrols in the Hood Canal and Pacific Ranger Districts. Patrols will cover all trailheads, campgrounds, dispersed campsites, and backcountry areas. The trails are for nonmotorized use, especially hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Staff will educate visitors about responsible recreation practices, enforce regulations, and collect fees. Staff also will buy and distribute educational pamphlets and design and install educational signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2529](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** **Grant Awarded: \$990,000** **Improving Accessibility at the Spencer Lake Water Access Site**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve the Spencer Lake Water Access site in Mason County. The department will pave the entrance and parking lot, replace the boat ramp with one that is accessible to people with disabilities, install a concrete restroom, and build a pedestrian pathway between the restroom and boarding float and launch area. The new parking area will be paved and graded to direct surface water toward the outside edge of the property where a buffer of native plants will filter the water. A curb that will provide shoreline protection, reduce erosion, and create a partition from the pavement to the shoreline where anglers and visitors can recreate safely away from vehicles. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



for [more information and photographs of project 24-2695](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Restoring the Theler Wetlands Trail System**

**Grant Awarded: \$1,625,569**

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 signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1346](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Funding Staff to Maintain Tahuya State Forest Four-by-Four Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$199,479**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to partially fund three employees to maintain sixteen miles of four-by-four trails, one campground, two trailheads, and six restrooms in the Tahuya State Forest in Mason County. Staff will cut overgrown brush, restore trail surfaces, maintain bridges and drainage structures, service restrooms, remove litter, and maintain signs and fences. This project will enable the department to continue to provide year-round, full-size off-road vehicle recreation opportunities. The Tahuya trail system is a heavily used and beloved destination, providing high-quality experiences to users in the winter when other trail systems are closed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2281](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **Washington State Department of Natural Resources Maintaining Hood Canal Area Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$20,448**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain trails for nonmotorized recreation in the Tahuya, Green Mountain, and Hood Canal State Forests, the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, and other dispersed land in Kitsap and Mason Counties. The grant helps pay the salaries of three staff, supports volunteers and events, and funds trail and facility maintenance. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2284](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

**See more projects in Mason County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Okanogan County

### **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Renovating an Omak Lake Boat Launch**

**Grant Awarded: \$750,000**

The Colville Tribes will use this grant to build boating facilities on the north shore of Omak Lake on the Colville Indian Reservation. The Tribe will build a boat ramp, loading dock, and parking area and install lighting. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2427](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Methow Conservancy Conserving a Twisp River Ranch**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1922](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Methow Conservancy Conserving Doubletree Farms**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1867](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Methow Conservancy** **Protecting the Mundy Road Farm**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1908](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Methow Valley Sport Trail Association** **Building a Trailhead**

**Grant Awarded: \$150,000**

The Methow Valley Sport Trail Association will use this grant to build a trailhead on U.S. Forest Service land to replace the Cub Creek Trailhead north of Winthrop, which will close soon. The trailhead will have a permanent toilet, picnic area, and storage for grooming equipment. The trailhead will provide access to the 130-mile Nordic trail system in the winter and, during the summer, would facilitate use of surrounding Forest Service roads and trails and the popular Buck Mountain trail. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2253](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Mountain Trails Grooming Association** **Grooming Methow Valley Snowmobile Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$40,000**

The Mountain Trails Grooming Association will use this grant to maintain and groom snowmobile trails in the Methow Valley. The association will cut overgrown brush, install signs, and groom more than 177 miles of mountain trails. The Methow Valley is a destination for thousands of outdoor winter enthusiasts. These trails provide access for backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, walking, and snowmobiling. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2313](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Okanogan Land Trust** **Protecting the Carter Mountain Livestock Family Ranch**

**Grant Awarded: \$990,200**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1813](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Twisp Buying Mill Hill**

**Grant Awarded: \$552,600**

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 project 24-1503](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Funding Wilderness and Backcountry Rangers**

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

The Methow Ranger District will use this grant to fund three seasonal rangers, two other rangers, and community volunteers to patrol popular areas for two seasons. The rangers will talk with visitors, promote Leave-No-Trace techniques for reducing damage from outdoor activities, and enforce regulations. Patrols will focus on high-use areas for nonmotorized recreation in the North Cascades Scenic Corridor and the Pasayten and Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness areas, and on the Pacific Crest and Pacific Northwest Trails. The area has been popularized in guidebooks and social media and attracts visitors from all over the world. This area receives more than 190,000 visitor use days annually. Recreationists include hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, climbers, photographers, wildlife viewers, backcountry skiers, stock users, hunters, and anglers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2518](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Methow Valley Recreation Areas**

**Grant Awarded: \$199,020**

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to maintain twenty-five campgrounds, thirty trailheads, two picnic areas, and the Washington Pass Scenic Overlook. Crews will clean toilets and campsites, control noxious weeds and remove dangerous trees, maintain water systems, mow, provide visitor information, collect fees, provide security patrols, collect garbage, and repair picnic tables, fire grates, and bulletin boards. The area has long attracted recreationists to its variety of habitats, from river valleys to mountain passes, to flowery meadows high on the Pacific Crest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2555](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Motorcycle Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$93,205**

