WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Agenda
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Regular Meeting

November 18-19, 2015
Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

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

Public Comment: If you wish to comment at the meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person. You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, at the address above or at wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations: If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at 360/725-3943 or TDD 360/902-1996

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order** *Chair*
- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda

9:05 a.m. **1. Consent Calendar** *(Decision)* *Chair*
A. Volunteer Recognition for Advisory Committees
Resolution 2015-20

9:10 a.m. **2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes** – September 16-17, 2015 *Chair*

9:15 a.m. **3. Director's Report** *(Briefing)*
- Director's Report *Kaleen Cottingham*
- Legislative, Budget, and Policy Update *Wendy Brown*
- Grant Management Report *Marguerite Austin*
  - Featured Projects *Dan Haws*
- Fiscal Report *(written only)*
- Performance Report *(written only)*

9:45 a.m. **4. State Agency Partner Reports**
- Department of Natural Resources *Jed Herman*
- State Parks and Recreation Commission *Peter Herzog*
- Department of Fish and Wildlife *Joe Stohr*

10:00 a.m. **General Public Comment** for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. *Chair*

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

10:05 a.m. **5. Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Awards** *Kyle Guzlas*

Public comment: Please limit comments to three minutes.
Resolution 2015-21

10:25 a.m.	**6.**	**Land and Water Conservation Fund Legacy Program Awards** **Public comment:** Please limit comments to three minutes. Resolution 2015-22	*Marguerite Austin*
10:45 a.m.		**BREAK**	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSIONS

11:00 a.m.	**7.**	**Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group: Overview & Current Status**	*Wendy Brown* *Clay Sprague* *Steve Hahn*
11:45 a.m.		**LUNCH BREAK / Executive Session for Director Performance Evaluation** *(lunch provided for board members in the executive session)*	*Natural Resources Building, Room 271*
1:00 p.m.	**8.**	**Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee: Summary of Recent Reports and New Assignment Relating to Public Lands**	*Rebecca Connolly* *Eric Thomas*
1:30 p.m.	**9.**	**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Review Update**	*Wendy Brown*
2:00 p.m.	**10.**	**Proposed Changes to the Grant Program Evaluation Criteria for 2016**	*Leslie Connelly* *Adam Cole*
3:00 p.m.		**BREAK**	

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

3:15 p.m.	**11.**	**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria and Policies** **Public comment:** Please limit comments to three minutes. Resolution 2015-23	*Leslie Connelly*
4:00 p.m.	**12.**	**Changes to the Grant Programs for 2015-17** **Public comment:** Please limit comments to three minutes. Resolution 2015-24	*Leslie Connelly*
4:45 p.m.		**ADJOURN FOR THE DAY**	

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

OPENING

9:00 a.m.	**Call to Order** • Roll Call and Determination of Quorum	*Chair*

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSIONS

9:05 a.m.	**13. Communications Plan Update**	*Susan Zemek*
9:35 a.m.	**14. Revising the Board's Strategic Plan and Performance Measures: Continued Board Member Discussion**	*Scott Robinson*
10:35 a.m.	**BREAK**	
10:50 a.m.	**15. Recreation and Conservation Planning Next Steps**	*Leslie Connelly*
11:20 a.m.	**16. Scoping of Climate Change Policy**	*Meg O'Leary*
12:00 p.m.	**LUNCH**	
1:00 p.m.	**17. Compliance**	
	A. Overview of Conversion and Allowable Use Policies	*Myra Barker*
	B. Vancouver Water Works Park (RCO #84-9015D) Resolution 2015-25	*Myra Barker*
	C. Mountlake Terrace Jack Long Park (RCO #68-096A, #68-099D) Resolution 2015-26	*Myra Barker*
	D. Clark County Lewis River Greenway (RCO #96-074A)	*Myra Barker*
	E. City of Spokane Riverfront Park Combined Sewer Overflow (RCO #72-040)	*Kyle Guzlas*
	Public comment to follow each briefing: Please limit comments to three minutes.	
3:30 p.m.	**ADJOURN**	

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED AGENDA & ACTIONS

September 16-17, 2015

Agenda Items

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
1. Approval of Meeting Minutes A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – June 24-25, 2015	Motion to amend the June 24-25, 2015 meeting minutes: APPROVED Resolution 2015-18 Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested
2. Director's Report A. 2016 Board Meeting Calendar	Discussion	The board agreed to the following 2016 meeting dates: • February 9-10 (regular) • April 27-28 (regular) • July 13-14 (combined budget and travel) • October 26-27 (regular)
B. Director's Report • Biennial Workplan Overview • Grant Management Report • Fiscal Report *(written only)* • Performance Report *(written only)*	Briefing	
C. Legislative, Budget, and Policy Update • Supplemental Budget Request	Briefing	The board requested an update from the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group at the next regular meeting.
3. State Agency Partner Reports	Briefing	No follow up action requested
4. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Legacy Program Nationwide Competition	Resolution 2015-19, amended Decision: APPROVED	Staff will continue inform the board of activities between now and the November meeting, and provide an update at that time. If NPS releases the notice and applications are submitted, a public comment period will be scheduled as well.

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Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
5. Revised Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria and Policies	Briefing	Staff will work to revise the recommendations based on the board's direction, open a public comment period, and bring final recommendations for board decision to the November meeting.
6. Overview of Potential Changes to the Grant Programs and Criteria for 2015-17	Briefing	No follow up action requested
7. Overview of Changes to the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program	Briefing	After the public comment period, staff will bring options for board decision to a future meeting.
8. Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules	Briefing	Staff will work to incorporate the board's direction and report back at a future meeting.
9. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Review – Opportunity for the Board to Provide Input	Discussion	Staff will continue to keep the board apprised of the progress of the review process.
10. Board Discussion on Scope of Recreation and Conservation Policy Planning	Discussion	Staff will prepare a draft scope of work and detailed budget based on the direction of the board and present it at the November meeting

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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2015
Place: Spokane, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Peter Herzog	Designee, State Parks & Recreation Commission
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Spanel called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Staff called roll and determined a quorum. Member Herman and Member Deller were excused.

Chair Spanel asked the board to review and approve the agenda. Member Stohr moved to approve the agenda; Member Willhite seconded. The motion carried.

Item 1: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Spanel called for a motion to approve the June 24-25, 2015 meeting minutes. Member Willhite moved to approve the minutes; Member Stohr seconded. Member Mayer shared several edits to the minutes, which the board reviewed and accepted. The board approved the June 24-25, 2015 board meeting minutes.

> **Resolution 2015-18**
> **Moved by:** Member Willhite
> **Seconded by:** Member Stohr
> **Resolution:** APPROVED

Item 2: Director's Report

The board discussed the meeting calendar for 2016, specifically the adjustment of the budget and travel meetings during the summer. The board settled on July 13-14, 2016 for combined travel/budget meeting.

Director Kaleen Cottingham provided a brief summary of the items highlighted in the board materials, including an update on the latest Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) stakeholder review process, and her recent attendance at a meeting of the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) in South Carolina.

Director Cottingham brought the board's attention to the correspondence between herself and Senator Jim Honeyford regarding RCO Project 14-1097A, included in the board materials. Chair Spanel shared her support of the response's approach. If further correspondence is needed, Director Cottingham will communicate with the board.

Director Cottingham shared several recent RCO staff changes. Karl Jacobs was promoted to the Senior Outdoor Grants Manager (OGM) in the Recreation and Conservation Section. Adam Cole, was selected as a new policy specialist in September. Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior OGM and Cultural Resources Specialist will shift from being a part of the Recreation and Conservation Section and will report directly to the Deputy Director on cultural resources and other special agency projects like the No Child Left Inside Grant program. Karen Edwards has joined RCO from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. There is still one more OGM position to fill. In the fiscal section, Brent Hedden, RCO's chief accountant, accepted a promotion at the Department of Social and Health Services, and the agency is recruiting to fill that position. Kiko Freeman, one of RCO's fiscal analysts, moved to Louisiana and was replaced by Sabrina Subia, who started in July. We have also hired a new OGM in the Salmon Section, Josh Lambert.

Director Cottingham shared that she meets quarterly with many stakeholder groups (boaters, land trusts, etc.). RCO recently created a new stakeholder group focused on trails. At the first meeting, twelve trail organizations discussed meeting with the director and RCO staff on motorized and non-motorized trail issues. They decided to meet twice a year.

Biennial Work plan Overview: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the agency's biennial work plan, highlighting the implementation of the federal Omni-Circular, new grant programs,

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legislative assignments, policy development, board priorities, and IT enhancements. IT enhancements include moving RCO servers to the cloud, improving PRISM performance, the second phase of e-billing, a new mapping solution for staff, and developing an electronic technical review and evaluation module and scoring solution.

Member Willhite asked about the intended "Cloud" hosting that RCO is considering. Both Director Cottingham and Deputy Robinson confirmed that it will be hosted by Amazon, and perhaps hosted by a more secure authority at a later time.

Member Willhite asked if field staff will be able to sync in real time with internal agency programs. Deputy Robinson stated staff primarily do most of their work in the office, such as review applications, rather than in the field. However PRISM is available to staff from anywhere they have access to Wi-Fi.

Grant Management Report: Marguerite Austin, RCO Section Manager, reminded the board that at the June meeting the grant programs' ranked lists were approved and authority delegated to the director to award funding to the approved projects, contingent on approval of a 2015-17 Capital Budget and approval of federal funding authority for federal programs. Director Cottingham has since awarded 219 grants in 8 grant programs and 61 grants in the new RCO Recreation Grants Program.

Ms. Austin highlighted the work of RCO's Natural Resource Policy Specialist, Leslie Connelly, in modifying RCO project agreements. In collaboration with RCO's assistant attorney general, Ms. Connelly updated three project agreements to ensure incorporation of the new requirements related to the new federal Omni-Circular. One agreement is for board programs, the second for funding U.S. Forest Service projects, and the third is for line-item appropriations and RCO projects that do not go through the board.

Member Mayer asked Ms. Austin to describe the differences that may occur due to the Legislative appropriations outside the program. Ms. Austin explained that not many changes will occur at the grant applicant level. The primary difference is that certain kinds of project changes the director will have authority to approve, however, plans are to use existing policies for the projects awarded RCO Recreation Grants.

Member Mayer commented on the specific rules of the Outdoor Recreation Account (ORA), asking about the influence on conversions and funding in excess of project costs, where no rules are in place. Director Cottingham explained that there is no authority to spend returned funds or funds not appropriated to specific projects in the new RCO Recreation Grants category, but the agency may seek authority in the future. We will address that issue as we develop our budget requests for the 2017-2019 biennium. Ms. Austin explained that some projects were fully funded or use match funds, and seeking authority to spend the funds will support those projects; also, in contracts sponsors agree to follow the same rules, as the ORA does not speak directly to conversions.

Member Willhite asked about the unobligated $4 million in funds and how the agency intends to approach the Legislature, and suggested building support to seek spending authority. Director Cottingham replied that the decision has not been made at this time and it's perhaps best to wait until next year as we develop our budget requests for the 2017-2019 biennium.

Member Mayer asked if the director will seek board direction; Director Cottingham confirmed this is part of the usual summer budget meeting of the board.

Legislative and Budget Update: Wendy Brown provided an overview of the recent legislative session, as well as a summary of the operating and capital budgets as they affect RCO. A new grant program that the agency will manage in conjunction with State Parks – *No Child Left Inside* – was funded at $1 million. In

addition, funding was set aside to support a new recreation advisor position in the Governor's Office. Other new programs include the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative, the Chehalis Catastrophic Flood Relief Program, and the Recreation Grant Program.

The Legislature included a proviso for a review of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) via a stakeholder process. The purpose is to examine potential statutory revisions. Another proviso was for the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program to require grant recipients to provide accommodations for low-income families, such as fee waivers and scholarships.

In addition to the RCO WWRP proviso, the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee (JLARC) was directed to conduct a review of recreation and conservation programs in place since 1990, with the goal of examining land acquisitions across the state in all programs as well as regulations for land protection in various programs (e.g., hydrologic practice permits, forest practices, forest management, etc.). RCO anticipates providing information to support this effort.

Ms. Brown reported that during the 2016 supplemental budget session, or short session, RCO intends to submit three decision packages: reauthorization of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), reauthorization of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group), and potential statutory changes to the WWRP that may result from the facilitated stakeholder review process currently underway (see Item 3 of the board materials for decision package details).

During the 2015 legislative session, the Legislature passed a transportation revenue package that increased the gas tax by 7 cents per gallon. As a result, more money will be deposited into the accounts that fund the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) and the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program. RCO will submit a capital budget request seeking spending authority to use the increased funds, anticipating about $3.5M more for BFP and $1.3M more for NOVA. RCO plans to use this additional money to continue to fund projects on the lists approved by the board in June 2015.

Member Mayer requested information about the operations of the Lands Group, stating that according to statute they must seek input from this board prior to sunset. Ms. Brown shared that the intent is to bring the request to the Legislature and include a presentation at the next board meeting in November.

Member Willhite asked if a plan exists to coordinate any support or management with other agencies in response to this summer's wildfires. Director Cottingham explained that the board has minimal discretion to move allocated funds, but staff participate in support committees. Member Willhite encouraged these issues be part of the board's approach to grant policy and management. Ms. Austin explained that some time extensions were granted due to fires; staff will propose to move grant cycle later in the year in 2016 as staff are out working on fires in summer months and cause consistently tight timelines. Member Bloomfield suggested potential inclusion at the policy level, specifically referencing the WWRP Trails Category and consideration of trails as fire suppression mechanisms. She added that merging recreational areas with fire management practices may enhance support in statewide efforts.

Chair Spanel asked for motion to support agency submission of the supplemental budget. Member Willhite made a motion; Member Stohr seconded. Motion carried.

Item 3: State Agency Partner Reports

Washington State Parks: Member Herzog provided an update regarding the budget for State Parks. Revenues for 2013-15 biennium increased greatly. The reason for the increase is still unclear, but is important as it may support the future budget requests. He described the budget outcomes, including opportunities to increase staff, support programs and facility management. Member Herzog outlined the

increasing Discover Pass revenues and related projections. In terms of policy, State Parks is looking to restore or convert the Saint Edwards Seminary in Kenmore and is considering a potential land exchange on Lake Washington; both projects would involve a Land and Water Conversion Fund conversion, and thus may come before the board at a later time.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Stohr provided an update on behalf of WDFW. Despite controversial issues (land acquisition, wolves, fish hatcheries, enforcement roles), the agency's operation and capital budgets increased, including a substantial general fund addition. The agency received funding for several policy requests. With a new director in place and the legislative session complete, the agency is seeking input on policy changes that deal with public relevancy and transparency in preparation for the next session. Workshops are scheduled across the state to provide opportunity for public comment as part of Washington's Wild Future.

Member Willhite asked Member Stohr to provide information about the Lands 20/20 Program progress in future partner reports. He then asked Member Herzog about the economic impact to State Parks' information being put on online for public access. Member Herzog stated that there has been an impact, but the agency has a public relations rollout plan. Member Stohr added that he would make copies of comments sent to the coalition for distribution.

Member Willhite asked whether the McDonald property on Lake Washington was targeted for traditional park development or open space development. Member Herzog replied that the property has an informal trail for public use, but no additional plans other than opportunities for formalized shoreline activity (swimming, etc.). Director Cottingham added the McDonald property is the only undeveloped stretch of land on Lake Washington.

General Public Comment: No public comment was received.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 4: LWCF: Legacy Program Nationwide Competition

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager stated that in 2014 the National Park Service (NPS) announced plans for a new national competitive grant program. The Legacy Program is intended to fund the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Ms. Austin described the program policies, eligibility criteria, priorities and funding. She reminded the board that because of the tight timeline, last year the board delegated authority to the director to select and submit projects for the national competition. Following review by the advisory committee, the director selected the top two projects for submittal to NPS. Unfortunately, the projects submitted did not receive funding.

NPS will be accepting grant applications for another national competition in 2015. RCO staff wants to ensure applicants from the State of Washington have an opportunity to participate in this competition. Because the timeline is unknown, staff is asking the board to delegate authority to the director to select and submit projects for the national completion. Staff will ensure the board is aware of the projects and any decisions made should the NPS notice not arrive in time for the next regular meeting. The board discussed an amendment to the resolution, which includes informing the board of any decisions made.

Member Stohr asked about potential outcomes due to project competitions. Ms. Austin explained that new discussions with potential sponsors have not been held; however, last year there was strong interest from Seattle and Tacoma. Staff intend to work with local governments to submit proposals. Member Stohr addressed the need for public comment; Ms. Austin explained that at the November meeting an update

would be provided and at that time the public would be invited to comment. All is dependent upon the timing of NPS's notice of the federal funding opportunity.

Resolution 2015-19 – As Amended
Moved by: Member Mayer
Seconded by: Member Bloomfield
Resolution: APPROVED

Item 5: Review of Revised Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, provided an update on the feedback from the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee and from the Department of Revenue. Additionally, since writing the board memo for this meeting, new staff recommendations have been drafted for board consideration. She requested board direction on how to address the recent feedback and recommendations.

Ms. Connelly described the policies and criteria for each item, providing background, a summary of the feedback received, the staff recommendation provided for board direction, and the pros and cons of each item.

Member Mayer asked for the definition of "prime farmland." Ms. Connelly explained the US Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland based on soil types. Prime farmland was part of the criteria presented in June but it is not in the criteria now.

Member Mayer asked about the term "property owner" versus "land owner" and why family is included in the expanded definition. Ms. Connelly explained that property owner and land owner mean the same thing; however, RCO could more clearly define the reference to "family member" in the definition of land owner. Ms. Connelly agreed that "property owner" could be the term to use, and that the family definition is largely driven by farm operations in practice. Family inclusion allows for parcels to be non-contiguous that are operated as a single unit. Director Cottingham explained that this policy would support multiple parcels under different ownership to be included in one grant application if they are contiguous. Member Mayer expressed concerns about missing the program intent by not being inclusive in the definitions.

Member Stohr asked about the complications in scoring that led to the recommendation for applications with more than one parcel. Ms. Connelly shared a project example, noting that the large grant projects had elements that were difficult to separate for scoring and appropriate funding.