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to fund three employees to maintain trails in the Sawtooth backcountry and the Lightning and Beaver Creek drainages for two summers. Crews will remove fallen trees, repair drainage structures and trail surfaces, maintain signs, and repair a bridge. The trails are used for motorcycling, mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. The trails provide an opportunity for motorcycle riders to test their skills in a backcountry setting, a unique and sought-after experience. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2515](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Providing a Trail Crew**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to pay for a full-time seasonal trail crew and pack support for two seasons. The crew will remove fallen trees, clear overgrown brush, restore trail surfaces, clean and repair drainage structures, and control erosion on the highest priority trails in the Pasayten Wilderness, Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness, and surrounding backcountry areas. This includes the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the Rainy Lake accessible trail, and popular hikes in the scenic north Cascade Mountains. The trails are used for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2513](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supporting Education and Safety Patrols**

**Grant Awarded: \$9,915**

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to fund rangers to patrol trails used by hikers, equestrians, climbers, mountain bikers, motorcyclists, snowmobilers, and Nordic and backcountry skiers in the Lost and Chewuch River corridors, the Sawtooth backcountry, Washington Pass, and Loup Loup areas. Rangers will focus on education to promote environmental stewardship, resource protection, and visitor safety. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2558](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Buying Land Along Blue Lake**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1333](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving a Methow Wildlife Area Campground**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1948](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving Big Valley Parking and Trailhead**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1938](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving Silver Nail Lake Access**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1939](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1823](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#). (24-1823)

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



### **Winthrop** **Building the Kay Wagner Riverwalk Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$2,060,000**

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 project 24-1891](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Winthrop** **Improving the Winthrop Rink Infrastructure**

**Grant Awarded: \$1,209,950**

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 for 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 project 24-1921](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

**See more projects in Okanogan County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Pacific County**

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

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1960](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## **Raymond** **Replacing a Skatepark with a Pump Track**

**Grant Awarded: \$317,250**

The City of Raymond will use this grant to remove a worn-out skatepark from a parking lot and build a pump track in 8<sup>th</sup> 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 project 24-1977](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**   **Grant Awarded: \$488,500** **Improving a Willapa Hills Trail Bridge**

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 project 24-1355](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Pacific County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Pend Oreille County**

**See projects in Pend Oreille County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Pierce County**

### **Fife** **Building an Inclusive Playground in Colburn Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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, double its overall footprint, and transform it into a vibrant and inclusive

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



community park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1329](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Gig Harbor Sportsman's Club Renovating a Gig Harbor Shooting Range**

**Grant Awarded: \$27,500**

The Gig Harbor Sportsmen's Club will use this grant to renovate its shooting grounds and storage facilities. The club will replace the roof over its target storage area, replace siding on the north and west walls of the archery range area, and install fencing to improve security and appearance. The club also will buy a storage container. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2279](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

### **Lakewood Developing Edgewater Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$2,730,000**

The City of Lakewood will use two grants 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 project 24-1943](#) and [project 24-1944](#). The grants are from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#) and the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Lakewood Improving Access and Safety on Lake Steilacoom**

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

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to improve safety and boater access on Lake Steilacoom in Edgewater Park, the second largest lake in the city and the only public access to the lake. The City will build a floating dock to support launch use, a picnic shelter, site furnishings, and a restroom. At the south end of the park, it will build a motorized boat launch and parking. In addition, the City will remove invasive plants and plant native plants to improve habitat and stormwater function. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2256](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

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

**Grant Awarded: \$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 on Tacoma's east side. The purchase fills a gap along the western border of the park. Most of the land is

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 project 24-1710](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Mount Rainier Futbol Club**

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

#### **Designing Pickleball Courts in the Bonney Lake Athletic Complex**

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 project 24-2005](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **National Park Service, Mount Rainier National Park**

#### **Maintaining Wonderland Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

Mount Rainier National Park will use this grant to pay for a crew to maintain nearly eighteen miles of hiking trail for two years on the Wonderland Trail, Cowlitz Divide Trail, Silver Falls Loop Trail, and the trail between Box Canyon and Panhandle Gap. Work will include removing fallen trees, clearing overgrown brush, restoring trail surfaces, maintaining drainage structures, reshaping eroded sections of trail, and repairing bridges. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2684](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Orting**

**Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



[more information and photographs of project 24-1930](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Expanding the DeMolay Sandspit Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 Nearn's Point into public ownership. Nearn's 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 project 24-2025](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Peninsula Metropolitan Park Improving Accessibility in Narrows Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1766](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

### **Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Improving Access to the DeMolay Sandspit**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1724](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Pierce County** **Building a Segment of the Pipeline Trail**

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

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 project 24-1772](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Pierce County** **Building Ball Fields in the Sprinker Recreation Center**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1440](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **Pierce County** **Improving Sprinker Sports Fields**

**Grant Awarded: \$500,000**

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to develop two synthetic turf ball fields for youth competition in the Sprinker 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 project 24-1782](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **University Place** **Improving Curran Orchard Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-2030](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

#### **Maintaining Off-Highway Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$244,000**

The Snoqualmie Ranger District will use this grant to maintain twenty-five miles of four-wheel-drive and twenty-one miles of single-track trail in the Evans Creek ORV Park and Campground and twenty-six miles of trail for motorized activity in the State Highway 410 corridor. These trails include iconic trails such as Suntop, Christoff, Divide Colquhuin, Grass Mountain, and Naches Pass Four Wheel Drive Trail. The district will continue to work with local and statewide clubs to maintain these multiuse trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2516](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

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

#### **Redeveloping the Ohop Lake Water Access Area**

**Grant Awarded: \$890,000**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to redevelop the boat launch area at the Ohop Lake Water Access Area in Pierce County. The department will design and build a single boat ramp and boarding float and install a modular concrete restroom. It also will make it easier for people with disabilities to access and use the boat ramp by installing a loading platform and paved parking area, including a paved path from the restroom to the new loading platform. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2288](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

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

#### **Maintaining Elbe Hills State Forest' Off-Road Vehicle Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$243,189**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund an equipment operator to maintain thirteen miles of off-road vehicle trails, one trailhead, and one campground in the Elbe Hills State Forest, in Pierce County. The employee will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, maintain signs and buildings, service restrooms, and maintain campsites. The Elbe Hills trail system is one of very few public four-by-four recreation opportunities open year-round in western Washington. Visit RCO's online Project

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2413](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Lakebay Marina Shoreline**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1625](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

**See more projects in Pierce County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **San Juan County**

**See projects in San Juan County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Skagit County**

### **Anacortes Restoring Heart Lake Shoreline**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1927](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

### **Burlington Building a Basketball Court in Jason Boerner Memorial Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$350,000**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-2485](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **Skagit County**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 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 project 24-1350](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

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

#### **Conserving Cypress Island**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1545](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

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

#### **Improving Pelican Beach**

**Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 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 project 24-1377](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$250,000** **Maintaining Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle Trails**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund an employee to maintain forty miles of off-road vehicle trails and trailheads in the Walker Valley ORV Trails Area, east of Mount Vernon, in Skagit County. The employee will restore trail surfaces, cut overgrown brush, maintain bridges and drainage structures, clean toilets, remove litter, grade and surface parking areas and roads, and maintain signs. The employee also will manage work projects for Washington Conservation Corps crews and volunteers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2373](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$105,666** **Providing Education and Enforcement in the Northwest Region**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to provide a full-time, year-round recreation warden to work across three major recreation areas in northern Puget Sound: Walker Valley Off-Road Vehicle Area, Blanchard Mountain nonmotorized recreation area, and Harry Osborne equestrian area. The areas total more than seventy-three thousand acres and host more than ninety miles of trail. The warden will focus on user safety, education and enforcement, and the development of education materials. Additionally, the warden will supervise volunteers to educate visitors about the recreation rules and caring for the natural resources. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2378](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

**See more projects in Skagit County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## Skamania County

### **U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest    Grant Awarded: \$174,860** **Maintaining Motorized Trails**

The Cowlitz Valley Ranger District will use this grant to maintain about 130 miles of trail for motorized uses. The two-year grant will fund up to a three-person trail crew in the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District and supplement a four-person trail crew in the Mount Adams Ranger District. The crews will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, and restore trail surfaces. Trail crews allow the Forest Service to respond to emergencies and prevent trail closures. The multiuse trails are used for riding motorized vehicles such as motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. As use and demand increase, routine maintenance will contribute to a higher quality trail experience, less resource damage, and better partnerships. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2749](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission    Grant Awarded: \$175,138** **Re-Routing Beacon Rock's Hamilton Mountain Trail**

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 project 24-1334](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Skamania County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## Snohomish County

### **Darrington    Grant Awarded: \$881,250** **Developing Access to the Sauk River**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1925](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Everett**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1328](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Everett**

**Grant Awarded: \$592,800**

#### **Renovating Langus Riverfront Park Boat Launch**

The City of Everett will use this grant to renovate the Langus Riverfront Park boat launch in Snohomish County. The launch is protected by a debris deflector system consisting of timber piles attached to floating timber logs; however, the system is failing and large woody debris is getting through. The City will replace the boarding floats, the old timber piles with steel pilings, and the failing debris deflectors with high-density ones. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2285](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Granite Falls Sportsman's Club**

**Grant Awarded: \$62,405**

#### **Improving a Snohomish County Shooting Club**

The Granite Falls Sportsman's Club will use this grant to upgrade the lighting on the club's five-stand sporting clays course and buy additional clay throwing machines for the sporting clays range near Granite Falls, in Snohomish County. The throwing machines will allow the club to create multiple shooting presentations of varying difficulty on its course, enabling all shooters to develop and improve at their own pace. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2350](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



### Lake Stevens

**Grant Awarded: \$149,155**

#### Developing Part 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 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 project 24-1980](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Lake Stevens

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

#### Planning the Redevelopment of North Cove Marina

The City of Lake Stevens will use this grant to design and permit the redevelopment of North Cove Marina at Lake Stevens, the largest lake in Snohomish County. The City plans to conduct outreach and then modernize the facility and replace the dilapidated docks at the boat launch. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2625](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### Mountlake Terrace