Regarding the policy on impervious surface limits, Director Cottingham noted that the downside of aligning with the NRCS standards is that they change frequently, and would require the board to address new policies just as frequently if authority is not granted to the director to apply the NRCS standards on projects that have NRCS as match.

Member Bloomfield expressed a pre-disposition to allowing public access to lands funded by state dollars and programs. The term "trail" may be a non-inclusive term that is not accounting for diverse means of public access. She recommended a reframe of the policy away from the term "trail" to "public access." She believes it is critical that this be put out for public comment, and go to other organizations besides the Washington Association of Land Trusts (WALT). She stated that impervious surface should be reframed as well, as it clouds the definitions of public access and trails.

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Member Herzog asked about existing trails: if a conservation easement is considered, is this a disadvantage? Ms. Connelly explained that a pre-existing trail would remain despite an additional farmland easement (since the trail existed first).

Member Willhite agreed with Member Bloomfield about highlighting public access when public funds are used, as well as each being put out for public comment with the feedback from the advisory committee.

Chair Spanel asked about public access and whether it should be defined. The board discussed the issues involved with requiring, incentivizing, or promoting public access in this grant program. Considerations to keep in mind include the landowner perspective, implications for trail connectivity, and public engagement in policy development.

Chair Spanel asked about the revision of the first question in the evaluation criteria. Ms. Connelly confirmed that many elements are removed from the version the board saw in June and the focus is on equal ground for consideration and scoring of farmland versus rangeland. Member Bloomfield agreed that this correction is important, but recommended some additional tweaks to the wording so that it accounts for a variety of crops (e.g., dry land for wheat) and range needs. Member Mayer also agreed with the Chair; however, he disagreed with the decrease of the community values aspect as it does not account for multiple needs and interests. Ms. Connelly explained how the point adjustments would be made to account for different elements.

Member Stohr agreed with Member Bloomfield regarding crop needs and adjusting the language to account for this issue, noting that water availability rights could be difficult to analyze. Chair Spanel read a comment received via email from Member Herman, who is in favor of not awarding point values for public access.

The board discussed the options for adjusting the scoring of community values and stewardship, including benefits and consequences. Ms. Connelly proposed a new timeline to accomplish the work described. Next steps include a public comment period and revising the policies based on comments received. The final revisions will be brought to the November 18-19 meeting for board decision.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Break: 10:52 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Board Business: Briefings & Discussions

Item 6: Overview of Potential Changes to the Grant Programs and Criteria for 2015-17

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, summarized the policies and criteria brought before the board for direction. For each policy or criteria item, Ms. Connelly provided background, a summary of the feedback received, the staff recommendation provided for board direction, and the pros and cons of each item.

Control and Tenure Policy

The board discussed state and sponsor perspectives and potential impacts. Member Bloomfield recommended an amount threshold as a consideration and to allow for flexibility in the timeline for complex projects. Director Cottingham added that control and tenure has been an issue for a long time and there is desire to move away from the normal 25-year lease.

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Chair Spanel read a comment from Member Herman that suggested developing a board policy for shorter (control and tenure) timeframes. Member Willhite stated that a standard policy would likely be insufficient, and building in flexibility is important, especially in land acquisitions for public purposes. Director Cottingham agreed, but explained that the policy is more relevant to development projects.

Member Mayer clarified that inequity is a larger issue, and it is important to ensure that the investments made today are not undone in the future. He recommended that those projects requiring a longer exception come before the board for consideration.

Trailerable Boats

The board discussed the potential options presented by staff. Member Herzog asked for clarification regarding the facility use for trailerable boats. Ms. Connelly explained that facilities exclusively designed for use by only large boats would not receive these points in the evaluation process.

Member Mayer was concerned about equity for large versus small vessels, specifically where investments are made to ensure keeping both boat types. Ms. Connelly described the BIG program's ways to balance investment and use. Chair Spanel recommended option 2.

Multi-Site Acquisition Strategy for WWRP Habitat Categories

Member Stohr suggested an approach where there is coordination with local authorities versus estimation of needs. Member Willhite agreed with an approach that includes more consultation with the local agencies. The board discussed maintaining the multi-site acquisition strategy policy and adding a policy on local jurisdiction to the scope change policy to allow for more coordination. The majority of the board agreed that the policy change on scope changes should be brought for public comment.

Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails

In response to board questions, Ms. Connelly explained that this issue mainly impacts the ALEA Program and WWRP, while NOVA and RTP are not as significantly impacted. LWCF is more complex, and the recommendation does not include this program. Member Bloomfield and Member Willhite agreed with the staff recommendation. Member Mayer expressed concerns about the potential for additional problems to arise from the second option. After discussing the options further, the majority favored option two. Ms. Connelly shared that with this direction she would open the recommendations for public comments and gather feedback.

Invasive Species Prevention

Member Mayer questioned the rationale behind implementing policy regarding invasive species, considering that the main focus is sustainability. Member Bloomfield suggested that the policy is less a requirement, and more of an opportunity to count as an eligible cost. Member Willhite and Chair Spanel agreed with these ideas.

The board discussed the options for including this as a policy statement, best management practice to be aware of, or simply an advisory statement. The board directed Ms. Connelly to include it as an eligible cost, but public comment on this issue is not necessary.

Ms. Connelly reminded the board that Attachment B of Item 6 in the board materials is the full list of potential changes that will likely come before the board in future meetings. For the identified policies at this meeting, next steps include a public comment period and revising the policies based on comments received. The final revisions will be brought to the November 18-19 meeting for board decision.

Lunch 12:15 – 12:30 (Break to get lunch and return to meeting)

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Item 7: Overview of Changes to the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager, presented an overview of the new federal rules and the recommended changes to the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. She provided an overview of the program, outlined policy issues, and options for board consideration. There were eight (out of nine) federal rule changes shared with the board that do not require any action. Three policy topics were then covered for which staff requested board direction. Details of each change and policy options are in the board materials, Item 7.

The board briefly discussed three of the changes: federal funding availability, dredging, and maintenance. Ms. Austin clarified that two of these changes did not require board action. However, the board must decide whether or not BIG funds will be used for maintenance activities.

Ms. Austin proceeded to present the three policy items with various options for the board to consider. She also requested that the board recommend whether each should be opened for public comment.

BIG Funding – Tier 1

Ms. Austin summarized the four funding options outlined in the board materials, explaining that the options account for scenarios that support full use of grant funds. After providing scenario examples and some board discussion of which options provide the most funding for projects, optimizing the use of federal funds, and administrative costs, the board narrowed the preferred options to numbers 3 and 4. Member Mayer expressed support for maximum funds being applied to projects on the ground, and those straying from that direct application would need more board oversight.

BIG Funding – Tier 2

Ms. Austin summarized the options presented for board consideration, explaining how these policies may interact with Tier 1. Chair Spanel clarified that costs not covered in the program administrative costs are subsidized or paid for through another program; Ms. Austin confirmed. Chair Spanel stated this is an important consideration when looking at programs – those that are able to pay for themselves are of great interest. The board discussed potential impacts from indirect rates and limits to indirect rates that may trigger a project coming before the board, and also that projects put forth by RCO should go through the regular application process (app development, etc.).

BIG Long-term Compliance

Ms. Austin summarized three options for board consideration (two were outlined in the board materials). The board discussed. Initially, Member Herzog, Member Willhite, and Member Mayer agreed on option 1, but it seemed to be lacking some flexibility. Based on the examples and discussion of the board, Ms. Austin stated that option 2 may meet the desired needs. She suggested opening option 1 and 2 for public comment, and providing examples for clarification on the differences between the two; the majority of the board agreed with this approach.

Evaluation criteria for Tier 1 – State Grants.

Ms. Austin presented two options, with explanation of the differences between the categories and criteria and the number of points awarded for each. The board discussed the evaluation criteria, centering on the point values of each question and those that must remain due to state requirements (questions 6 and 5, respectively). Ms. Austin will confirm where discretion may be permitted while remaining consistent with the federal requirements. Member Mayer recommended option 2 for public comment; the majority of the board expressed general agreement.

Ms. Austin summarized next steps to modify the proposal, with a public comment period in fall and options for decision at the November 2015 meeting.

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Board Business: Briefings & Discussions

Item 9: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Review – Opportunity for the Board to Provide Feedback to the Stakeholder Process

**Item 9 was presented out of order to allow for facilitator participation.*

Director Cottingham provided a brief overview of the purpose and process for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) review. The Legislature directed RCO to convene and facilitate a stakeholder process to review the WWRP beginning this month, and with the goal of having draft recommendations for statutory revisions by late October or early November. A revised set of recommendations will then be forwarded to the Legislature by the December 1 deadline. The feedback will be used to objectively evaluate WWRP and consider the most effective way to meet the recreation and conservation needs for future generations.

Director Cottingham explained the purpose of the meeting session, which is to provide an opportunity for the board to provide input into the review process with the support of a facilitator.

Facilitator Jim Waldo introduced himself, providing some background experience with revisions to the WWRP program. He introduced his co-facilitator, Jane North. Mr. Waldo described his intent for managing the feedback received during the process, including the goal of supporting draft recommendations to the Legislature by the December 1 deadline.

Considering the relatively short timeline, the facilitators and RCO staff crafted a survey that would allow some level of response and serve as a mechanism for interested parties to provide feedback. Additionally, Mr. Waldo and Ms. North have contacted approximately fifty individuals with WWRP experience to informally solicit input and opinions. Currently, they are in the process of contacting key legislators for the same purpose. In late October, a series of groups (approximately 20-25 people each) will convene to discuss the program and exchange ideas and concerns. Mr. Waldo also expressed the intent to engage legislators who have a deep interest or feelings of ownership in the program, hoping to build future support and continuing influence of the program. Finally, he asked for input regarding personal thoughts, comments, and ideas that pertain to the program.

Member Stohr thanked the facilitators for attending. He commented on what he thought the primary goals to be – holding the [Washington Wildlife and Recreation] Coalition together, maintaining support, and reducing fractures. He added that the federal match for this program is critical and would be limited by gaps in state support. Last, he commented on building common values into the program that serve multiple interests, e.g., beyond habitat. He mentioned several issues that should be addressed: multiple interests and coordinated efforts, joint land ownership, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and operation and maintenance.

Mr. Waldo responded, stating that in terms of projects with multiple goals (habitat, recreation, etc.), other parties have expressed similar thoughts. He asked if other board members share this or have heard of other similar stories.

Member Bloomfield shared that she has experienced WWRP application process and there are categories of work that should be addressed. She described the collective failure of leadership to provide coalescence between the east and west sides of the state. She stated the need to return to the original intent of the program, and clarifying the need to separate Legislative recommendations. She recommended bringing a proposal to the Legislature for a local government seat on the board. She also recommended revising the Habitat account to remove riparian and farmland, and further dismantling the program to ensure needs across the state are met.

DRAFT

Member Mayer recommended that the highest use of capital funding should advance the state and take into consideration the most significant lands. He further addressed the eligibility silos, implying that they inhibit consideration of the best projects across the state.

Member Herzog stated that he agrees with Member Stohr's comments regarding keeping the Coalition together, as the collective voice helps to amplify issues. However, schisms exist – both on east versus west sides of the state, and also the issue of land acquisitions. To keep the coalition together, perhaps the 50% acquisition requirement should be adjusted so that the program's ranking process will decide versus an over-arching rule. He supported the idea of collaboration to keep the Coalition together, and solutions that support this effort.

Member Willhite thanked Mr. Waldo for his work. He recommended that the group use that past program experience to continue the program today, preserving the functional (good) policies. With a nationally recognized program, he stated that the approach should include recognition of the preceding efforts and maintain those aspects in the program. He stated that it seems that the conflicting agendas from a few voices should be heard, but the public as a whole and the best practices for the state should be paramount. He agreed with the mitigation of silos; however, he noted that more transparency regarding how agencies already work together is necessary, citing wildfire management as an example. Building stakeholder interest and creating buy-in, especially with legislators, is critical to the success of the program. Highlighting these relationships supports the requests to the Legislature, as evidenced by the outcome of the past session. Addressing fiscal issues are also critical, including communicating financial benefits to increase stakeholder involvement. He stated that the survey is a very important part of the process.

Chair Spanel agreed that there needs to be current advocates in the Legislature that are engaged in and support the WWRP. She stated that more effort beyond a meeting is necessary to make a difference, and that their support is key to the program. She shared story, noting that silos also can include a rural versus urban divide. She agreed with the retention of "what is good" in the program, noting that this may include retention of the categories and thus some silos. There is room for improvement, but not to the detriment of the process.

Mr. Waldo asked the board to address the issue of land acquisitions. He shared an example of the disproportionate state-owned land areas within counties that diminish tax revenues; this example highlights the gap between public support and fiscal conflicts. Chair Spanel mentioned that the PILT taxes are often misunderstood.

Member Bloomfield shared that the PILT issue will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Washington State Association of Counties in Ellensburg; she relayed that PILT is an anchor to the WWRP that needs to be resolved. Member Bloomfield will be attending and may relay feedback from this group.

Mr. Waldo spoke to the issue of land stewardship, specifically regarding acquisitions, stating that there is incongruence between the volume of land acquisitions and progress on goals.

Member Bloomfield stated that program sideboards and political realties inhibit a clear solution to projects that involve acquisitions. A new program or category that includes non-governmental organizations in such a way that they are working or aligning with state agencies, versus competing, will add value to each project. The way the WWRP is currently structured, these types of collaborative projects are not possible. The WDFW commission and county commissioners are on board with these recommendations; she suggested that this be brought to the Legislature as one of the final recommendations.

DRAFT

Member Mayer suggested an alternate annual fiscal strategy which separates funding for development, acquisition, and stewardship. This may alleviate issues similar to those experienced this past session, where there is a land base in a community but a lack of funding to make use of the area. He spoke to the inclusion of smaller or rural communities, and then advocated a balance between sponsor support and accountability.

Member Willhite spoke to the issue of acquiring land prior to the funding to develop or act on it. He stated that it is not always feasible to bring land to certain standard prior to acquisition, and a stewardship policy of any kind would need to acknowledge this reality. He agreed that a separate program for stewardship would provide an avenue for resolving these issues.

Mr. Waldo addressed Member Stohr's comment about maintaining the coalition, stating that consistency and predictability are necessary in meeting multiple needs. He spoke to comments he has received regarding a fear of losing the ability to direct the program if no action is taken. He then addressed the notion of a working landscape connected to recreation and other habitat values would benefit from information about the economic value or community value in that area.

Item 8: Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules

To conserve time, Chair Spanel requested that Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, proceed with presenting the issues for board direction regarding the new Omni-Circular rules. Ms. Connelly requested direction from the board on the recommendations provided in order to address any potential conflicts with the Omni-Circular rules and identify opportunities to align the board's policies with the federal rules where appropriate.

Member Bloomfield asked whether there are waiver projects currently underway that would be affected by the new rules. Ms. Connelly responded that staff do not see immediate conflicts with projects and the new rules.

Member Mayer asked about potential LWCF impacts related to encumbering costs for pre-agreements. Ms. Connelly explained that RCO does need to align with the federal award date. She added that RCO is also asking for permission on a project-by-project basis to allow pre-agreement costs before the federal award date until the program policies can be adjusted.

Ms. Connelly confirmed with Chair Spanel that revisions will be brought to the board at the November meeting.

Break: 2:20 – 2:35 p.m.

Item 10: Board Discussion on Scope of Recreation and Conservation Policy Planning

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, provided background on the federal direction given to the board and RCO to conduct certain strategic planning activities on behalf of the state. Many of the board's funding decisions are expected to be based on a strategic framework that either implicitly or explicitly requires a plan approved either by the board or by an applicant. The federal government also requires specific planning in order to receive certain federal funds. The reason the federal government requires planning is to ensure states spend federal funds in a strategic way.

Ms. Connelly outlined the framework for the board's discussion, outlining the issues and staff recommendations as described in the board materials. Ms. Connelly requested direction from the board on how to proceed with planning tasks. The new SCORP plan, a process which takes about two years,

must be completed by December 2017. Direction from the board now will let staff know what to include in that scoping effort.

Chair Spanel asked how the SCORP addresses overlap between other state agency plans. Ms. Connelly explained that there are sections that address how it fits with RCO needs, and the SCORP planning committee includes subject matter experts in the field, local and state representatives, researchers from Western Washington University, and key stakeholders.

Member Mayer shared that the SCORP revisions should be influenced by the recommendations from the Outdoor Recreation Task Force, JLARC, and the Healthiest Next Generation Task Force outcomes. He mentioned that the Colorado State SCORP plan seems to be a good model as it is more balanced and accessible. He asked the board and staff to consider the turn-over of state agency positions and goals, and whether a SCORP plan could be crafted that includes stability and continued coordination.

Member Stohr responded, suggesting that the problem statement first be identified, then the necessary resources to address this statement should be identified. With multiple plans that include important work, he stated that it would be difficult to re-invest resources without having a new, clearer focus. Member Herzog added that the fiscal intent of agencies at the state level should be part of the SCORP. Long-term plans support the business processes of agencies and promote transparency and coordination.

Member Bloomfield responded to the question of a problem statement, suggesting that a measurement of some form could be beneficial. The metrics currently do not address the big questions of recreation and habitat land opportunities across the state; a plan should articulate the high order needs of the state that include the economic realities, increased population, shrinking land base, etc. and the metrics should address progress in achieving the best outcomes for rec and con in the State. She suggested that the executive summaries of state agencies' core work be appended to the SCORP, repeating her recommendation from the June meeting.

Member Willhite reminded the board of a comment made by today's facilitator, Jim Waldo, regarding the intent of the Legislature. He encouraged stronger communication and solicitation of support from legislative representatives to support the policy planning. He asked about the potential for support to take on this process. Director Cottingham explained that with the current available budget and accompanying requirements, contracting this work is an option and has been done in the past.

Member Mayer stated that, with the goals set in statute, the board has some flexibility in the approach and it is how the plan can articulate the various progress of each agency that will demonstrate how these goals are being achieved. He mentioned a previous board-issued report from 2005, recommending that the framework for the new SCORP begin with putting together various agency plans, targeting the goals in statute, and providing that direction to staff to begin.

Member Stohr supported the board direction, though expressed some uncertainty about potential workloads. Member Herzog spoke to the overarching goal of the SCORP, specifically defining a system and what that system should do for the state. He recommended reviewing the statutory goals and beginning with a discussion of each to define goal statements and provide more clarity.

Director Cottingham clarified that the plan governs this board and investment priorities and influences how others come to the board for funding; however, it will not attempt to govern or provide expectations for other agencies.

Member Bloomfield reiterated the importance of metrics, beyond the monetary allocations, to include how the other organizations engaged in this work will be included. Member Bloomfield added that a

program specifically geared towards monitoring and metrics is complex, but necessary. She provided examples of how metrics could be implemented to measure goal progress that are manageable at the board level.

Member Mayer referred to the State of Colorado's plan, suggesting a similar approach to the clarity of goals and strategies. He offered his support and time to staff to help craft a meaningful plan. Member Willhite agreed with the need to include metrics, and recommended looking at other mission statements and goals to inform the plan so that it aligns with other goals statewide.

Staff will prepare a draft scope of work and detailed budget based on the direction of the board and present it at the November meeting.

Riverfront Park Tour

Kyle Guzlas invited staff from the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation to provide a brief overview of the walking tour scheduled for this afternoon. He then summarized the second day's tour and highlighted the main sites that will be visited.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at p.m. by Chair Spanel.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 17, 2015
Place: Spokane, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Harriet Spanel	Chair, Bellingham	Peter Herzog	Designee, State Parks & Recreation Commission
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pete Mayer	Renton		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

Tour

The board began the tour of projects at 8:30 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. The tour concluded at 3:00 p.m. Member Herman and Member Deller were both excused from the tour.

Approved by:

Harriet Chair Spanel, Chair

Date

DRAFT

CITY OF
SHORELINE

SHORELINE CITY COUNCIL

Shari Winstead
Mayor

Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor

Will Hall

Doris McConnell

Keith McGlashan

Chris Roberts

Jesse Salomon

Jesse Sycuro, Chair
Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services /Tree Board
17500 Midvale Avenue North
Shoreline WA 98133

June 25, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS)/Tree Board, I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer and ball fields, courts, swimming pools, BMX tracks, and skate parks that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

The PRCS/Tree Board is a citizen board appointed by City Council to provide leadership and oversight of Parks, Recreation, Cultural and Tree Services for the City of Shoreline. The PRCS/Tree Board values Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field as a community asset for both formal, scheduled play as well as unscheduled drop in use. It's a place for people from the community to drop by and play in an open, dry and comfortable setting. This field certainly serves the high demand for organized sports, but it also provides an opportunity for neighborhood youth and adults to drop-in and use the field for unorganized play.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Respectfully,

Jesse Sycuro,
Chair, Shoreline's Park, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree Board

Council of Neighborhoods
17500 Midvale Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133

June 22, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Shoreline Council of Neighborhoods, I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer and ball fields, courts, swimming pools, BMX tracks, and skate parks that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

While our organization does not use Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for formal, scheduled play we do highly value it as a community and neighborhood asset. It provides an opportunity for people from the neighborhood to drop by and play in an open, dry and comfortable setting. This field certainly serves the high demand for organized sports, but it also provides an opportunity for neighborhood youth and adults to drop-in and participate in unorganized play.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Respectfully,

June E. Howard
Chair
Shoreline Council of Neighborhoods

Katie Schielke, Chair
Parkwood Neighborhood Association
2343 N 147th ST Shoreline WA 98133

June 24, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of Parkwood Neighborhood Association, I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer and ball fields, courts, swimming pools, BMX tracks, and skate parks that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

While our organization does not use Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for formal, scheduled play we do highly value it as a community and neighborhood asset. It provides an opportunity for people from the neighborhood to drop by and play in an open, dry and comfortable setting. This field certainly serves the high demand for organized sports, but it also provides an opportunity for neighborhood youth and adults to drop-in and participate in unorganized play.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Respectfully,

Katie Schielke

Katie Schielke
Chair
Parkwood Neighborhood Association

Hillwood Soccer Club
P.O. Box 60226 Shoreline, WA 98160

25 June 21015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev,
Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

On behalf of the 800 youth players of Hillwood Soccer Club, our board expresses our support of the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application referenced above.

We understand that your program provides funding to renovate outdoor athletic facilities, while strongly encouraging facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities. Twin Ponds is one such facility. It is used for practices and games by our soccer players, ages 10-18, and also by other youth sports groups such as lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee and various school organizations. It also used late into the evening by adult groups. For all of these groups, safe, lighted field space is critical for year-round play.

The synthetic field surface at Twin Ponds, lighting system and wooden support poles are in dire need of replacement, evidenced by our own experiences and confirmed by an assessment conducted in 2014. Without awarding of this grant, we forsee the following impacts:

> Player Safety. Continuing deterioration of the field will compromise safety and lead to possible closure of the field, leaving to overcrowding of other facilities and inevitably, leaving a large percentage of our players without a place to practice and play.
>
> Fewer Play Opportunities. Two months of the recreational youth soccer season are during November and December, when days are shorter and lit fields are the only option. There is only one other City of Shoreline facility with lighted fields that we can use, and even *with* Twin Ponds, we often are forced to place as many as six teams on a single field and limit their practice times. Loss of the lighted field at Twin Ponds will, again, leave our players without an option, and at our most critical time of the year.

For the above reasons, we implore the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve this grant application, for the benefit of the hundreds of soccer-playing kids in our club.

Sincerely,

Philip C. Herold
Vice President, Hillwood Soccer Club

June 25, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Ms. Austin,

On behalf of Shorelake Soccer Club, I strongly support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer fields that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

Our organization uses Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for soccer games for kids ages 13-18. Our club registration has been growing year over year (we had 800 kids playing fall soccer with us last year).

A 2014 assessment of the field surface and the six Douglas fir poles and lighting at Twin Ponds Park indicated they are in need of replacement. Even without the assessment it is evident that the lights are substandard and the synthetic turf is in desperate need to replacement. Without replacement, my organization is concerned the field's safety rating will continue to decline making the field unsafe for players. It would be a desperate situation if this filed failed completely and were closed to use.

Our organization has a need for lighted fields!!!! Without lights, the Twin Ponds field cannot serve our organization at times of the day and year when we need it most. Twin Ponds Park field and lights are important for our organization because there is only one other City of Shoreline facility with synthetic turf and light (Shoreline Park A & B fields) that is available to our organization for scheduling.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application. Please let me know if I can be of additional service. I can be reached via email at president@shorelake.org or cell 206-459-2010.

Respectfully,
Teddi Patchett

Teddi Patchett
President
Shorelake Soccer Club

Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Ed D'Alessandro
Seattle Youth Soccer Association
650 So Orcas Street,
Seattle, WA 98108

June 16, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

To the members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

Seattle Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) strongly endorses the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project

SYSA uses Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for youth soccer training and games throughout the year. It is a crucial part of our field inventory. We would be hard pressed to serve the children in the Shoreline area without this field.

SYSA has an ongoing need for lighted, synthetic soccer fields throughout Seattle and Shoreline. Without lights, the Twin Ponds field cannot serve SYSA at times of the day and year when we need it most. Twin Ponds Park field and lights are important for our organization because there few other City of Shoreline facilities with synthetic turf and lights that are available to our organization for scheduling.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Sincerely,

Ed D'Alessandro

Ed D'Alessandro
Executive Director
Seattle Youth Soccer Association

William Bartram
Executive Director

P.O. Box 85112
Seattle, WA 98145-1112

william.bartram@discnw.org
206-399-3579

Northwest Ultimate Association

Friday, June 26, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

On behalf of the Northwest Ultimate Association (DBA DiscNW), I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project.

Our organization uses Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for youth and adult ultimate Frisbee leagues.

Because many of our league games take place in the evening, DiscNW events rely on the availability of lighted fields. Without field lights, the Twin Ponds fields do not fully support our needs, especially in the spring and fall. There are no other lit fields in the Shoreline area for us to use.

We have enjoyed playing on the lit, synthetic field at Twin Ponds since 2008. And we are not the only users at the park. The synthetic surface and the lighting system are in need of replacement. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Sincerely,

William E. Bartram
Executive Director, DiscNW

The mission of DiscNW is to serve as a regional resource, promoting growth in the sport of Ultimate and instilling the spirit of sportsmanship at all levels of play.
www.discnw.org

THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL

Michelle R. Harrison, Teacher, Instructional Coach, Ultimate Frisbee Coach

The Evergreen School

15201 Meridian Ave N.

Shoreline, WA 98133

June 20, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Ms. Austin,

On behalf of The Evergreen School, I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer fields that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

Our organization uses Shoreline's Twin Ponds Park's lighted synthetic turf soccer field for Elementary & Middle School Ultimate Frisbee as well as other sports and activities.

A 2014 assessment of the field surface and the six Douglas fir poles and lighting at Twin Ponds Park indicated they are in need of replacement. Even without the assessment it is evident that the lights are substandard and the synthetic turf is in desperate need to replacement. Without replacement, my organization is concerned the field's safety rating will continue to decline making the field unsafe for players. It would be a desperate situation if this filed failed completely and were closed to use.

Our organization has a need for lighted fields. Without lights, the Twin Ponds field cannot serve our organization at times of the day and year when we need it most. Twin Ponds Park field and lights are important for our organization because there is only one other

THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL

City of Shoreline facility with synthetic turf and light (Shoreline Park A & B fields) that is available to our organization for scheduling.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Respectfully,

Michelle R. Harrison

Teacher, Instructional Coach & Ultimate Frisbee Coach

The Evergreen School

15201 Meridian Ave N, Shoreline WA 98133 | PHONE: 206.364.2650 | FAX: 206.363.9025 | evergreenschool.org

CITY OF SHORELINE

Shoreline Planning Commission

Keith Scully
Chair

Easton Craft
Vice Chair

Jack Malek

David Maul

William Montero

Laura Mork

Donna Moss

Shoreline Planning Commission
17500 Midvale Avenue N
Shoreline, WA 98133

June 16, 2015

Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: City of Shoreline Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Application 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement

Dear Ms. Austin,

On behalf of Shoreline Planning Commission, I am pleased to support the City of Shoreline's Youth Athletic Facilities grant application # 15-1337 Dev, Twin Ponds Park Field Turf & Lighting Replacement Project. I understand that the RCO Youth Athletic Facilities grant program provides money to buy land and renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as soccer and ball fields, courts, swimming pools, BMX tracks, and skate parks that serve youth. I also understand that RCO strongly encourages facilities that serve all ages and multiple activities.

The City is currently engaged in subarea planning for a light rail station that will begin providing service to this neighborhood in 2023. Environmental analysis shows that new zoning that may be adopted as part of this process will require additional park space, recreation programs, and parking to accommodate projected growth. Upgrades to fields and lighting at Twin Ponds Park would serve current and future users, and help create the safe, walkable, vibrant community envisioned through light rail station subarea planning process.

We strongly encourage the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to fund this much needed grant application.

Respectfully,

Keith Scully
Planning Commission Chair
City of Shoreline

Leland Smith
2011 62nd Ave. NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
253-265-2450
smithlg@psd401.net

Aug. 14, 2015

To the members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the PenMet Park District of Gig Harbor, Wash., in support of synthetic turf infields for Sehmel Homestead Park. The addition of synthetic infields would provide an immense enhancement to the park and for athletes of all ages and abilities.

As a 31-year resident of Gig Harbor, I've enjoyed a ringside seat to watch the steady development of our athletic/recreational facilities here in the Peninsula area. And Sehmel Homestead Park is an absolute gem of a facility that is the envy of visitors and a great source of local pride. As far as a baseball/softball facility, it is outstanding. Because of its geographic location near the center of the Peninsula area, the park enjoys vast use by patrons of the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas. Park logistics are exceptional in terms of easy access, parking, bathrooms and other amenities. This park really has something for everyone. With baseball/softball fields that are usable on a more consistent and steady basis, I believe the entire park facility would provide greater enjoyment and utility to park patrons.

For the past nine years, I have served as the C team baseball coach at Peninsula High School. During our high school season, our school shares fields with the C team at Gig Harbor High School. Due to limited field space on our two campuses, the availability of these fields is imperative to our programs. Without Sehmel, we couldn't provide this level of baseball at such a critical age for students. But equally important is the steady and consistent use of these fields by other sports programs in our area. As a former club baseball coach with the Gig Harbor Little League, along with the Narrows and Wollochet baseball clubs, I can attest that these fields have enhanced player skill levels and participation numbers far beyond previous levels.

But as we all know, here in the Northwest, baseball is played on the whims of the weather. While the playing surfaces at Sehmel are very well groomed by park staff, a two-hour spring shower can often make these fields unplayable for the next 48 hours. This is especially prevalent during the peak of the baseball/softball seasons that begin in March.

As a baseball coach I believe the addition of synthetic infields – and the subsequent playability in all types of weather -- would provide these main benefits to our community:

- Issues of family scheduling, transportation and logistics would be amended. Players, parents and family members would be well-served as teams are able to adhere to more steady and consistent schedules for practices and games, as opposed to last minute cancellations. As a coach, I know it's very disruptive for club and school

teams to travel for scheduled contests, then turn around and head home after a one-hour rain shower. This is challenging (and costly) for families, especially when it involves players who are unable to drive and transport themselves. From the perspective of a high school coach, having a quality synthetic field in our area that is available rain or shine, would be a wonderful enhancement.

- Field maintenance would also be streamlined. Having fields that are pre-lined and prepped would play to the advantage of park maintenance staff. They too would benefit by a regularly scheduled maintenance routine that is not impacted by the whims of weather.

- Player safety is also an important issue. Playing and practicing on a surface that remains consistent in all weather conditions certainly makes players of all ages less prone to injury from bad hops and slipping.

- Having a reliable all weather surface for these infields would attract more tournament-style events for players of all levels – Little League to high school state playoffs – thus attracting participants and spectators from outside the Peninsula area to this wonderful park facility.

- Having all-weather playing surfaces would help players improve their skill levels by offering a year-round practice space.

Please give Sehmel Homestead Park and PenMet Parks the highest consideration for this park enhancement project. If you would need any further comment or information, I can be reached at the address on top of this letter.

Sincerely,

Leland Smith

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Regards: 15-1341D – Sehmel Homestead Park Synthetic Turf Infields

14 August 2015

Members of the RCFB,

I am writing to you in support of the grant proposal to help provide synthetic turf infields to PenMet Park's three current baseball/softball fields at Sehmel Homestead Park.

As a former C team (freshman) high school baseball coach and current JV coach at Peninsula High School, we have limited fields for the six high school teams to practice and play, and varsity teams get the far majority use of the high school fields — both of which are grass and dirt infields. The JV teams work around the varsity and the C teams from both high schools go to Sehmel Homestead Park and share the full-sized field for practices while other HS team utilizes one of the smaller fields. Both C teams play their home games at the large field at Sehmel Homestead Park.

In the South Puget Sound League, several of the other schools have turf infields and that has allowed us to play rain or shine, while at Sehmel, we frequently have games postponed, causing our teams to miss several game due to scheduling conflicts.

When we have a game canceled due to rain before or during a game, it has a cumulative affect. To reschedule, we have to find an open date for both teams, find umpires who are available and schedule for buses for the traveling team. This often can't be accomplished, leading to canceling the games outright.

Spring rains seldom are downpours, and are more often showers. But it only takes a few minutes of rain to turn Sehmel's infields to mud that then needs a day or more to dry before being usable once more. In all of our games the past three seasons that I have been coaching, we have never had a rainout on a turf infield despite several rain storms, but have had numerous rainouts on our grass and dirt infields.

I am also writing to you today wearing another of my hats, as president of the board of the Peninsula Athletic Association. PAA has been offering recreational programs for youth and adults in our community for more than 50 years and we rely on the use of the three fields at Sehmel Park for youth baseball, adult softball and youth soccer. Many of these programs run during the school year when we still experience wet weather from April through June.

The same circumstance apply but are multiplied by the number of parents who drive to the field, only to find games rescheduled/canceled due to inclement weather. Often this is exacerbated because the game day conditions are sunny and dry, but the rain the night before make the infields unusable.

I know from the high school experience that a turfed infield would allow all teams a 95 percent or more reliability of being able to play, regardless of the weather conditions and I heartily support PenMet Parks plans to turf the infields.

Your grant approval would give this community several more game time opportunities each week of the sports season.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this support.

Sincerely,

Ric Hallock
Peninsula High School baseball coach
Peninsula Athletic Association board president
Community softball player

8502 Skansie Ave
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
www.paayouth.org
253 858-7678

Aug 13, 2015

Dear RCFB,

The Peninsula Athletic Association was formed in 1950. We provide baseball, softball, basketball, soccer and more for over 2000 youths annually. We grant scholarships to approximately 5% of our youth participants. We also provide a coed softball adult league with participation for 300+ adults. For decades, the community had no larger sized ball fields for community use other than schools. In fact, there was no intermediate size field in the community at all.

PenMet Parks was formed in 2004, most specifically from our perspective, to provide improved fields for our community teams to play. PenMet's fields are excellent and well-maintained. One thing we could use, though, is synthetic turf on the infields to reduce the number of rainouts, especially early in the season.

PAA also runs a soccer program in the fall and the turfed infields could also provide additional fields for our younger teams.

We feel this grant is an excellent use of funds to address a valuable need for our youth program. We encourage your support.

Sandra Kern

Sandra Kern

Athletic Director

Late Arriving Correspondence

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Item 5: Youth Athletic Facilities Program Awards

- November 13, 2015 – Email and supporting documents from Margie Seals regarding RCO Project #15-1432, Stanley Field

Item 17D: Clark County Lewis River Greenway (RCO #96-074A)

- November 13, 2015 – Letter from Friends of Clark County

November 11, 2015

My name is Margie Seals and my testimony represents the group of petitioners (see exhibit A).

We ask this board to pass over the Stanley Field project 15-1432 in order that the grant application can be re-written to allow for a more suitable, and appropriate location than Stanley Park for the proposed addition and construction of a regulation sized soccer field.

An effort, *joined by a few Long Beach city council members*, to find a more suitable location shows promise but more time is needed to evaluate optional locations and alternatives. Already, one location has been identified; it is infinitely more suitable and *it is already used for soccer*.