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1746](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Mukilteo

**Grant Awarded: \$620,021**

#### Replacing Boat Launch Floats in Lighthouse Park

The City of Mukilteo will use this grant to replace the north and south floating docks at the Lighthouse Park boat launch in Snohomish County. The boat launch is heavily used, with an average of thirty-five hundred boat launch parking permits issued a year. The existing floating docks have rusted and worn out and have become waterlogged and rotten due to age and exposure. The City will replace them with ones that require limited maintenance. Visit RCO's



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2254](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Port of Everett Renovating the 10th Street Boat Launch**

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

The Port of Everett will use this grant to renovate the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch, the largest boat launch in the state, which serves more than thirty-five thousand boats during peak years. The Port will install boarding floats for twelve launch lanes and upgrade composite siding, cleats, hinges, hinge covers, abutment plates, and bumpers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2272](#). This grant is from the [Boating Facilities Program](#).

### **Snohomish County Expanding Martha Lake Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 recreational 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 project 24-1869](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Snohomish County Improving Accessibility at Flowing Lake Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$500,000**

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 project 24-1341](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

#### **Caring for the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Darrington Ranger District will use this grant to pay for up to four seasonal employees for two years to maintain twenty-one trailheads, multiple day-use areas, and hundreds of dispersed campsites along the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway. The byway annually receives more than 230,000 people visiting the South Fork Stillaguamish and Sauk River valleys. The combination of hard and easy hikes, high mountain lakes, stunning vistas, and unique natural features has long made this a favorite with the Seattle and Everett communities. Visitors enjoy the byway for many activities including hiking, backpacking, picnicking, camping, hunting, fishing, rock climbing, scenic driving, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Mountain Loop Byway stands apart in the region with areas of unpaved mountainside camping and some of the most stunning and remote backcountry experiences one can offer close to cities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2393](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

#### **Maintaining Skykomish Ranger District Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Skykomish Ranger District will use this grant to fund trail crews, contractors, and volunteers to maintain about 148 miles of hiking and stock trails in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Work will include removing fallen trees, clearing overgrown brush, restoring trail surfaces, maintaining drainage structures, repairing bridges, removing boulders, restoring slides, and fixing safety hazards. The crews also will move a heavily eroded segment of Blanca Lake Trail. The trail system traverses the Alpine Lakes, Henry M. Jackson, and Wild Sky Wilderness Areas and adjacent backcountry areas, and includes the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the barrier-free Iron Goat Trail. An estimated two hundred thousand visitors use the trails annually. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2482](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

#### **Maintaining the Darrington Front Country**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Darrington Ranger District will use this grant to hire up to five seasonal trail crew members for two years to work with volunteers and youth groups to maintain 140 miles of hiking trails in the Stillaguamish and Sauk River watersheds. An hour east of Everett, the area provides a spectrum of year-round day hiking opportunities from riverwalks to scenic vistas, as well as rock climbing, fishing, hunting, foraging, picnicking, site seeing, rafting, kayaking, and birdwatching. An estimated 215,000 visitors annually, combined with up to 130 inches of precipitation and sporadic maintenance, has resulted in many of these trails needing major repairs and

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



maintenance. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2392](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**

#### **Providing Field Education and Wilderness Patrols      Grant Awarded: \$188,500**

The Darrington Ranger District will use this grant to fund staff for two summers. The staff will educate visitors in wilderness areas about trail etiquette and Leave-No-Trace techniques for reducing damage from outdoor activities, enforce regulations, and complete projects. Additionally, the rangers will recruit, train, and manage volunteers who perform educational and enforcement contacts. About 275,000 people annually recreate on 390 miles of trail crossing about 560,000 acres, including 290,000 acres in the Glacier Peak, Boulder River, and Henry M. Jackson Wilderness areas. Visitors are hiking, mountaineering, snowshoeing, fishing, horseback riding, and foraging. Current funding is inadequate, and this project will increase the district's ability to reach visitors in the field and begin building a long-term, sustainable volunteer program that encourages involvement in protecting forest resources. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2671](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

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

#### **Funding an Education and Enforcement Steward      Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund one trail steward to patrol the most popular recreation areas in Snohomish County: Reiter Foothills Forest, Forest Glade, Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area, and Sultan basin. The steward will focus on identifying potential health, safety, and resource damage concerns while educating visitors about appropriate use and environmental stewardship principles. Combined, these areas provide several hundred miles of road, about seventy-five miles of trail, seven campgrounds, multiple dispersed campsites, and trailheads on more than fifty thousand acres. These areas provide a wide range of outdoor opportunities, including all-terrain vehicle riding, hiking, backpacking, camping, climbing, horse riding, fishing, gathering, hunting, motorcycling, mountain biking, sightseeing, and snow activities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2504](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

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

#### **Maintaining Reiter Foothills State Forest's Off-Road Vehicle Trails      Grant Awarded: \$230,000**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund a trail steward to coordinate volunteers and youth crews to maintain more than thirty-five miles of trail, four vista sites, three trailheads, and three restrooms in Reiter Foothills State Forest in Snohomish County. The department also will buy small tools and materials needed for trail and trailhead maintenance.

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



Crews will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, and maintain signs, restrooms, and parking areas. Reiter Foothills is a popular area for off-road vehicle riders in King, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2505](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

**See more projects in Snohomish County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

### Spokane County

#### **Spokane** **Grant Awarded: \$500,000** **Beginning Development of Meadowglen Neighborhood Park**

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 project 24-1932](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

#### **Spokane** **Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1897](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

#### **Spokane** **Grant Awarded: \$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](#)

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



[information and photographs of project 24-1775](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Spokane County** **Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

#### **Studying Electrical Infrastructure in the Airway Heights ORV Park**

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to study the electrical infrastructure in the Airway Heights ORV Park and the feasibility of connecting it to the City of Airway Heights' sewer system. This utility study is a necessary step before improving the facility. Shallow bedrock is a common occurrence in the area and, paired with the general lack of topography, studying the feasibility and costs of connecting park facilities to sewer infrastructure is essential to developing site design. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2404](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Spokane Motorsports Complex** **Grant Awarded: \$239,000**

#### **Buying a Bulldozer for Track Maintenance**

The Spokane Motorsports Complex will use this grant to buy a bulldozer to maintain a high-quality track. The bulldozer will replace the one bought twenty years ago, which now costs thousands of dollars to repair each year. The motorsports complex is in the Airway Heights Off Road Vehicle Park, in Spokane County. The facility offers a closed-course competition motocross track that is full of jumps, bumps, and berms. The facility is open for practice four days a week from about April 1 to November 1, providing more days of use per week than any other track in the state. There are also twenty-four racing events hosted there every season. Maintaining this heavily used facility includes daily grading and bi-weekly deep grooming of the track along with regular watering, removing rocks from the track, screening dirt, and repairing track features. Track maintenance is done primarily with a bulldozer and is critical for the safety and enjoyment of the riders who use the course. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2661](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Spokane Valley** **Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1985](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Spokane Valley HUB**

**Grant Awarded: \$810,577**

#### **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 project 24-1893](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1839](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1371](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1859](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$5,209,362 Expanding Riverside State Park**

State Parks will use two grants to buy 753 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 corridor of land preserved for wildlife and recreation along the western edge of Spokane. The land contains upland and shoreline habitats and species, and provides opportunities for recreation in a high-demand area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-1417](#) and [project 24-1779](#). This grant is from Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's [Habitat Conservation Account](#) and its [Outdoor Recreation Account](#).

## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$164,310 Funding Staff to Maintain Riverside State Park's ORV Park**

State Parks will use this grant to fund two employees for two years to maintain the six-hundred-acre Riverside State Park ORV Park near Spokane. Staff will clean restrooms, stock educational materials and fee envelopes, maintain fences and signs, pick up litter, shovel and plow snow, mow, control noxious weeds, maintain equipment, complete special maintenance projects, and work with volunteers. The off-road vehicle park is the only one in a state park and is used heavily by off-road enthusiasts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2496](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

**See more projects in Spokane County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Stevens County**

### **U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest Caring for the Colville National Forest Facilities**

**Grant Awarded: \$150,000**

The Colville National Forest will use this grant to hire seasonal employees to maintain forty-two campgrounds, ninety-two developed recreation sites and trailheads, and 830 dispersed campsites scattered across the forest. The crews will remove trash, clean toilets, identify and remove dangerous trees, treat noxious weeds, repair water systems, and fix or replace picnic tables, fire rings, signs, and information boards. The Colville National Forest lies just fifty miles from Spokane, the second largest city in Washington, and contains parts of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and the International Selkirk Loop, which attract many visitors. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2586](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



See more projects in Stevens County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties.](#)"

## Thurston County

### Lacey

**Grant Awarded: \$500,000**

#### Improving Rainier Vista Park

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 waiting 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 project 24-1532](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Lacey

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1459](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### Tenino

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1496](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** **Grant Awarded: \$387,002** **Restoring Prairie and Oak Restoration at Violet Prairie**

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 project 24-1936](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Request: \$1,008,012** **Conserving Land in Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area**

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 project 24-1556](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$3,213,760** **Conserving the Woodard Bay Area**

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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1549](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$493,770** **Continuing Restoration of South Sound Grassland and Oak Conservation Areas**

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 invasives 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 project 24-1560](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources** **Grant Awarded: \$237,500** **Maintaining Capitol Forest Trails**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund an equipment operator and correctional crews to maintain ninety-four miles of off-road vehicle trail, one campground, and two trailheads in Capitol State Forest, near Olympia. Crews will reroute small sections of trail, install drainage features, cut overgrown brush, harden trail surfaces, maintain bridges and drainage features, install signs, and maintain restrooms, campsites, and parking areas. Recently, the forest averaged more than 755,500 visitors, demonstrating a need for ongoing maintenance to match this use. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2247](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



## **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1457](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Thurston County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Wahkiakum County**