Alternative sites will have issues, but, none as insurmountable as the Stanley Park location which is riddled with logistical size and proximity issues, resident concerns, parking problems, and team impact and challenges:

1. Stanley Park sits squarely in the middle of and is completely surrounded by a long established neighborhood; while some may argue the math, the area is about 99% residential and 1% Stanley Park (see exhibit B).
2. Twenty one (21) homes, apartments and a retirement/assisted living home surround Stanley Park in close proximity on all 4 sides. All of these homes literally face the park and most are occupied year round. (See exhibit C).
3. Eleven (11) homes, apartments and the retirement/assisted living home ***face*** and ***'horse shoe'*** the park on three (3) sides with the park as the focal point. The park is not more than 5' to 100' of the ***front*** door, ***front*** deck, ***front*** porch, and ***front*** yard, ***bedroom*** and ***living room windows*** of these homes. All are occupied year round and will be adversely affected by the planned building of a regulation sized soccer field (see exhibit D).
4. the ***entire*** west boundary sideline of the proposed soccer field (100 yards) will flank and run approximately 20 feet from the bedroom, living room, family room, side and front porches of three (3) homes (see exhibit E).

While a regulation sized soccer field may 'pencil in' on paper for zoning and permits, Stanley Park is a little grassy area that, since 1922, has been surrounded and shrunken by residences. This has created a symbiotic relationship between what happens in little Stanley Park and the quality of life for all the people living ***in and around it***, thus making clear the odds against the success of adding and 'squeezing' in a venue that would (see grant application):

5. triple the current park activity (foot traffic, vehicle traffic, noise)
6. expect service to 10,000 people of the service area for 24/7-365 days a year, dawn to dusk
7. completely eliminate the grassy area historically used for safe, off street parking during baseball games
8. plan for ***only a portion*** of the proposed parking to be off-street and that portion would be within about 5 feet to 100 feet in front of, kitty corned, or next to six (6) homes, apartments and two (2) business properties that face and horse shoe the park (see exhibit F & G)
9. shift the burden of the rest of the tripled parking onto the streets in front of homes and businesses, (mainly on 9th Street but could end up just about anywhere) creating unsafe and disruptive parking that will not be enforced by the city (see exhibit H)

10. bring in undisclosed amounts of turf and fill that may likely affect the historical flow of alignment and drainage of the foundation of the homes that literally 'share grass' with the park (see exhibit E)

We residents of Stanley Park understand, 'signed up for', and have come to accept and live with those things that accompany our living so close to and ***almost in*** the ***small neighborhood friendly sized*** grassy park with a baseball field:

- foot traffic, occasional trespassing and occasional drug user 'hangers out'
- vehicle traffic, speeding, car radios thumping and bumping along
- vehicles blocking driveways
- loose dogs, barking dogs
- noise, game crowd noise
- trash, litter

Perhaps what appears to be blatant disregard by a proposal to triple all of the above, crowd the residents out, and leave them to fend for themselves is actually a case of everyone being stumped and stymied by the insurmountable problems and issues guaranteed by the misguided addition of a regulation size soccer field in little Stanley Park.

We ask this board to pass over the Stanley Field project 15-1432 in order that the effort (by both residents and the Long Beach city council members) to find a more suitable location for a regulation size soccer field may continue.

Respectfully,

Margie Seals

Exhibit A

Board Members- Please note comments on petition

Petition to:

While We Support Sports, Community Activities, We The Undersigned Are Concerned Citizens Who Urge Our Leaders To Act Now To Locate, Plan And Establish An Appropriate And Suitable Location For The Placement Of Added And Expanded Venues That Is *Away From*, Not In The Middle Of, A Residential Neighborhood

Petition to:

While We Support Sports, Community Activities, [redacted], We The Undersigned Are Concerned Citizens Who Urge Our Leaders To Act Now To Locate, Plan And Establish An Appropriate And Suitable Location For The Placement Of Added And Expanded Venues That Is *Away From*, Not In The Middle Of, A Residential Neighborhood

Petition summary and background	Stanley Field [Washington Avenue and 9th Street NE in Long Beach] is targeted for a project that would renovate the existing ballfield. The project would also 're-orient', **affect and add** a soccer field, drainage, irrigation, turf, fencing, bullpens, a backstop, soccer goals, a multipurpose building, a batting cage, dugouts, a scoreboard, larger bleachers, ADA-compliant parking, pathways, porous pavement, landscaping, and recycling barrels. According to the City of Long Beach 'Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Template', the plan is to **triple** the present usage of the field and remain open for **365 days a year** (all seasons), **seven days a week**, and **from dawn to dusk**. The service area constitutes approximately 10,000 people and when not in use by city and non-city youth activities, it will be used for adult programs and be open for recreational use and picnics by the general public and the community at large. **1.** Stanley Field is situated **squarely in the middle of a residential neighborhood**. ***Twenty one*** (21) homes, apartments and a retirement/assisted living home circle the block on four (4) sides. **Most** are occupied year round. **2.** ***Eleven*** (11) of the homes, apartments, and the retirement/assisted living home are **within 5' to 100'** of the field. **All** circle the field in a 'horseshoe' fashion on three (3) sides with Stanley Field as the focal point. **All** have **front** doors, **front** decks, **front** porches, **front** yards, **bedroom** or **living room** windows that **face the field** and **all are occupied year round.** ***Three*** (3) meet and share grass with the field. **3.** According to the Site Development Plan sketch of the Evaluation Template, the three (3) properties that meet and share grass with the field will be **flanked by one entire side of the soccer field** approximately **15' to 20'** from the property lines, running **the entire length** of the bedroom, living room windows, and porch of one apartment, one home, and half of the third home including its **front door and porch**. **4.** All parking will be within **5' to 57' in front of, kitty corned, or next to** eight (8) homes, apartments and properties on 9th Street. **5.** Because it is **squarely in the middle of a residential neighborhood** with homes circling, facing, and as close as 5' from it, **Stanley Field is ill suited and not appropriate** for adding, expanding, affecting, morphing, ballooning or squeezing in added and expanded activities or venues. **Any** increase in the amount of foot and vehicle traffic, parking, noise, seasonal usage, property crowding and congestion above and beyond the existing 'neighborhood friendly' level of activity from the ballfield and yearly Loyalty Days Parade set up, will pose an adverse effect and negative impact on the enjoyment of their properties for the ***many*** people living there.
Action petitioned for	While We Support Sports, Community Activities, [redacted], We The Undersigned Are Concerned Citizens Who Urge Our Leaders To Act Now To Locate, Plan And Establish An Appropriate And Suitable Location For The Placement Of Added And Expanded Venues That Is *Away From*, Not In The Middle Of, A Residential Neighborhood

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Aldo Glapsheek		6603 Fawn Ln #26 Long Beach, WA 98631	must place away from neighborhood	8-9-15
Raymond Kramer		1306 197th Long Beach WA 98631	needs to be located somewhere else this is a residential location	8-5-15
Anita Kramer	Anita Kramer	1306 197th St Long Beach WA 98631	not a suitable location/residential	8-8-15
KRIS MONTEITH	KRIS	115-9th ST. NE L.B., WA 98631	Put it somewhere else	8-8-15
Angellee Klappman	Angellee Klappman	201 N. 7th Long Beach, WA 98631	Noise concerns in a residential.	8-8-15
Robert D. Salisbury	Robert D. Salisbury	17820 Pacific Way 98631	other location needs to be found	8-8-15
MARLIE SEALS	Marlie Seals	117-9th ST. NE Long Beach, WA 98631	Other location Needs to be Found	8 Aug 2015

Action petitioned for	While We Support Sports, Community Activities, [redacted], We The Undersigned Are Concerned Citizens Who Urge Our Leaders To Act Now To Locate, Plan And Establish An Appropriate And Suitable Location For The Placement Of Added And Expanded Venues That Is *Away From*, Not In The Middle Of, A Residential Neighborhood			
Printed Name	**Signature**	**Address**	**Comment**	**Date**
Freddie Black	Freddie Black	903 Washington Ave. N.	Find a new Location	8/9/15
Rochelle Bonney	Rochelle G Bonney	912 Washington Ave N.	Does not belong in long established residential	8/9/15
Leif Magnuderson	Leif Magnuderson	908 Washington Ave. N	That seem like not a good idea.	8/10/15
VICKY HACKER	Vicky Hacker	900 N. Washington Ave	Please not in a residental area.	8/10/15
Merle W Hacker	Merle W Hacker	900 N Washington Ave	Not Next Door	8/10/15
Marlys Turne	Marlys Turne	700 Washington Ave	No more trash	8-11-15
Johnny Phillips	[illegible]	901 Washington Ave N	Wrong location! Residential area. Good idea Somewhere else	8-11-15
Elizabeth A Bissell	[illegible]	907 Washington Ave N	Not appropriate for established neighborhood	8/11/15
M Stevens	[illegible]	1505 30th OP WA	Stanley Field is a great neighborhood field as it is right now and should be left as is and not modified	8/12/15
JOHN KALDEN	[illegible]	1809 148TH PL Long Beach	Leave This Be It Wont Work	8-13-15
STUART FREESE	Stuart J Freese	209 5TH ST N.W Long Beach	Good Idea Wrong Place	8/13/15
DONNA FREESE	Donna Freese	209 5TH St. NW. Long BEACH	Good Idea Wrong Place	8/13/15
Sallyann Shepard	Sallyann Shepard	208 9th St Long Beach	Good idea Wrong Place	8-18-15
WARREN E Shepard	Warren E Shepard	208 9th St Long Beach	Good idea Wrong Place	8-18-15

Action petitioned for	While We Support Sports, Community Activities, [redacted] We The Undersigned Are Concerned Citizens Who Urge Our Leaders To Act Now To Locate, Plan And Establish An Appropriate And Suitable Location For The Placement Of Added And Expanded Venues That Is *Away From*, Not In The Middle Of, A Residential Neighborhood			
Printed Name	**Signature**	**Address**	**Comment**	**Date**
CYNTHIA R. GRAY	Cynthia R. Gray	POB 1206 O.P. WA 98640	NOISE & RESIDENTIAL FIND BETTER LOCATION	8.15.15
Diane Rutherford	D Rutherford	CNA LBRAC 14405 Birch St. LB 98631	Not Suitable Area Is Residential Not Big Enough	8 16 15
STANLEY GERRY	Geraldine Stanley	6509 V PLACE	there are better areas	Aug 16, 15
Darlene Smith	Darlene Smith	24707 P St. OP WA 98640	Re Locate	Aug 18. 15
Denise Clark	[illegible]	29911 T LN. OP. 98640	Not in Residential	8-18-15
Adeline Poole	Adeline Poole	30310 Crane OP WA 98640	notification before is best	8-18-15
Katherine Golden	Katherine Golden	30107 G ST OP WA 98640	No room	8-27-2015

Exhibit B

99% Residential / 1% Stanley Park

SITE AREA MAP

City of Long Beach, Stanley Park Reservation/Restriction, 15-1405

Site Area Map

YAF Evaluation Template - 2015

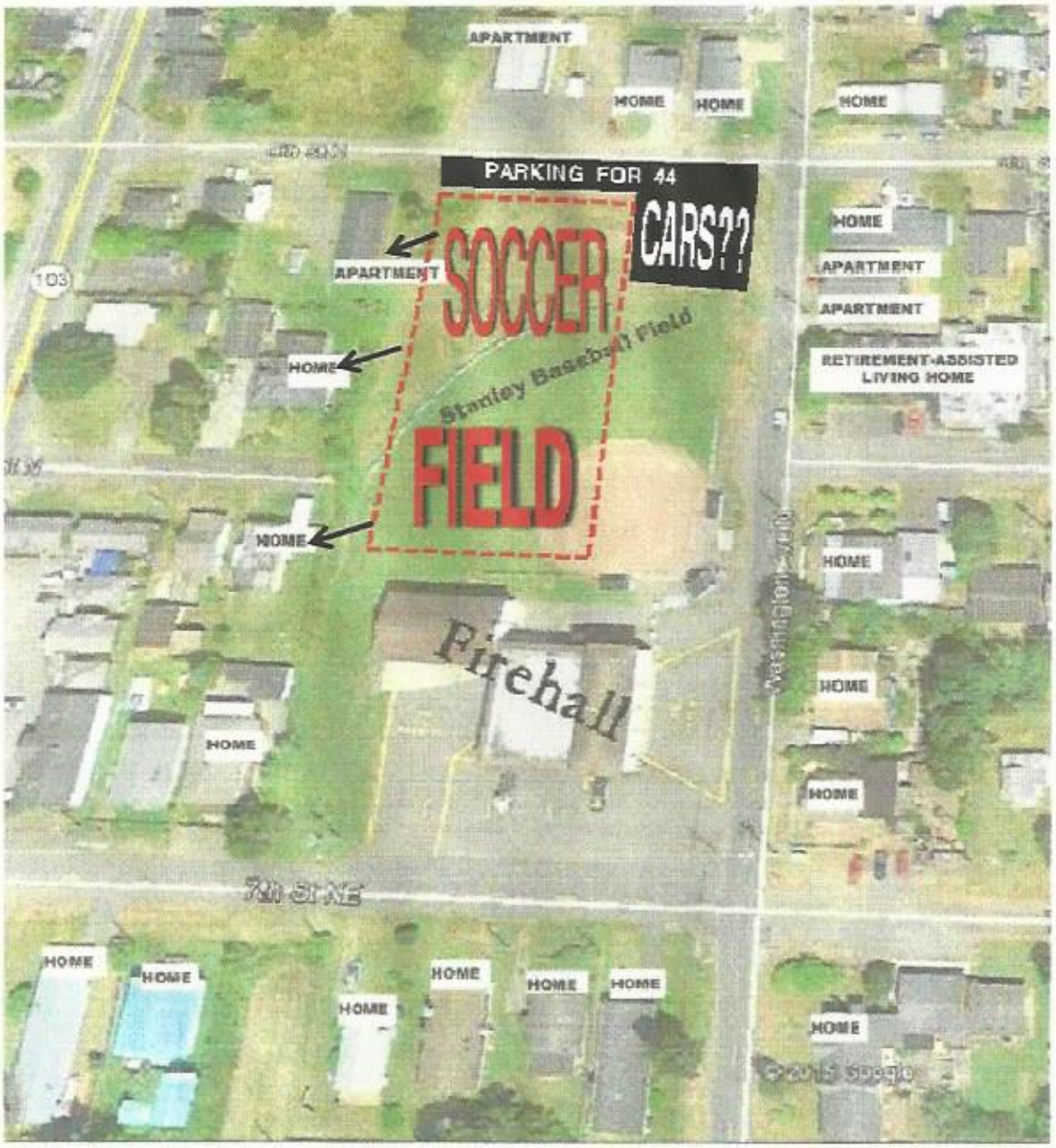
Exhibit C

APARTMENT
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
RETIREMENT-ASSISTED LIVING HOME
103
HOME
Stanley Baseball Field
HOME
HOME
Firehall
HOME
HOME
HOME
7th St NE
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME

Exhibit D

APARTMENT
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
RETIREMENT-ASSISTED LIVING HOME
HOME
Stanley Baseball Field
HOME
HOME
Firehall
HOME
HOME
HOME
7th St NE
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
© 2015 Google

Exhibit E


APARTMENT
HOME
HOME
HOME
PARKING FOR 44
CARS??
SOCCER
FIELD
APARTMENT
HOME
HOME
HOME
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
RETIREMENT-ASSISTED LIVING HOME
Stanley Baseball Field
Firehall
HOME
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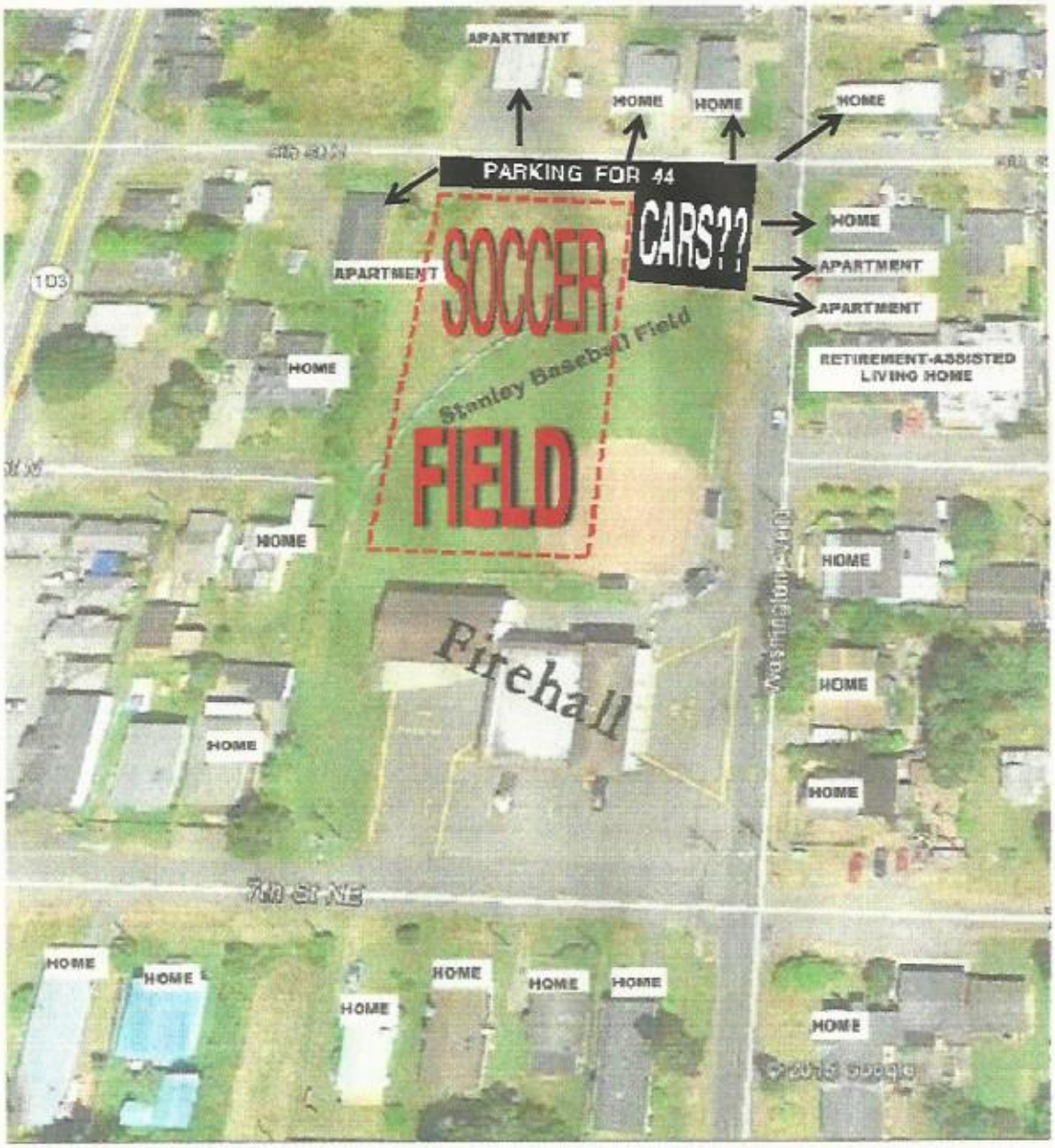
HOME
HOME

Exhibit F


APARTMENT
HOME
HOME
HOME
PARKING FOR 44
CARS??
HOME
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
APARTMENT
SOCCER
FIELD
Stanley Baseball Field
RETIREMENT-ASSISTED LIVING HOME
HOME
HOME
HOME
Firehall
HOME
HOME
HOME
7th St NE
HOME
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HOME
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HOME
HOME

Exhibit G

A picture of what the planned parking will actually look like. In the pictures only three (3) cars are parked in the 'future' space along 9th street that is intended to absorb forty-four (44) cars ???

Exhibit H

Margie Seals <myfavrv@gmail.com> Sep 29

to David

David,

Thanks for taking time to meet with me yesterday.

Other than the following, I am clear and agree to the stipulations you presented.

Regarding #2- I understand the stipulation of staying 10' off the paved portion of 9th street in order to protect the water line. I am not clear about the reference of that 10' as a 'parking strip' since the signs we discussed were 'no parking and do not block signs' designed to preserve access to the north side of the property loading door, recreational vehicle entrance, and driveway; all of which require clearance for safe distances that would allow large vehicles and rigs to back onto the property. Are there plans to use the area in front of the property and provide parking and/or turn that into a parking strip?

Sep 29

David Glasson <dglasson@longbeachwa.gov>

to me

Margie,

#2. We discussed that the city needs to consider the parking area, and that is why 10' is the number I recommend. We did talk about you placing No Parking and Loading Zone signs on your fence similar to people near Long Beach School, but it is no more than a bluff. It is legal to park on the side of the road, but the signs deter people from doing that. The city won't enforce those areas as no parking

November 10th, 2015

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2015
WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Friends of Clark County
Planting the Seeds of Responsible Growth

Clark County Councilors
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Oliver Orjiako
Director, Clark County Community Planning
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Pat Lee, Program Manager
Clark County Legacy Lands
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666-5000

Dear Councilors, Dr. Orjiako, and Pat,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the County's proposal to surplus 20 acres of park land within the East Fork Lewis River Greenway near Paradise Point State Park. The County's proposal was posted on the Legacy Land's web page on October 21st and established a public comment period that runs to November 25, 2015.

As you know, Friends of Clark County (FOCC) has been involved for many years with efforts to protect high-value park and conservation lands on the East Fork Lewis River. These efforts include helping to build partnerships and secure funds for many of the public lands mentioned in your conversion proposal. FOCC believes the county's proposal does not comply with state guidelines for converting recreation lands acquired with the assistance of state grants from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. In addition, FOCC believes the lands proposed for conversion are a highly valuable recreation resource that should be preserved for park uses.

This response includes a background statement and comment on four key issues. Issue #1 discusses the recreational value of the conversion site and the county's decision to propose selling off these lands. Issues #2-4 focus on deficiencies and specific noncompliance with RCO conversion requirements.

Background:
The land proposed for conversion was purchased in June 1996 and includes two tax lots (209695-000 and 209739-00(which are 14.99 and 5.01 acres respectively. These parcels were part of a 127-acre acquisition known as the Eleanor Pearson property. The Pearson property includes extensive waterfront on the East Fork Lewis River, Clark County's largest free-flowing stream, and a year-round tributary known as McCormick Creek. In addition, the Pearson property was the "anchor site" in a larger, IAC/RCO grant project that included 247 acres of waterfront property and associate(uplands. These greenway properties cover about two-miles on the East Fork Lewis River and provide almost continuous public access/ownership from Paradise Point State Park to the La Center Bridge

Funds used to acquire these lands include the County's Conservation Futures Account and grants from the Water Access category of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Under terms of the state grant agreement, the public's long-term interest in these lands is protected by a "Deed of Right" which "conveys and grants to the State of Washington individually and as the representative of all the people of the State, the right to use the real property described below forever for the outdoor recreation purposes described in the Project Agreement . . ." The County may not convert these lands unless the County can ensure it will acquire "other outdoor recreation land of at least equal fai market value at the time of change of use and of as nearly as feasible equivalent usefulness and location for the public recreation purposes for which state assistance was originally granted . . ."

Deeds of Right are not simply locally approved documents that can be vacated by local boards or commissions. Rather, they convey the recreation use of acquired properties forever to all the people of the State of Washington. Fo

this reason, the State provides certain guidelines that must be followed before any of these lands can be converted or sold. FOCC believes the County's proposal does not comply with the state's guidelines and should either be withdrawn by Clark County, or, if necessary, denied by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Board. Issues and deficiencies are discussed below.

Issue #1 – Value of Conversion Property: A first, overriding issue is, should this property even be considered for conversion? FOCC believes it should not be. The proposed conversion covers 20 acres that were part of a 127-acre acquisition that included extensive waterfront on the East Fork Lewis and McCormick Creek. This acquisition as a whole presented a unique and remarkable opportunity, and the 20 acres proposed for conversion are an integral part o the recreation resource. These 20 acres occupy the highest points on the Pearson property and provide stunning view: of the EFL Basin and Cascade Mountains. This area provides important opportunities to develop facilities that suppo water-oriented uses without damaging or diminishing the river, shoreline or sensitive riparian zones. Potential improvements could include trailheads, trails, viewpoints, picnic tables, picnic shelters, parking, restrooms, and signa within easy reach of the East Fork Lewis waterfront.

In addition, this project has been subject to rigorous review at the local and state levels. It is consistent with multiple local parks and conservation plans. The entire Pearson property, including the conversion area, lies within the county approved boundaries for the lower East Fork Lewis Conservation Area. In terms of state review, the Pearson propert was part of a project proposal submitted to the IAC/RCO in the mid-1990s. This larger project included over two mil of shoreline on the East Fork Lewis River and McCormick Creek. This project established almost continuous public access/ownership over a two mile section of the East Fork Lewis River that connects Paradise Point State Park to the city of La Center. This project was vetted by IAC/RCO staff; it was reviewed and scored by IAC evaluation teams in the WWRP water access category; and it was approved for funding by the IAC/RCO board. This entire land area is a wonderful part of the county's park and greenway system and should not be dismantled.

Issue #2 – Alternatives Analysis: Under the state's guidelines, Clark County must provide "a list and discussion of a alternatives for replacement or remediation of the conversion, including avoidance." Further, all practical alternatives "must be evaluated on a sound basis." The County's proposal makes no effort to identify and discuss potential alternatives on a sound basis. At a minimum, the County should discuss three primary options: 1) Avoidance or no action, which preserves the existing resource intact; 2) sale of the five-acre tax lot and residence but retention of the undeveloped 15 acres; and 3) the county's conversion proposal. Other options might include, for example, potential partnerships with the Washington State Parks Department to retain the park resource while transitioning management functions.

FOCC believes options 1 and 2 can be reasonably achieved and must be evaluated on a sound basis. The sale of the proposed conversion site, for example, is not needed to generate funds for a new acquisition. The County's Conservation Futures Program provides an annual source of revenue that is dedicated to the acquisition of farm, fores and open space lands, including shorelines and water-oriented recreation lands. Conservation Futures funds have bee used extensively within the East Fork Lewis Greenway. These funds could be used to acquire some new site identifie in the conversion proposal without having to dispose of the Pearson property.

As to the Pearson house, this structure was, and continues to be, a subordinate part of the 127-acre Pearson property and larger lower East Fork Lewis Greenway. This tax lot occupies the highest point of the Pearson property and entir lower greenway. Before the County and State agree to dispose of this 5-acre property, the county should be required evaluate all options including re-location of the house, demolition or re-use of the house as a caretaker's residence or other purpose, which would allow retention of the five-acre parcel. Currently, the County has no master plan for this site, and the conversion proposal should fully explore all options and possibilities that will protect this important land area.

Issue #3 – Site Evaluation/Compliance with Deed of Right: Under terms of the Deed of Right, the County must acquire a property that has at least equal fair market value and that has equal value in terms of location and recreation usefulness. It is impossible to know whether the County is complying with these requirements because the proposal doesn't identify a replacement site. Instead, it identifies 52 tax lots, spread over about 10 of miles of shoreline and associated uplands, which might qualify as substitute sites. However, because a preferred site is not identified, the public has no opportunity to compare sites in terms of size, location, natural amenities, physical constraints, boundary configuration, water access opportunities, or land cost; nor do we know whether any of the land owners are willing sellers.

In addition, the County states that "the intended purpose of the proposed conversion is to generate resources with whi to close gaps in the Lower East Fork Lewis River Greenway so as to facilitate construction of a regional trail." The

Deed of Right requires that any substitute lands be consistent with the original purpose of the grant proposal. Lewis River Greenway Phase II was submitted and evaluated in the WWRP Water Access category; the WWRP has a separate category for trails. Many of the tax lots identified as substitute properties would serve a trail function but either wouldn't be technically eligible for water access funding, or would compete poorly in the water access category because of physical constraints and other issues. Again, any comparison is impossible because no preferred site is identified in the County's proposal.

Issue #4 – Public Involvement: Under the state's guidelines, the County must provide, at a minimum, a 30-day comment period to give the public "a reasonable opportunity to participate in the identification, development, and evaluation of alternatives." However, the proposal includes 52 tax lots that were selected primarily to facilitate development of a regional trail. Moreover, no preferred site is identified. Under these circumstances, it is impossible to evaluate the two basic requirements established by the Deed of Right, i.e. 1) Does the substitute property have at least equivalent fair market value and 2) Does the substitute property have equivalent value in terms of location and recreation purpose? If the County's current proposal is simply a mechanism to screen potential sites, the proposal should say as much. If the County is presenting this as the final proposal to meet the requirement for public comment on the conversion, it does not meet requirements for public outreach. Instead, if the county decides to move forward, once a preferred site is selected, the County should submit a new proposal with a 30-day comment period which provides adequate specificity and time to allow the public to comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sydney Reisbick

Sydney Reisbick, President

Bill Dygert

Bill Dygert, Advisory Board

Copies:
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Board
Board of Clark County Councilors
The Columbian

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2015-20
November 18-19, 2015 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following November 18-19, 2015 Consent Calendar items are approved:

A. Volunteer Recognition for Advisory Committees

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1A**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 2015

Title: Service Recognition of Volunteers

Prepared By: Lorinda Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator

Summary

This action will recognize the years of service by agency and citizen volunteers on the advisory committees that the Recreation and Conservation Office uses to assist in its grant programs.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office relies on volunteers to help administer its grant programs. Volunteers provide a strategic balance and perspective on program issues. Their activities, experience, and knowledge help shape program policies that guide us in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants.

The following individuals have completed their terms of service or have otherwise bid farewell after providing valuable analysis and excellent program advice. Outdoor recreationists in Washington will enjoy the results of their hard work and vision for years to come.

Staff applauds their exceptional service and recommends approval of the attached resolutions via Resolution 2015-20 (consent).

Volunteer Lists by Committee

Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Anna Scarlett	Citizen, Spokane	6

WWRP Local Parks Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Ruth Anderson	Citizen, Vashon	4
Pete Philley	Local Agency, (Pierce County), Gig Harbor	2

WWRP State Parks Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Larry Otos	Citizen, Mount Vernon	2

WWRP State Lands Development and Renovation Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Jessi Bon	Local Agency, (Sammamish Parks), Sammamish	2
Glenn Glover	Citizen, Seattle	4
Jennifer Schroder	Local Agency (Kirkland Community Services), Kirkland	5

WWRP Trails Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Kate Schneider	Citizen, Tacoma	4

WWRP Water Access Advisory Committee

Name	Position	Years
Cleve Pinnix	Citizen, Olympia	4
Dick Weber	Local Agency, (Puyallup Parks), Puyallup	4

Attachments

A. Individual Service Resolutions

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Anna Scarlett

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

WHEREAS, from 2010 through 2015, Anna Scarlett served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local and state agency Land and Water Conservation Fund projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Ruth Anderson

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2015, Ruth Anderson served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Pete Philley

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

WHEREAS, from 2014 through 2015, Pete Philley served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Larry Otos

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

WHEREAS, from 2014 through 2015, Larry Otos served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Parks Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Parks projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Jessi Bon

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2013, Jessi Bon served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Lands Development and Renovation Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Lands Development and Renovation projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Glenn Glover

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2015, Glenn Glover served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Lands Development and Renovation Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Lands Development and Renovation projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Jennifer Schroder

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

WHEREAS, in 2008 and 2012 through 2015, Jennifer Schroder served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Lands Development and Renovation Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Lands Development and Renovation projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Kate Schneider

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2015, Kate Schneider served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Trails Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local and state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Cleve Pinnix

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2015, Cleve Pinnix served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local and state agency Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Water Access projects for funding;

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Dick Weber

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

WHEREAS, from 2012 through 2015, Dick Weber served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access Advisory Committee;

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on November 18, 2015

Harriet Spanel, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **3**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Director's Report

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

In this Report:

- Agency update
- Legislative, budget, and policy update
- Grant management report
- Fiscal report
- Performance report

Agency Update

Staff Changes

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has had several staffing changes over the past few months. Some created by adding new positions and some by external opportunities.

Leaving/Left RCO	Internal Promotions	New to RCO	Open Positions / Recruitments Underway
Brent Hedden Fiscal Analyst 5	**Gerald Seed** New Fiscal Analyst 4	**Karen Edwards** Recreation & Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager	Two Recreation & Conservation Outdoor Grant Managers
Jen Masterson Policy & Performance Analyst	**Adam Cole** New Policy Specialist		
Laura Moxham Recreation & Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager	**Karl Jacobs** New Recreation & Conservation Outdoor Grant Manager Senior	**Josh Lambert** Salmon Recovery Outdoor Grant Manager	Fiscal Analyst 2
			Policy & Performance Analyst
Rachel LeBaron Anderson Administrative Assistant			

New No Child Left Inside Grant Programs Get Underway

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission requested RCO to assist in administering the recently funded No Child Left Inside Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program. Established in 2007 and funded in 2008, this program is meant to provide under-served students with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world. This biennium, the program received a $1 million appropriation.

Staff launched Web pages and assembled the materials and processes needed to guide the grant program: an advisory committee, grant application and criteria, project agreement template, and policies and procedures. RCO hopes to open the application period later this year and begin funding projects in spring 2016. Eligible organizations include school districts, non-profit organizations, conservation districts, and environmental organizations. Grants are to be used to provide youth outdoor education and recreation programs. State Parks and RCO have signed an interagency agreement that outlines how the agencies will work together to manage the grant program.

Trails Maps Online

A pilot project to show Washington trails through an online map has been completed, thanks to the help of a Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) grant from RCO. In 2006, the Legislature asked for a statewide trails database for both land managers and the public, but the cost projections kept the project dormant until 2013. Changes in technology and easier access to information, made it was possible to revisit the project. A small group of volunteers and students began designing a spatial database using federal trails data standards. After 9 months, the effort received a NOVA grant. The pilot phase of the Washington State Trails Project was successfully completed in September.

The trails mapping application and data are hosted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Geospatial Program Office. Now users can see trail and trailhead features as well as amenities at those locations. If permanent funding becomes available, the data and maps will continue to be updated; otherwise, it represents a single snapshot of close to 12,000 miles of trails in Washington. The existing data has been forwarded to the U.S. Geological Survey for consideration and potential integration into its National Map Program. See more information about this project here, and view the trails mapping application through the Washington State Geospatial Portal.

Washington Public Port Association

Nearly 125 port commissioners, executive directors, managers, associate members, and staff attended the Washington Public Port Association's (WPPA) annual seminar on October 22. WPPA holds a seminar each year that is specifically designed for small ports. Topics are focused on helping the smaller ports reach their goals. Rory Calhoun, RCO's grants manager and accessibility specialist hosted a session on Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grants that are available for ports and included information on grants available in 2016 and establishing eligibility for board programs. Commissioners and other attendees were surprised to learn that that the board has provided more than $48 million in grant funds to 42 ports for marine recreation and upland support amenities. Several attendees expressed their appreciation for RCO's involvement in the seminar, which was held in Leavenworth.

Bravo Awards

RCO recognizes the top scoring projects in each grant round by presenting grant applicants with a framed Bravo Award, usually at public events or city council and county commissioner meetings. This year's presentations began with two Bravo Awards in September for top ranked projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The RCO Director presented a Bravo Award to the Nisqually Land Trust for its Riparian Protection project to conserve shoreline along the Mashel River and to the Clallam County

Board of Commissioners for its Trails project to restore the Spruce Railroad's McFee Tunnel. Upcoming awards are being given to the Washington Trails Association and the City of Wenatchee.

Meetings with Partners

- **Trails stakeholders** – At this September meeting the RCO director and staff met with our newly created Trails stakeholder group to share information about RCO's trail grant programs. The topics covered included the 2014 grant application results, 2015 legislative session outcomes, statewide planning for recreational trails, changes to RCO's project agreement and accountability standards for federal funding, trails program and policy initiatives for next year's grants, and the Washington State Trails Coalition caucus in November. Trails groups in attendance represented broad interest in trails and included the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Pacific Northwest 4WD Drive Association, Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, Washington Trails Association, and the Washington Water Trails Association.

- **National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers (NASORLO) Meeting** – In September, the RCO director traveled to South Carolina to meet with her peers from across the country who oversee the implementation of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), stateside assistance grants. This meeting was jointly held with the National Association of State Parks Directors. The focus of the meeting was the effort to reauthorize the federal LWCF and how the states might position themselves to get back to the original allocation formula. The meeting included a tour of LWCF projects in South Carolina and discussions regarding different state approaches to SCORP. The National Parks Service and the National Recreation and Parks Association provided information about LWCF changes and congressional strategies. Next year's meeting will be held in Detroit and will focus on the use of LWCF to rehabilitate urban areas.