**See projects in Wahkiakum County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## **Whatcom County**

### **Backcountry Medical Guides Creating Safety Materials for Mountain Bikers**

**Grant Awarded: \$5,800**

Backcountry Medical Guides will use this grant to create an educational video and public awareness campaign to improve safety and the user experience for the mountain bike trails on Galbraith Mountain in Bellingham. Funds will be used for developing the overall safety mission and messaging, pre-production storyboarding and script writing, filming, editing and post-production, signs, and ensuring this resource is widely available to the community. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2752](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Lynden Shotgun Club Improving a Whatcom County Shotgun Club**

**Grant Awarded: \$21,110**

The Lynden Shotgun Club will use this grant to renovate the club by replacing the target shed siding and roof, repairing water leaks and structural damage in all seven skeet houses, adding stairs to the skeet house walls, removing peeling paint, and repairing the concrete pad in front of the restroom to allow for wheelchair access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2278](#). This grant is from the [Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Nooksack Nordic Ski Club Maintaining Mount Baker Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$12,750**

The Nooksack Nordic Ski Club will use this grant to groom and maintain fifteen miles of ski trail and five miles of snowshoe trail in the Salmon Ridge trail system near the Mount Baker Ski area off State Route 542. Work will include mowing and vegetation control in the summer, packing snow and setting ski tracks once or twice a week in the winter, removing overgrown brush, installing signs, and cleaning drainage systems to prevent trail erosion. The Salmon Ridge trail system is the only groomed and tracked cross-country ski trail in northwest Washington. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2346](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Maintaining Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Mount Baker Ranger District will use this grant to pay a trail crew and support volunteers to maintain a hundred miles of trail for nonmotorized uses in the Mount Baker Wilderness Area, the Mount Baker National Recreation Area, and the heavily used forests surrounding these areas. These trails range in elevation from one thousand feet to almost seven thousand feet, which creates a variety of challenges. Extremely high use on these sensitive subalpine trails creates ongoing issues for trail surfaces and drainage that need to be addressed annually. The crews will remove fallen trees, clear overgrown brush, restore trail surfaces, maintain drainage structures, and repair boardwalks, bridges, and retaining walls. The trails are used for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and climbing access. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2596](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Maintaining Mount Baker Sno-Parks and Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

State Parks' Winter Recreation Program will use this grant to maintain six Sno-Parks and groom 146 miles of snowmobile trails in and around Mount Baker in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, for two winters. The goal is to maintain safe and usable parking areas and trails for snowmobilers and other winter recreationists. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2430](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Whatcom County Conserving Canyon Creek Forest**

**Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1886](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Whatcom County Conserving the Maple Falls Forest**

**Grant Awarded: \$454,500**

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 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 project 24-1983](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Whatcom County Developing Birch Bay Beach Park**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1979](#). This grant is from the [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account](#).

### **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

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



Management Area managed by the 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 project 24-1573](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Whatcom County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

## Whitman County

### Palouse Improving the Palouse Pool

**Grant Awarded: \$68,404**

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 project 24-2010](#). This grant is from the [Youth Athletic Facilities](#) program.

## Yakima County

### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving the Miracle Mile in the Wenas Watershed

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1331](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).



# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving the Oak Creek Wildlife Viewing Area**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-2021](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources Funding Staff to Maintain Ahtanum State Forest Trails**

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

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to fund two staff to maintain more than forty-two miles of off-road vehicle trail, twelve campgrounds, and four trailheads in the Ahtanum State Forest, thirty miles west of Yakima. The crew will cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, maintain bridges, remove litter, maintain sixteen toilets, maintain campsites, and repair kiosks, picnic tables, fire rings, and signs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2301](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Redeveloping the Buena Pond Water Access Site**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1754](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

**See more projects in Yakima County under the heading "[Project in Multiple Counties](#)."**

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



### Projects in Multiple Counties

Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Island, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Okanogan, Pacific, San Juan, and Yakima Counties

**Washington Trails Association**  
**Maintaining Backcountry Trails Statewide**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Washington Trails Association will use this grant to provide thirty-five hundred volunteers performing more than twenty-four thousand hours of maintenance on 235 miles of backcountry trails. Through multi-day work parties, the crews will remove overgrown brush and downed trees, repair trail surfaces, build retaining walls, and reroute small sections of trail. Two million hikers and backpackers use backcountry trails in Washington annually, making backcountry trails an essential part of the state's trail system. However, these trails do not receive enough maintenance to keep up with visitor demand and the damage caused by extreme winters and fires. Without immediate maintenance, many of these trails are at risk of being lost. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2386](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

Chelan, Clark, Island, Jefferson, King, Kittitas, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

**Washington Trails Association**  
**Providing Youth Crews to Maintain Urban Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Washington Trails Association will use this grant to provide 17,148 hours of youth (ages ten through twenty-five) labor to maintain fifty-five miles of trail during two years. The association believes that hikers will protect the places they love, which means the future of Washington's trails depends on encouraging the next generation to get outside and give back. The youth crews will tackle the state's most pressing trail maintenance issues on hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. The crews will clear overgrown brush, repair trail surfaces, and improve drainage. The project will consist of daylong work parties on urban or front-country trails, in state, county, and national forests and in city parks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2384](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Chelan, Ferry, King, Kittitas, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima Counties** **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance** **Grant Awarded: \$50,000**