- **Boating Groups** – At this September meeting, the RCO director facilitated a quarterly boater stakeholder meeting. Attending were representatives from the Recreational Boating Association of Washington and the Northwest Marine Trade Association. The director briefed the group on the status of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's review and discussed RCO's supplemental budget request submitted to the Governor that would allow the agency to spend some additional revenues from the newly imposed gas tax coming into the Boating Facilities Program and the NOVA Program. The group also discussed some upcoming issues before the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board that affect boaters. The items are a potential change to the Boating Facilities Program that may provide a preference for trailer-able boats, and three changes in the Boating Infrastructure Grants programs that would allow reimbursement of maintenance activities, change the compliance period, and change the evaluation criteria.

- **Washington Recreation and Parks Association** – At this quarterly meeting, the RCO director shared the board's direction on proposed changes to grant programs and RCO's supplemental budget requests for the next legislative session. The association will help get the word out about the public comment period for the proposed policy changes. The director shared ways that members can participate in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program review, as well as information about the status of the Governor's recruitment for a recreation policy advisor.

Update on Sister Boards

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

The SRFB held its annual travel meeting in La Conner on October 15 and 16. The board made decisions on several components of the monitoring program and discussed upcoming changes from the federal Omni-Circular and two new grant programs recently assigned to RCO. Guest presenters shared information

about the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program and the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program. The SRFB also toured several estuary restoration projects between La Conner and Marysville. Additionally, the Puget Sound Leadership Council joined the board for a dinner meeting and the estuary restoration tour.

Washington Invasive Species Council

The council had its quarterly meeting September 24 in Wenatchee. While there, the council toured the Rocky Reach Dam and heard from Chelan Public Utility District about its zebra and quagga mussel monitoring efforts. The council released its strategic plan for public comment and is hoping to adopt a final plan at its December 3 meeting.

Legislative, Budget, and Policy Update

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Review Update

The review of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is nearing the finish line with draft recommendations due to the Governor's Office in late November. The project team of RCO staff and consultants has been meeting with interested groups throughout the fall. Also, a survey of the general public closed in mid-October with nearly 500 people responding. The project team is working its way through the survey and all the comments gathered, as well as the ideas from the multitude of conversations with stakeholders, legislators, and local elected officials. The Legislature tasked RCO with convening and facilitating a stakeholder process and making recommendations for revisions to state law, initiated due to concerns regarding land purchases by state agencies. At the board meeting, staff will brief the board on the draft recommendations, which are expected to be distributed for review on November 6th. The final recommendations are due December 1.

Grant Management Report

Funding for the 2015-17 Biennium

The Recreation and Conservation Grants Section has focused its attention on writing agreements after the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board delegated authority to the director to award grants for the 2015-17 biennium. The director awarded 219 grants on behalf of the board and another 61 grants for the new RCO Recreation Grants Program. In addition, the director approved use of unspent funds from previous biennia for several unfunded alternates. When appropriate staff have combined agreements for matching grants. Even with combined agreements, staff are writing more than 270 agreements for funded projects. In the last six weeks, staff has issued 195 agreements and 100 of those have been fully executed. Staff is working with sponsors to secure the post approval materials needed to issue the remaining agreements.

Using Returned Funds for Alternates and Partially-Funded Projects

The RCO director recently awarded grants for 6 alternate projects (Table A-1). The funds are from projects that did not use the full amount of their grant awards. Also, as unused funds have become available from other projects, the director has approved additional funding for 6 partially-funded projects. Table A-2 shows the projects' original grant award and the total grant funds now approved.

Table A-1: Funds for Alternate Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Category
14-1890D	Whitechuck Bench Relocation	U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	$100,000	$100,000	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
14-1606D	Pearl Street Memorial Plaza and Fountain	Centralia	$240,000	$240,000	RCO Recreation Grants, Local Parks
14-1729D	Ilwaco City Park Rejuvenation	Ilwaco	$150,000	150,000	RCO Recreation Grants, Local Parks
12-1180A	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$604,800	$604,800	WWRP Natural Areas
10-1087D	Pearrygin Lake Expansion Phase 1	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$2,186,352	$1,053,828	WWRP State Parks
12-1184A	West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,112,895	$1,112,895	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat

**WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program*

Table A-2: Funds for Partially Funded Projects

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Original Grant Funding	Current Total Grant Funding	Grant Program
14-1963D	Odlin Park Float and Gangway Replacement	San Juan County Public Works	$214,528	$170,311	$214,528	Boating Facilities Program, Local Agencies
14-1885D	Expand Sporting Clays Range	Seattle Skeet and Trap Club	$63,000	$17,678	$17,720	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
14-1522A	Olma North Ranchland	Okanogan Land Trust	$762,000	$249,491	$762000	WWRP Farmland Preservation
14-1482R	Coastal Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$188,800	$45,503	$188,800	WWRP State Lands Restoration
14-1251A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$3,765,352	$1,402,825	$2,200,000	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat
14-1095A	Merrill Lake Riparian Protection	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$3,000,000	$1,610,755	$2,196,889	WWRP Riparian Protection

**WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program*

Project Administration

Staff administer outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects as summarized in the table below. "Active" projects are under agreement and are in the implementation phase. "Director Approved" projects includes grant awards made by the RCO director after receiving board-delegated authority to award grants after approval of the state capital budget, and alternate projects on the approved funding list that received unused funds from higher ranked projects. Staff are working with sponsors to secure the materials needed to place the Director Approved projects under agreement.

Program	Active Projects	Board Funded Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	12	0	10	22
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	30	0	6	36
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	4	0	1	5
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	6	0	6	12
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	3	0	3	6
Marine Shoreline Protection (MSP)	3	0	0	3
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	103	0	55	158
Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	21	0	41	62
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	59	0	16	75
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	118	0	43	161
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	3	0	0	3
Total	362	0	181	543

Fiscal Report

The following financial reports reflect Recreation and Conservation Funding Board activities as of October 28, 2015. You will see:

- The budget status of board activities by program.
- The budget status of the entire agency by board.
- Revenue collections. We are on track to meet our projections.
- A Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) summary and history of committed and expenditures. Since 1990, $660 million have been spent in WWRP.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Activities by Program

For July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017, actuals through October 28, 2015 (Fiscal Mo. 4). Percentage of biennium reported: 16.6%

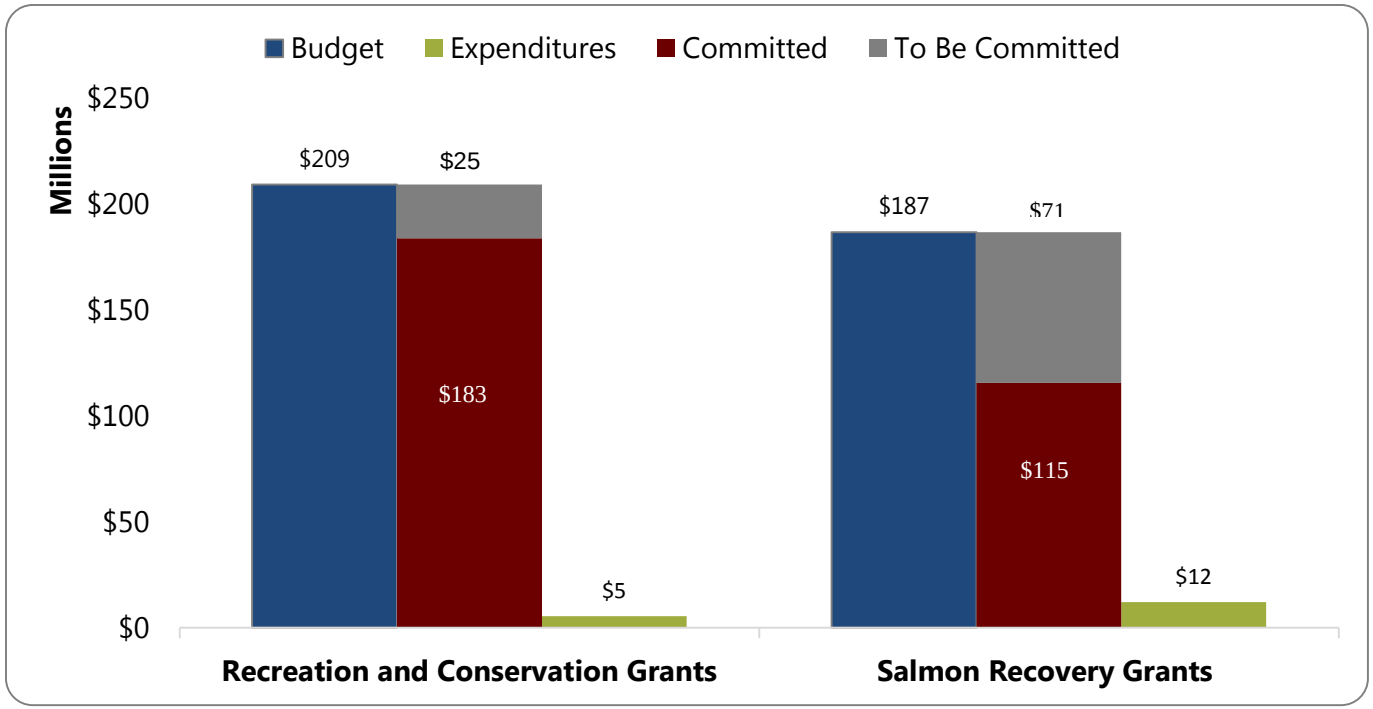
	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
Grant Program	New and Re-appropriation 2015-2017	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)							
Re-appropriations	$53,862,000	$45,203,288	84%	$8,658,712	16%	$3,030,909	6%
New 15-17 Funds	$52,884,111	$52,354,407	99%	$529,704	1%	$0	0%
RCO Recreation Grants (RRG)							
New 15-17 Funds	$36,860,160	$31,373,964	85%	$5,486,196	15%	$353,425	1%
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)							
Re-appropriations	$4,898,000	$4,839,760	99%	$58,240	1%	$157,938	3%
New 15-17 Funds	$9,360,000	$9,360,000	100%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle (NOVA)							
Re-appropriations	$4,112,507	$4,003,885	97%	$108,622	3%	$117,906	3%
New 15-17 Funds	$8,677,201	$8,677,201	100%	$0	0.0%	$0	0%
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)							
Re-appropriations	$1,203,093	$1,203,093	100%	$0	0%	$78,352	7%
New 15-17 Funds	$265,650	$265,650	100%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)							
Re-appropriations	$4,745,000	$4,609,051	97%	$135,949	3%	$30,468	1%
New 15-17 Funds	$5,269,000	$5,268,923	100%	$77	0.00%	$339,682	6%
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)							
Re-appropriations	$2,414,168	$2,414,166	100%	$2	0%	$54,887	2%
New 15-17 Funds	$1,790,470	$1,790,470	100%	$0	0.0%	$0	0%
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)							
Re-appropriations	$1,942,000	$1,755,196	90%	$186,804	10%	$351,297	18%
New 15-17 Funds	$9,700,000	$0	0%	$9,700,000	100%	$0	0%
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)							
Re-appropriations	$315,000	$314,082	100%	$918	0%	$71,555	23%
New 15-17 Funds	$580,000	$580,000	100%	$0	0.0%	$0	0%
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) 0.25"							
Re-appropriations	$239,708	$239,708	100%	$0	0%	$0	0%
New 15-17 Funds	$1,317,121	$1,317,121	100%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Marine Shoreline Protection (MSP)							
New 15-17 Funds	$1,200,000	$720,000	60%	$480,000	40.0%	$47,615	4%
Subtotal Grant Programs	**$201,635,189**	**$176,289,966**	**87%**	**$25,345,223**	**13%**	**$4,634,034**	**2%**
Administration							
General Operating Funds	$7,464,926	$7,464,926	100%	$0	0%	$765,902	10%
Grant / Administration Total	**$209,100,115**	**$183,754,892**	**88%**	**$25,345,223**	**12%**	**$5,399,936**	**3%**

Note: The budget column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

2015-17 Capital and Operating Budget Status for the Recreation and Conservation Office

For July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017, actuals through October 28, 2015 (Fiscal Mo. 4). Percentage of biennium reported: 16.6%

Board or Program	New	Re-appropriation	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
			New and Re-appropriation 2015-2017	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Recreation and Conservation Grants	$134,168,639	$74,931,476	$209,100,115	$183,754,892	88%	$25,345,223	12%	$5,399,936	3%
Salmon Recovery Grants	$100,652,930	$85,889,090	$186,542,020	$115,431,504	62%	$71,110,518	38%	$12,004,368	10%
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	$1,145,777	$0	$1,145,777	$1,145,777	100%	$0	0%	$89,151	8%
Invasive Species Council	$203,290	$0	$203,290	$203,290	100%	$0	0%	$18,565	9%
Total	**$236,170,636**	**$160,820,566**	**$396,991,202**	**$300,535,463**	**76%**	**$96,455,741**	**24%**	**$17,512,020**	**6%**



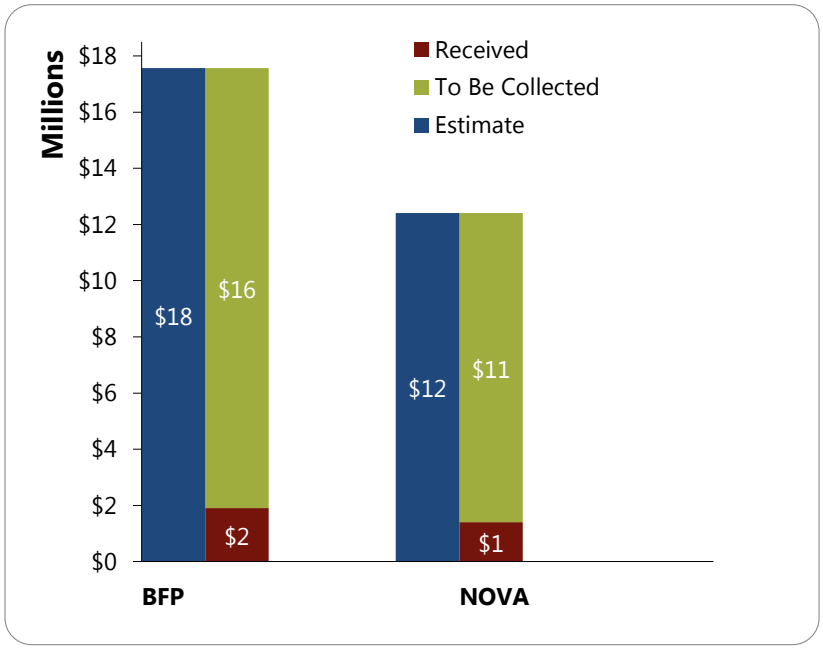
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Revenue Report

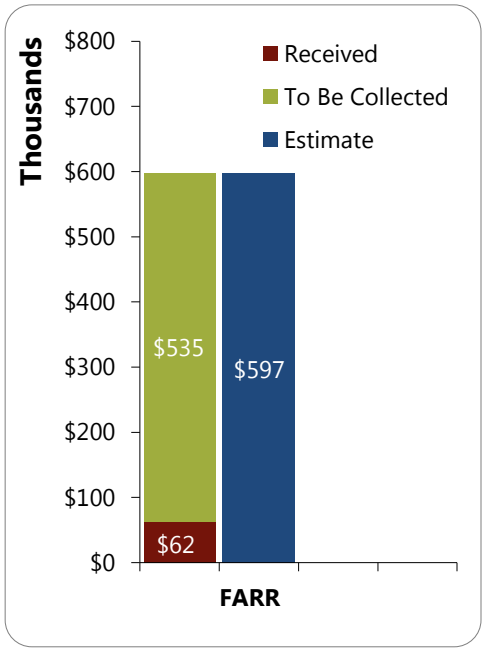
For July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017, actuals through September 30, 2015 (Fiscal Month 03). Percentage of Biennium Reported: 12.5%

	BIENNIAL FORECAST	COLLECTIONS	
Program	**Estimate**	**Actual**	**% of Estimate**
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	$17,562,532	$1,901,922	10.8%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	$12,406,867	$1,400,243	11.3%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	$597,086	$62,220	10.4%
Total	**$30,566,485**	**$3,364,385**	**11.0%**

Revenue Notes:

- BFP revenue is from un-refunded marine gasoline taxes.
- NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits.
- FARR revenue is from $3 of each concealed pistol license fee.
- YAF revenue is from an initial $10 million contribution by the Seattle Seahawks "team affiliate" in 1998. The new revenue is from the interest on the unexpended amount of the fund.
- This reflects the most recent revenue forecast of September 2015. The next forecast is due in November 2015.





Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) Biennial Appropriations Summary

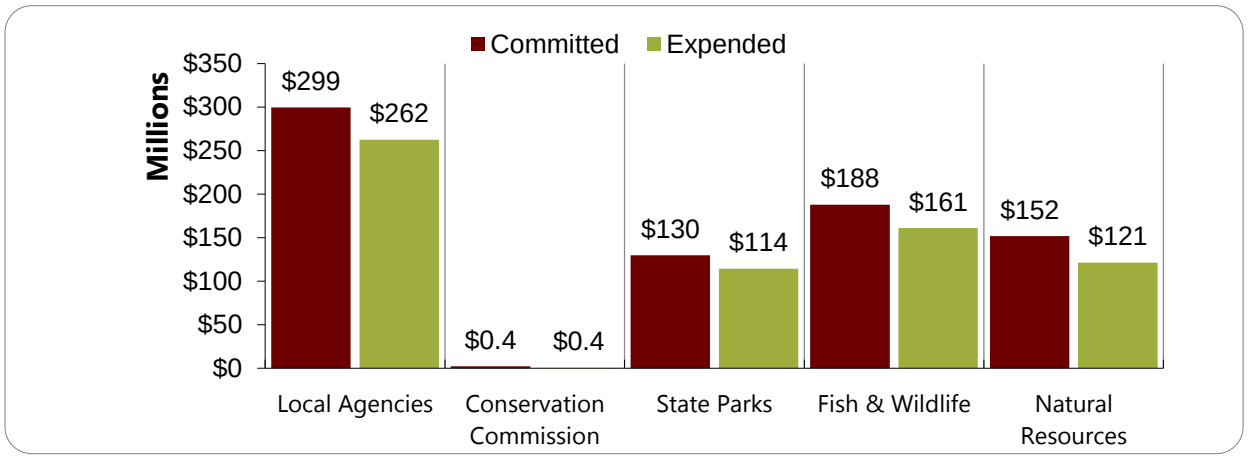
Biennium	Appropriation
89-91 Biennium	$53,000,000
91-93 Biennium	$61,150,000
93-95 Biennium	$65,000,000
95-97 Biennium[1]	$43,760,000
97-99 Biennium	$45,000,000
99-01 Biennium	$48,000,000
01-03 Biennium	$45,000,000
03-05 Biennium	$45,000,000
05-07 Biennium[2]	$48,500,000
07-09 Biennium[3]	$95,491,955
09-11 Biennium[4]	$67,344,750
11-13 Biennium[5]	$40,740,000
13-15 Biennium[6]	$63,050,000
15-17 Biennium[7]	$52,884,111
Total	**$773,920,816**

Notes
[1]Original appropriation was $45 million.
[2]Entire appropriation was $50 million; 3 percent ($1.5 million) went to administration.
[3]Entire appropriation was $100 million; 3 percent ($3 million) went to administration, $981,000 was removed by 2010 Supplemental Capital Budget, and $527,045 was removed by the 2011 Supplemental Capital Budget.
[4]Entire appropriation was $70 million; 3 percent ($2.1 million) went to administration, $555,250 was removed by the 2011 Supplemental Capital Budget.
[5]Entire appropriation was $42 million; 3 percent ($1.26 million) went to administration.
[6]Entire appropriation was $65 million; 3 percent ($1.95 million) went to administration.
[7]Entire appropriation was $55.323 million; 4.3 percent ($2.4 million) went to administration, $60,000 went to the WWRP study.

WWRP Expenditure Rate, by Agency or Organization

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	$299,953,512	$263,871,444	88%
Conservation Commission	$378,559	$378,559	100%
State Parks	$128,054,489	$114,252,204	89%
Fish and Wildlife	$187,680,009	$160,422,780	85%
Natural Resources	$147,930,818	$121,199,155	82%
Riparian Habitat Administration	$185,046	$185,046	100%
Land Inventory	$549,965	$549,965	100%
Total	**$764,732,399**	**$660,859,152**	**86%**

History of Committed and Expended WWRP Grants



Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2016

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). Data are current as of October 16, 2015.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Percent of Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	85-95%	**75%**	🟡	Four projects were set to come under agreement this fiscal year. Staff issued one agreement eight days late.
Percent of Projects Under Agreement within 180 Days of Board Funding	95%	**80%**	🟡	Staff was due to place five projects under agreement so far this fiscal year.
Percent of Progress Reports Responded to On Time	65-75%	**97%**	🟢	To date, 69 progress reports were due this fiscal year. Of these, 67 were responded to within 15 days or less.
Percent of Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	**100%**	🟢	Forty bills were due this fiscal year, and staff paid all within 30 days.[1]
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	60-70%	**70%**	🟢	There were ten recreation and conservation projects due to close and seven closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	0	**8**	🟡	Staff continues to work with sponsors to get the proper documentation to close backlog projects.
Number of Compliance Inspections (by Worksite)	No target set	**248**	*N/A*	Staff revised the performance query for this measure to count inspections by worksite.
Percent of Project Sponsors Submitting Annual Bill	100%	**90%**	🟢	Of the 234 active recreation and conservation projects, 210 submitted a bill this fiscal year. The remaining sponsors have until June 30, 2016 to submit a bill.

[1] A staff error over counted the reported total number of bills for last meeting's performance report.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **5**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Awards

Prepared by: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

Applicants submitted 44 projects for the Youth Athletic Facilities Program. This memo describes the program, evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the November meeting and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the ranked list and award grants for the 2015-17 biennium.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2015-21

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) and award grants for the 2015-17 biennium.

Background

The 2015 Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program provides funds for acquisition of land and renovation of outdoor athletic facilities serving youth and communities. The program priority is to enhance facilities that serve people through the age of 18 who participate in sports and athletics.

The program encourages multi-generational use, which means applicants may submit proposals for facilities sized for adults but which primarily serve youth. Improvements may include renovation of athletic fields, hard courts, outdoor swimming pools, running tracks, and renovation or development of support amenities.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) policies for YAF focus on increasing participation in outdoor recreation, sustaining our state's outdoor recreation assets, and recognizing the social, economic, and health benefits of outdoor recreation particularly for our youth. These were areas of importance for the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The program policies and evaluation criteria are included in Manual 17, *Youth Athletic Facilities*.

Program Summary

Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, park districts, Native American tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations that submitted a letter of intent in 2014
Eligible Project Types	• Renovation • Combination projects involving both land acquisition and renovation
Funding Limits	The minimum fund request is $25,000 with a maximum request of $250,000.
Match Requirements	Grant recipients must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources. Exceptions: • Communities with schools where 80 percent or more of the students qualify for free or reduced lunches must provide a 25 percent match. • Communities in federal disaster areas declared on or after July 1, 2013 may have the match waived.
Public Access	Public access is required.
Other Program Characteristics	• Projects must include items found within the field of play that are essential for the competitive sport. • Property acquired must be developed within five years and must be retained for public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. • Facilities renovated must remain for public outdoor recreation for a minimum of 20 years.

Certification of Match Required

Applicants must certify that they have matching funds available before the November funding meeting.[1] Staff notified applicants of this requirement during application review in July and again in September. Most applicants certified that their matching funds are available, with one exception: the Blackhills Community Soccer Complex Field Turf (RCO #15-1366D), which is 30th on the ranked list. As part of the 2015-17 State Capital Budget, the Legislature appropriated $750,000 for safety improvements at the Blackhills Community Soccer Complex. After reviewing the budget for safety and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, the Blackhills Community Soccer Club realized they would not have enough resources to certify match for this project, which involves replacing field turf. Because the applicant has not completed all of the application requirements, the project is no longer eligible for funding consideration.

Program Funding

As part of the 2015-17 State Capital Budget, the Legislature approved $10 million for the YAF program. After setting aside $3 million for line-item project appropriations[2] and program administration, $6,790,000 remain for the competitive grant program. In addition, there is approximately $150,000 in unused funds available from the Youth Athletic Facilities Account.

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[1] Washington Administrative Code 286-13-040(1)(c)

[2] Line Item 7: Marymoor Park – Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
Line Item 8: Northwest Soccer Park Turf Field – Whatcom Soccer Commission

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Applications submitted 44 projects for funding consideration during this grant cycle. These requests total more than $9 million.

The YAF Advisory Committee includes citizen and local agency representatives who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering and design, and community or youth athletics. In addition, the RCO Director appointed a high school student who is very much engaged in community athletes and represents the interest of the youth. This committee reviewed and evaluated projects using board-adopted evaluation criteria and the director-approved written evaluation process.

The following table lists the fifteen advisory committee members who evaluated projects.

Advisory Committee Member	Representing
Michelle Bly, Lewiston	Citizen
John Hillock, Bellevue	Citizen
Merle Iverson, Spokane	Citizen
Kolby Johnson, Olympia High School	Citizen/Student
Mike Neumeister, Edmonds	Citizen
Abram Thalhofer, Ferndale	Citizen
Josh Bunten, Franklin County	Citizen
Maureen Colaizzi, City of Shoreline	Local Agency
Sean Conway, City of Covington	Local Agency
Kristi Evans, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	Local Agency
Alison Greene, City of West Richland	Local Agency
Carolyn Hope, City of Redmond	Local Agency
Paul J. Kaftanski, City of Edmonds	Local Agency
Mark Thiery, King County	Local Agency
NeSha Thomas-Schadt, City of Kirkland	Local Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 –Youth Athletic Facilities Program, Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17* (Attachment A).

Strategic Plan Link

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

Projects considered for funding support board adopted priorities in the *Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the ranked list of projects and funding amounts shown in *Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities, Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*, via Resolution 2015-21 (Attachment A).

Next Steps

If the board approves the ranked list, the RCO director will have authorization to execute agreements for projects that meet all post-approval requirements.

Attachments

A. Resolution 2015-21 and
   - Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities Program, Ranked List of Projects 2015-17

B. State Map of Projects

C. Evaluation Criteria Summary

D. Evaluation Summary

E. Project Summaries

Attachment A

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2015-21
Youth Athletic Facilities
Approval of the Ranked List of Projects and Funding for the 2015-2017 Biennium

WHEREAS, for the 2015-2017 biennium, forty-three Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, all forty-three YAF projects meet program eligibility requirements as stipulated in Manual 17, *Youth Athletic Facilities*; and

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

WHEREAS, the results of these evaluations are being considered in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature has appropriated $7.0 million for YAF competitive grants and program administration and there are unused funds available in the Youth Athletic Facilities Account;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list and use of available funds for the projects depicted in *Table 1 – Youth Athletic Facilities Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ranked list of alternate projects remains eligible for funding until the next grant cycle, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the director to execute project agreements necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 - Youth Athletic Facilities, Ranked List of Projects, 2015-17

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Project Cost	Staff Recommends
1	45.47	15-1434D	Mission Park Adaptive Ball Field Renovation	Spokane	$250,000	$645,411	$895,411	$250,000
2	43.13	15-1302D	Central Park Field 1 Multipurpose Sports Field	Issaquah	$250,000	$2,886,228	$3,136,228	$250,000
3	43.07	15-1331D	Quillayute Valley School District Athletic Field Renovation	Forks	$250,000	$1,000,000	$1,250,000	$250,000
4	42.47	15-1339D	Meadowdale Playfields Renovation	Lynnwood	$250,000	$2,934,195	$3,184,195	$250,000
5	42.40	15-1304D	Arlington Playfields Renovation	Boys & Girls Club of Snohomish County	$250,000	$942,000	$1,192,000	$250,000
6	41.93	15-1310D	Civic Field Lighting Replacement	Port Angeles	$226,500	$226,500	$453,000	$226,500
7	41.40	15-1384D	Friday Harbor Multipurpose Field Renovation	San Juan Island Park and Recreation District	$158,977	$194,307	$353,284	$158,977
8	41.27	15-1335D	Volunteer Park LED Light Project Fields 1, 2, and 3	Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000	$250,000
9	40.73	15-1328D	Schmuck Park Renovation	Colfax	$250,000	$438,200	$688,200	$250,000
10	40.47	15-1360D	Kasch Park Synthetic Fields 2 and 3 Renovation	Everett	$250,000	$1,855,000	$2,105,000	$250,000
11	40.27	15-1378D	Hogan Park Athletic Field Renovation	Kent	$250,000	$1,566,780	$1,816,780	$250,000
12	40.20	15-1337D	Twin Ponds Park Field Turf and Lighting Replacement	Shoreline	$250,000	$1,409,787	$1,659,787	$250,000
13	39.73	15-1341D	Sehmel Homestead Park Infields and Warning Tracks	Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	$250,000	$472,348	$722,348	$250,000
13	39.73	15-1349D	SERA Baseball Complex Lighting	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	$250,000	$350,000	$600,000	$250,000
15	39.53	15-1379D	West Seattle Stadium Track and Field Renovation	Seattle	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000	$250,000
15	39.53	15-1389D	Heritage Soccer Field Artificial Turf	Pierce County	$250,000	$829,778	$1,079,778	$250,000
17	39.27	15-1334D	Robinswood Park Synthetic Sports Field Renovation	Bellevue	$250,000	$880,640	$1,130,640	$250,000
18	38.47	15-1346D	Athletic Field for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	$250,000	$291,559	$541,559	$250,000
19	38.33	15-1330D	Ahtanum Youth Activities Soccer Fields	Union Gap	$165,000	$165,908	$330,908	$165,000
20	37.67	15-1372D	Highland Park Football Field Lighting and Upgrades	Pasco	$133,500	$133,500	$267,000	$133,500
21	37.40	15-1432D	Stanley Park Renovation and Reorientation	Long Beach	$132,000	$132,900	$264,900	$132,000
21	37.40	15-1439D	Pasco Little League Revitalization	Pasco Little League	$195,000	$195,000	$390,000	$195,000

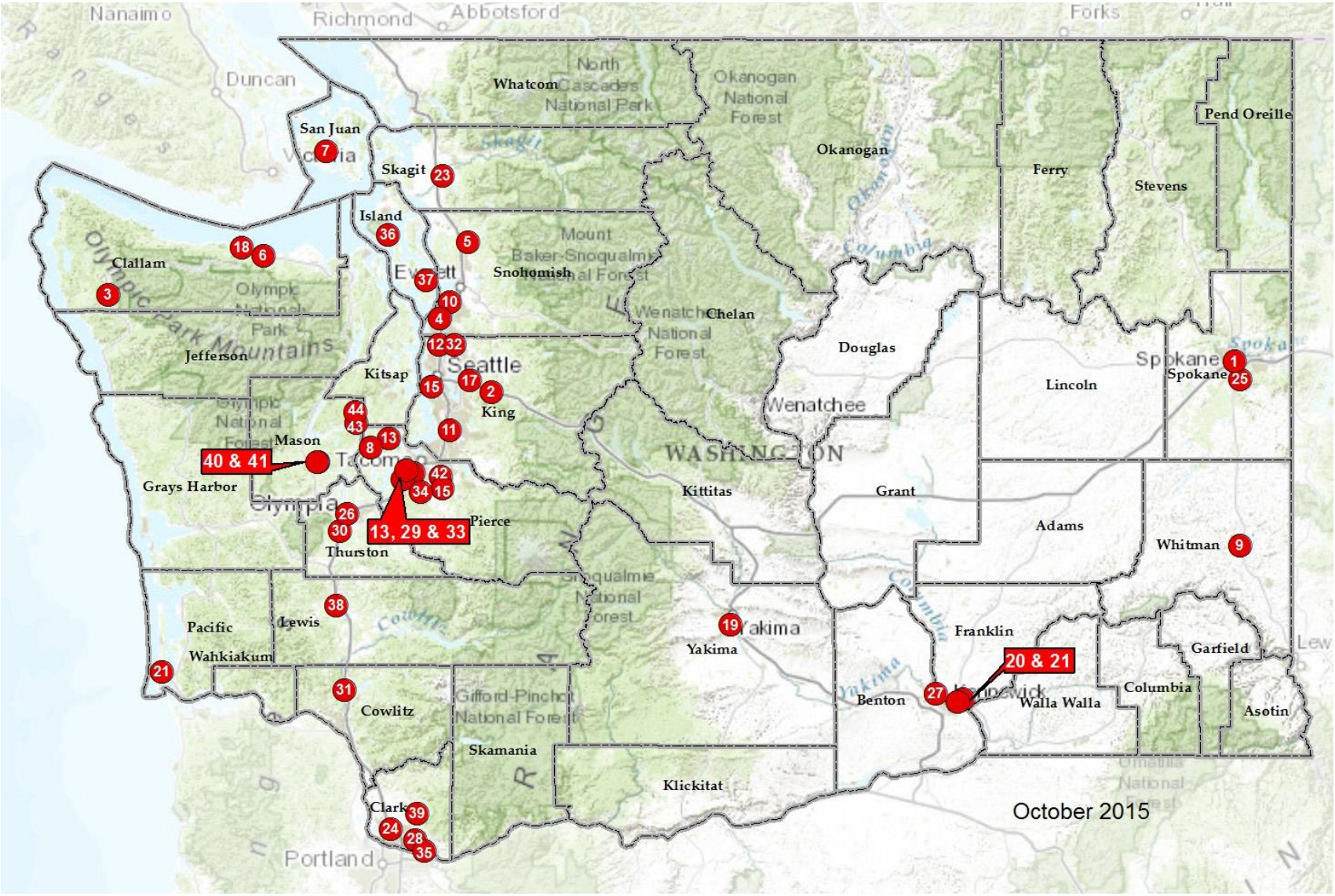
Rank	Score	Project Number and Type*	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Project Cost	Staff Recommends
23	37.00	15-1359D	Otto Walberg Field Renovation	Skagit County	$144,000	$179,000	$323,000	$144,000
24	36.73	15-1386D	Luke Jensen Sports Park Fields 3-4-5 Lighting	Clark County	$95,000	$95,000	$190,000	$95,000
25	36.53	15-1362D	Prairie View Park Ball Field Renovation	Spokane County	$250,000	$826,241	$1,076,241	$250,000
26	36.00	15-1430D	Stevens Field Park Ball Field 1 Synthetic Infield	Olympia	$193,223	$193,224	$386,447	$193,223
27	35.87	15-1427D	New Field Lights for Columbia Point Marina Park	Richland	$121,375	$121,375	$242,750	$121,375
28	34.40	15-1390D	Turf Field at Harmony Sports Complex	Washington Timbers Football Club	$250,000	$360,976	$610,976	$250,000
29	33.87	15-1394D	Cirque Park Athletic Field Improvements	University Place	$237,500	$237,500	$475,000	$237,500
30	33.73	15-1366D	Blackhills Community Soccer Complex Field Turf	Blackhills Community Soccer	$250,000	$673,000	$923,000	$0
31	33.67	15-1429D	North County Playing Fields Upgrades	Castle Rock	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000	$250,000
32	33.53	15-1374D	Moorlands Park Athletic Field Renovation	Kenmore	$137,520	$168,080	$305,600	$137,520
33	33.47	15-1371D	Fort Steilacoom Park Sports Field Enhancements	Lakewood	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000	$250,000
34	33.40	15-1365D	Sprinker Recreation Center Ball Field Renovations	Pierce County	$250,000	$328,945	$578,945	Alternate
35	33.07	15-1440D	Camas Forest Home Park Little League Fields Improvements	Camas Little League	$97,900	$97,900	$195,800	Alternate
36	32.27	15-1301D	Rhododendron Athletic Field Irrigation Renovation	Island County	$25,000	$25,000	$50,000	Alternate
37	32.07	15-1327D	Community Park Drainage and Irrigation	South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District	$54,900	$67,100	$122,000	Alternate
38	31.73	15-1400D	Stan Headwall Facilities Improvements	Chehalis	$250,000	$262,000	$512,000	Alternate
39	27.53	15-1433D	Hockinson Meadows Park Field Drainage Improvements	Clark County	$165,000	$165,000	$330,000	Alternate
40	27.07	15-1415D	Mason County Recreation Area Field Lights	Mason County	$225,000	$225,000	$450,000	Alternate
41	27.00	15-1410D	Mason County Recreation Area Irrigation Replacement	Mason County	$200,000	$200,000	$400,000	Alternate
42	26.07	15-1437D	DeCoursey/Clarks Creek Athletic Courts Rehabilitation	Puyallup	$114,250	$114,250	$228,500	Alternate
43	26.00	15-1435D	North Mason Soccer-Football Field Renovation	Mason County	$250,000	$720,560	$970,560	Alternate
44	23.87	15-1436D	Sandhill Park Renovation	Mason County	$225,000	$225,000	$450,000	Alternate
					$9,046,645	**$23,835,192**	**$32,881,837**	**$6,939,595**

YAF funds available $6,790,000; plus $149,595. Any additional funds that become available will go to eligible

[1]Project Type: D = Development/Renovation

[2]Grant applicant did not certify match. Project is not eligible for funding

State Map for Youth Athletic Facilities Projects



Youth Athletic Facilities Evaluation Criteria Summary

Youth Athletic Facilities Program, Renovation Category, provides for renovation of outdoor athletic facilities serving youth and communities.