#### **Maintaining Eastern Washington Trails**

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will use this grant to provide ten-thousand hours of volunteer labor to maintain more than two hundred miles of trails for nonmotorized uses and more than 120 miles for motorized uses at recreation sites throughout eastern Washington important to mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, motorcyclists, and others. The volunteers will respond to emergency repairs needed because of fires and storms. The crews also prepare trails for early season openings and catch up on maintenance backlogs. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2353](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Chelan and King Counties**

#### **Mountains to Sound Greenway** **Grant Awarded: \$75,000** **Maintaining the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails**

The Greenway Trust will use this grant to maintain seventy miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for two years in the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area. The 1.5 million-acre greenway stretches from Puget Sound across the Cascade Mountains to central Washington and includes one thousand miles of some of the most popular trails in the state. Crews will clear downed trees and overgrown brush, replace signs, and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures in the Issaquah Alps (Cougar, Squak, Tiger, and Rattlesnake Mountains), destinations in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, along the Pacific Crest Trail, in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and on other popular hiking trails along the Interstate 90 corridor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2509](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Chelan, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pend Orielle, Pierce, Skagit,** **Skamania, Stevens, and Yakima Counties**

#### **Northwest Motorcycle Association** **Grant Awarded: \$75,000** **Completing Heavy Maintenance on Motorcycle Trails Statewide**

The Northwest Motorcycle Association will use this grant to support crews to complete heavy maintenance projects on about eighteen hundred miles of multiuse, motorized, single-track trails on public lands across Washington State. The association will focus on water management, restoration of trail surfaces, and repairs of structures such as bridges, turnpikes, and puncheons. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2731](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



---

### **Northwest Motorcycle Association Providing a Motorcycle Education Program**

**Grant Awarded: \$139,150**

The Northwest Motorcycle Association will use this grant to support its educational program for two years. The association will offer workshops to build the skills of motorcyclists, educate riders about how to minimize their impact on the environment, and teach trail etiquette. The association also will offer trail maintenance workshops and chainsaw training classes for federal certification. Riders who complete the program may become trail ambassadors. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more [information and photographs of project 24-2737](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Northwest Motorcycle Association Funding Statewide Maintenance of Motorcycle Trails**

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

The Northwest Motorcycle Association will use this grant to support work crews to maintain about eighteen hundred miles of multiuse, single-track trail for motorized activities on public lands across Washington State. The association's Moto-Volunteer Trail Crew and Heavy Maintenance Crew will remove fallen trees, cut overgrown brush, repair bridges and drainage structures, restore trail surfaces, and maintain signs. Completing this work is essential to avoid and correct harm to trails, the surrounding environment, and user satisfaction. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2730](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Clallam, Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, and Snohomish Counties**

#### **Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Maintaining Western Washington Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will use this grant to engage volunteers in twenty thousand hours of maintenance on more than 350 miles of trails that serve mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, and motorized activities in western Washington. Volunteers will remove downed trees, clear overgrown brush, and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2352](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### **Clallam, Ferry, Okanogan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties**

#### **Pacific Northwest Trail Association Supporting Stewardship of the Pacific Northwest Trail**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association will use this grant to hire trail crews and engage volunteers from local communities to maintain the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Every

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



year, wildfires damage some trail sections, watersheds need improvement, and bridges need to be built to maintain access for the ever-increasing number of outdoor enthusiasts. This project will address the maintenance backlog on hundreds of miles of trail used for hiking, horseback riding, cycling, hunting, and more. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2478](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### Clallam, Jefferson, and Kittitas Counties

#### **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Restoring and Maintaining Olympic Peninsula Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$73,776**

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington will use this grant to provide volunteer labor to rehabilitate about 580 miles of trail in the Olympic Peninsula. This region gets more than three hundred inches of rain annually and vegetation on the peninsula grows extremely fast, which can create unsafe trails, (such as those with dangerous tread, unwanted erosion, failing foot logs, damaged drainage structures, missing signs, unclear corridors, and downed trees). Crews will remove downed trees, clear overgrown brush, repair trail surfaces and drainage structures, and replace damaged or missing trail signage. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2261](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### Clark, Cowlitz, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Pierce, Skamania, Spokane, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties

#### **Washington Trails Association Maintaining Front Country Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Washington Trails Association will use this grant to provide thirty-five hundred volunteers to perform nearly thirty-one thousand hours of maintenance on 127 miles of backpacking, hiking, and equestrian trails, most of which are near the major urban areas of Puget Sound, Vancouver, and Spokane. Crews will remove overgrown brush and downed trees and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures. These front country trails are suffering from overuse, which has created significant trail maintenance backlogs on Washington's most popular trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2385](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

### Clark and Snohomish Counties

#### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Awarded: \$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

# Grants Awarded

## 2023-2025



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 project 24-1788](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

### **Clark and Thurston Counties**

#### **Washington State Department of Natural Resources      Grant Awarded: \$193,150** **Maintaining Capitol and Yacolt Burn State Forests**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain twelve campgrounds, eighteen trailheads, fifty-three restrooms, and three miles of trail, and facilities in the Capitol and Yacolt Burn State Forests near Olympia and Vancouver, respectively, as well as other recreation facilities in the department's Pacific Cascade Region. Crews will clean restrooms, repair facilities, pump vault toilets, remove litter, and maintain the McLane Creek interpretive nature trails. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2244](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Clark and Wahkiakum Counties**

#### **Washington Department of Natural Resources      Grant Awarded: \$198,100** **Maintaining Off-Road Vehicle Trails in the Pacific Cascade Region**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain thirty-two miles of off-road vehicle trails and trailheads in the Yacolt Burn State Forest, east of Vancouver, and on the Elochoman landscape, west of Longview. The grant will fund one employee and some Washington Conservation Corps crews to cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, repair trail surfaces, reroute small sections of trail, maintain bridges and signs, remove litter, and repair restrooms. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2383](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

### **Columbia, Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, and Snohomish Counties**

#### **Back Country Horsemen of Washington      Grant Awarded: \$74,950** **Maintaining Backcountry Trails on National Forest Lands**

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington will use this grant to clear and maintain about 230 miles of backcountry trails in five national forests across the state. Crews will remove downed trees, clear overgrown brush, repair trail surfaces and drainage structures, and replace damaged or missing trail signs. Addressing trail hazards will be the highest priority to ensure safe access for all users. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2277](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## Island and Jefferson County

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission   Grant Awarded: \$229,880** **Restoring Sand-verbena Moth Habitat**

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 project 24-1767](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## King, Kittitas, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties

### **Washington Trails Association   Grant Awarded: \$10,000** **Training Trailhead Ambassadors**

The Washington Trails Association will use this grant to support its Trailhead Ambassador Program. These ambassadors teach visitors about how to protect public lands in the Cle Elum and Methow Ranger Districts and along the Mountain Loop Highway. Trailhead ambassadors aim to inspire the next generation of public land stewards and reduce the damage caused by crowds at popular trails and trailheads. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2461](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

## King and Snohomish Counties

### **U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** **Maintaining Highway 2 Trails and Campsites   Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Skykomish Ranger District will use the grant to fund a crew to maintain recreation facilities in King and Snohomish Counties. The crew will clean twelve vault toilets, pick up trash, clean campsites, and maintain twenty-five trailheads. There are nearly three hundred dispersed campsites that serve more than two hundred thousand hikers, equestrians, campers, climbers, kayakers, rafters, anglers, and hunters. This project will prevent further damage to sensitive streamside areas, wetlands, and stream habitats while providing a safe recreational experience for the public. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2681](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).



# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

## Kittitas, Lewis, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties

### **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Maintaining Endangered Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington will use this grant to clear and maintain 355 miles of trails on public lands across the state. Crews will remove downed trees, clear overgrown brush, and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures. Addressing trail hazards will be the highest priority to ensure safe access for all users. The volunteers will provide pack support to partner groups. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2276](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

## Kittitas and Yakima Counties

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Funding a Maintenance Crew for Naches Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$200,000**

The Naches Ranger District will use this grant to maintain about 90 percent of its 290 miles of motorcycle and four-wheel-drive trails in Kittitas and Yakima Counties in two years. A four-person trail crew will cut overgrown brush, repair drainage structures, repair trail surfaces, and maintain signs. Regular maintenance reduces the need for costly reconstruction projects. The district's motorized trail system receives extensive use from an estimated forty-five thousand recreationists each year. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2712](#). This grant is from the [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicles Program](#).

## Klickitat and Skamania Counties

### **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

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



[more information and photographs of project 24-1997](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Klickitat and Yakima County**

### **Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Klickitat County Forests**

**Grant Awarded: \$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 project 24-1783](#). This grant is from the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#).

## **Okanogan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties**

### **U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Maintaining Trails in the Methow Valley**

**Grant Awarded: \$74,973**

The Methow Valley Ranger District will use this grant to maintain 166 miles of summer trails in Skagit, Okanogan, and Whatcom Counties. Crews will remove downed trees and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures. The work will focus on portions of the Lake Chelan Sawtooth and Pasayten Wilderness areas and the North Cascades Scenic Highway corridor. The trail system is a significant draw for recreationists and benefits the rural communities' businesses, supporting up to 30 percent of the jobs in one county. The trail system is used by hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2514](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).

## **Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties**

### **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grooming Selkirk Snowmobile Trails**

**Grant Awarded: \$75,000**

State Parks will use this grant to plow snow at seven Sno-Parks and groom eighty-seven hundred miles of snowmobile trails in the Colville National Forest and on Mount Spokane. Work will include plowing snow at parking lots and access roads, clearing trails of debris, and moving fallen trees. The goal is to maintain safe and usable parking areas and trails for snowmobilers.

# Grants Awarded 2023-2025



---

and other winter recreationists. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of project 24-2432](#). This grant is from the [Recreational Trails Program](#).