Summary of Questions and Scores					
Scored by	#	Title	Maximum Points	Multiplier	Total
Advisory Committee	1	Need and Need Satisfaction	5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Design and Budget	5	2	10
Advisory Committee	3	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	3	1	3
Advisory Committee	4	Facility management	3	1	3
Advisory Committee	5	Availability	5	1	5
Advisory Committee	6	Readiness to proceed	3	1	3
Advisory Committee	7	Support and Partnerships	5	2	10
RCO Staff	8	Matching shares	2	1	2
RCO Staff	9	Proximity to people	1	1	1
RCO Staff	10	Growth Management Act Preference	0	1	0
				Total possible points = 52	

Scoring Criteria, Youth Athletic Facilities

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

1. **Need and Need Satisfaction.** What is the community's need for the proposed renovated youth athletic facility? To what extent will the project satisfy the needs in the service area?

2. **Design and Cost Estimate.** How well is the project designed? Does the cost estimate accurately reflect the scope of work?

3. **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship.** Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?

4. **Facility Management.** Does the applicant have the ability to maintain the facility? How will the applicant maintain the facility?

5. **Availability.** When the project is complete, how often will it be available for competitive youth sports in a calendar year

6. **Readiness to Proceed**. What is the timeline for completing the project? Will the sponsor be able to complete the project within 3 years?

7. **Project Support and Partnerships.** To what extent do users and the public support the project?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

8. **Matching Shares.** Is the applicant providing a matching share more than an amount equal to the grant amount requested?

9. **Proximity to People.** State law requires the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to give funding preference to projects in populated areas. Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.[3] Is the project in an area meeting this definition?

10. **Growth Management Act Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)?[4]

[3]Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.250

[4]Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250 (Growth Management Act preference required.)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Youth Athletic Facilities Projects

Evaluation Summary

2015 - 2017

	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Rank	Project Name	Need and Need Satisfaction	Design and Budget	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Facility Management	Availability	Readiness to Proceed	Support and Partnerships	Matching Shares	Proximity to People	Growth Management Act Preference	Total
1	Mission Park Adaptive Ball Field Renovation	13.60	9.33	2.80	2.73	4.33	2.60	9.07	0.00	1.00	0.00	45.47
2	Central Park Field 1 Multipurpose Sports	12.20	8.00	2.60	2.73	4.40	2.53	8.67	2.00	1.00	-1.00	43.13
3	Quillayute Valley School District Athletic Field Renovation	13.60	8.27	2.47	2.53	4.07	2.67	7.47	2.00	0.00	0.00	43.07
4	Meadowdale Playfields Renovation	11.60	7.87	2.47	2.40	4.00	2.07	9.07	2.00	1.00	0.00	42.47
5	Arlington Playfields Renovation	12.00	7.33	2.33	2.33	3.87	2.33	9.20	2.00	1.00	0.00	42.40
6	Civic Field Lighting Replacement	13.60	7.87	2.40	2.73	3.67	2.53	8.13	0.00	1.00	0.00	41.93
7	Friday Harbor Multipurpose Field Renovation	12.20	8.67	2.73	2.60	3.27	2.93	8.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	41.40
8	Volunteer Park LED Light Project Fields	11.80	7.73	2.40	2.73	4.13	2.80	8.67	0.00	1.00	0.00	41.27
9	Schmuck Park Renovation	12.40	7.60	2.47	2.67	3.53	2.27	8.80	1.00	0.00	0.00	40.73
10	Kasch Park Synthetic Fields 2 and 3 Renovation	12.20	8.40	2.27	2.87	4.07	2.73	6.93	1.00	1.00	-1.00	40.47
11	Hogan Park Athletic Field Renovation	11.60	8.53	2.53	2.73	4.07	1.73	7.07	1.00	1.00	0.00	40.27
12	Twin Ponds Park Field Turf and Lighting	10.20	8.53	2.40	2.53	3.67	2.33	8.53	2.00	1.00	-1.00	40.20
13	Sehmel Homestead Park Infields and Warning	10.80	7.20	2.47	2.67	3.73	2.80	7.07	2.00	1.00	0.00	39.73
13	SERA Baseball Complex Lighting	11.20	7.87	2.33	2.93	3.87	2.33	7.20	1.00	1.00	0.00	39.73
15	West Seattle Stadium Track and Field	13.20	7.87	2.27	2.87	4.20	2.47	6.67	0.00	1.00	-1.00	39.53
15	Heritage Soccer Field Artificial Turf	10.80	7.87	2.53	3.00	4.07	2.07	7.20	2.00	1.00	-1.00	39.53
17	Robinswood Park Synthetic Sports Field	10.20	8.67	2.47	2.93	4.40	2.87	5.73	2.00	1.00	-1.00	39.27
18	Athletic Field for the Lower Elwha Klallam	12.20	7.47	2.07	2.33	4.40	2.40	7.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.47
19	Ahtanum Youth Activities Soccer Fields	12.20	6.67	2.73	2.27	4.00	2.13	7.33	0.00	1.00	0.00	38.33
20	Highland Park Football Field Lighting	12.00	7.07	2.07	2.67	3.60	2.47	6.80	0.00	1.00	0.00	37.67
21	Stanley Park Renovation and Reorientation	11.40	7.47	2.87	2.67	3.80	2.13	7.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.40
21	Pasco Little League Revitalization	12.00	7.47	1.93	2.60	3.67	2.20	6.53	0.00	1.00	0.00	37.40
23	Otto Walberg Field Renovation	10.60	7.73	2.20	2.80	3.20	2.07	6.40	1.00	1.00	0.00	37.00

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Youth Athletic Facilities Projects

Evaluation Summary

2015 - 2017

	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Rank	Project Name	Need and Need Satisfaction	Design and Budget	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Facility Management	Availability	Readiness to Proceed	Support and Partnerships	Matching Shares	Proximity to People	Growth Management Act Preference	Total
24	Luke Jensen Sports Park Fields 3-4-5 Lighting	10.20	8.27	2.07	2.80	4.07	2.47	5.87	0.00	1.00	0.00	36.73
25	Prairie View Park Ball Field Renovation	11.40	7.60	2.00	2.47	4.27	2.40	6.40	0.00	1.00	-1.00	36.53
26	Stevens Field Park Ball Field 1 Synthetic	10.20	7.33	2.40	2.53	3.40	2.07	7.07	0.00	1.00	0.00	36.00
27	New Field Lights for Columbia Point Marina	10.20	8.13	2.53	2.80	4.20	2.33	4.67	0.00	1.00	0.00	35.87
28	Turf Field at Harmony Sports Complex	9.40	7.33	2.20	2.27	3.93	2.33	4.93	1.00	1.00	0.00	34.40
29	Cirque Park Athletic Field Improvements	10.00	7.07	2.40	2.60	3.60	2.33	5.87	0.00	1.00	-1.00	33.87
30	Blackhills Community Soccer Complex	10.20	6.80	1.80	1.67	2.93	1.47	5.87	2.00	1.00	0.00	33.73
31	North County Playing Fields Upgrades	11.40	6.80	2.20	2.40	3.27	2.00	5.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.67
32	Moorlands Park Athletic Field Renovation	10.80	7.20	1.33	2.33	3.20	2.13	6.53	0.00	1.00	-1.00	33.53
33	Fort Steilacoom Park Sports Field Enhancement	9.80	6.67	2.07	2.80	4.40	1.87	5.87	0.00	1.00	-1.00	33.47
34	Sprinker Recreation Center Ball Field Renovation	10.20	6.80	2.00	2.60	3.20	1.87	5.73	1.00	1.00	-1.00	33.40
35	Camas Forest Home Park Little League Fields	10.00	6.40	2.27	2.27	3.47	1.93	5.73	0.00	1.00	0.00	33.07
36	Rhododendron Athletic Field Irrigation Replacement	10.00	6.40	2.13	1.87	3.73	2.27	5.87	0.00	1.00	-1.00	32.27
37	Community Park Drainage and Irrigation	9.80	6.00	1.80	2.07	3.07	1.87	5.47	1.00	1.00	0.00	32.07
38	Stan Headwall Facilities Improvements	9.80	6.13	2.07	2.60	3.60	1.87	4.67	0.00	1.00	0.00	31.73
39	Hockinson Meadows Park Field Drainage	8.80	4.53	1.47	2.60	3.80	1.60	3.73	0.00	1.00	0.00	27.53
40	Mason County Recreation Area Field Lighting	8.80	5.87	1.27	2.00	2.67	2.07	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.07
41	Mason County Recreation Area Irrigation Replacement	8.40	6.13	1.27	2.07	2.33	2.13	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.00
42	DeCoursey/Clarks Creek Athletic Courts	8.20	5.47	1.60	2.27	3.40	1.53	3.60	0.00	1.00	-1.00	26.07
43	North Mason Soccer-Football Field Renovation	8.60	5.07	0.87	1.53	1.13	1.07	5.73	2.00	0.00	0.00	26.00
44	Sandhill Park Renovation	10.00	4.67	0.87	1.53	1.60	0.53	4.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.87

Evaluators score Questions 1-7; RCO staff scores Questions 8-10.

Spokane City — Grant Requested: $250,000
Developing the Mission Park Adaptive Ball Field

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop a multipurpose sports field that is fully accessible to people with disabilities at Mission Park. The City also will expand the accessible pathways, add six accessible parking spaces for vans, and build a new accessible restroom. The City has targeted Mission Park to provide universal access for multiple recreational facilities including an aquatic center, sport court, and playground. The City has partnered with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, which will provide matching funds to this project. Spokane will contribute $645,411 from a private grant and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1434)

Issaquah — Grant Requested: $250,000
Building Two New Fields in Central Park

The City of Issaquah will use this grant to convert one grassy baseball field that is underused and often very wet into two artificial turf, multipurpose sports fields in Central Park. The City also will add field lighting and fencing, which don't exist there now. The park is in the Issaquah Highlands development and is used for competitive sports and active recreation. The park's existing two artificial turf fields were booked by organized sports groups for nearly 2,800 hours last year and used by community members. Developing additional fields near the existing ones would enable expanded use of the park for competitive play and tournaments and diversify the activities that could take place there to include baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and football, among others. Issaquah will contribute $2.8 million in cash, voter-approved bonds, a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1302)

Forks — Grant Requested: $250,000
Renovating the Quillayute Valley School District Athletic Field

The City of Forks, in partnership with Quillayute Valley School District, will use this grant to renovate the only athletic playing field in the community and surrounding areas. At the Quillayute Valley School District campus in Forks, the City will replace the grass field with a synthetic turf field and install a drainage system on about 100,000 square feet. The field is used for school athletics, local youth football and soccer athletic programs, as well as adult and community recreation events. The new field will create a better playing experience and will encourage and increase youth access to competitive, recreational, and leisure play. Forks will contribute $1 million. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1331)

Lynnwood **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Renovating Meadowdale Playfields

The City of Lynnwood will use this grant to convert two sand soccer fields into two multipurpose fields with a synthetic surface at Meadowdale Playfields. The City also will install perimeter field fencing and ball escapement netting. This renovation project will extend and expand playing capacity at this 27-acre community and regional athletic complex. The goal is to provide fields that are available year-round for youth soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and football. Lynnwood will contribute $2.9 million in cash, voter-approved bonds, and another grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1339)

Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Renovating the Arlington Playfields

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County along with the City of Arlington will use this grant to renovate three ball fields and repurpose part of an aging, underused soccer field to create four ball fields in a cloverleaf design in the Bill Quake Memorial Park in Arlington. Work will include improving field lighting. The new fields will increase the amount of playtime available at the park, which serves the communities of Arlington, Darrington, Lakewood, North Marysville, Oso, and Stanwood. The Boys & Girls Club will contribute $942,000 in local and state grants. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1304)

Port Angeles **Grant Requested: $226,500**
Replacing Civic Field Lighting

The City of Port Angeles will use this grant to replace the 36-year-old field lighting at Civic Field, which is the city's only lighted, multipurpose stadium for youth. The floodlights at Civic Field are past their useful service life and replacement parts are no longer available. The lights also don't meet safety standards. Some lights have had to be removed and two had fallen off on their own. Before long, the entire lighting system will fail and evening games and day games during bad weather will no longer be an option. Replacing the lighting would secure the Civic Field for recreational sports leagues and events for youth football, soccer, and baseball. Port Angeles will contribute $226,500, $60,000 of which comes from the Port Angeles School District. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1310)

San Juan Island Park and Recreation District **Grant Requested: $158,977**
Renovating the Friday Harbor Multipurpose Field

The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District will use this grant to renovate a multipurpose field in Friday Harbor. The field is not regulation width for soccer and lacrosse, has only 7 feet outside the field for spectators and teams, has a rolling and uneven surface that does not drain, has drainage and irrigation systems that don't work, and must be hand watered. The district will

enlarge the field to provide regulation soccer and lacrosse, replace drainage and irrigation systems, and renovate the playing surface. The field will be used for youth football, soccer, and lacrosse. The San Juan Island Park and Recreation District will contribute $194,307 in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1384)

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District — Grant Requested: $250,000
Installing Lights in Volunteer Park

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to install light-emitting diode (LED) field lighting at Volunteer Park. The park district will replace the fixtures on Field 1, which has lighting that is 70 percent less efficient than today's technology, and will install LED lighting on Fields 2 and 3, which have no lights. The lighting improvement will expand field use into the evening hours. Volunteer Park is centered on the peninsula along Key Peninsula Highway, next to the area's only middle school. It is used mostly for baseball, t-ball, softball, football, and soccer. Field 1 is the only lighted playing field on the peninsula. Fields 2 and 3 are near use capacity. The project is supported by the Little League, Key Peninsula Business Association, Key Peninsula Community Council, Peninsula Light, Key Peninsula Civic Center, and Key Peninsula Family Resource Center. The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will contribute $250,000 in cash, equipment, staff labor, and donations of cash, equipment, and labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1335)

Colfax — Grant Requested: $250,000
Renovating Schmuck Park

The City of Colfax will use this grant to renovate athletic facilities in Schmuck Park, which is next to the Leonard M. Jennings Elementary School and Colfax Junior/Senior High School. The City will resurface the track and football field, install a new irrigation system at the football field, install new bleachers, and build new restrooms and storage. Schmuck Park is the most frequently used park in the Colfax parks system. The track and football field are weathered and damaged. The renovations would allow for increased use of the park by the school district, local and regional sports leagues, charity events, and the community. The City of Colfax, Whitman County, Colfax School District, and a coalition of community groups are contributing to the project. The City of Colfax will contribute $438,200 in cash, a local grant, and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1328)

Everett — Grant Requested: $250,000
Converting Soccer-only Fields to Multi-sport Fields in Kasch Park

The Everett Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to replace the synthetic turf and drainage at two aging, soccer-only fields, converting them into multipurpose synthetic turf fields at Kasch Park in southwest Everett. Replacing the turf and drainage originally installed in 2001 is

needed to ensure year-round playability and to update the fields for multi-sport use. In addition to the two fields being renovated, Kasch Park has one synthetic turf field redeveloped in 2012 and six natural surface baseball/softball fields. It is positioned as a prime location for multi-sport activities in western Washington. Converting the fields will expand the usability of these two fields so they can accommodate not only soccer but lacrosse, flag football, ultimate Frisbee, and kickball. Everett will contribute $1.8 million in cash and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1360)

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

Converting a Hogan Park Athletic Field to Synthetic Turf

The City of Kent will use this grant to convert the baseball field at Hogan Park into a year-round, multi-use, synthetic turf field that would support youth baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, football, and flag football. This project would make Hogan Park only the second city park to have synthetic turf fields and would allow about three times more use of the park while reducing operating costs. Hogan Park's lighted baseball field is used only from April through September, and its dirt infield and grass outfield force 50 rainouts a year. These rainouts force teams to travel as far away as Puyallup to get games played in rainy conditions. Adding more high-quality, lit, year-round, multi-use fields is an identified priority in the Kent's *Park & Open Space Plan*. Kent will contribute $1.5 million in cash and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1378)

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

Replacing Twin Ponds Park's Turf and Lights

The Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will use this grant to design, get permits, and install synthetic turf and lights on 2 acres in the 21-acre Twin Ponds Park. The turf on the soccer field is deteriorating and without replacement, the field may be deemed unsafe for players. Renovating the field turf and lighting will allow the City to continue to meet the outdoor recreation demand. Without lights, the Twin Ponds field cannot serve its users at times of the day and year when it is most needed. Shoreline will contribute $1.4 million. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1337)

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District **Grant Requested: $250,000**

Renovating Sehmel Homestead Park Infields

The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to replace three dirt infields with synthetic turf to improve playability at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. The park district also will add warning tracks along the outfield and foul fence lines for safety. The work will be done on the large baseball field and two baseball/softball fields. The fields are used by all age

groups and host recreation leagues from throughout the region. The addition of the synthetic turf will reduce rainouts and expand the months and types of play significantly. Small-sided soccer can be played on the infields once they are converted. The Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will contribute $472,348. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1341)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma — Grant Requested: $250,000
Updating the Lighting at the SERA Baseball Complex

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to update the lighting at the South End Recreation & Adventure (SERA) baseball complex in Tacoma. The park district will replace the 1970 lights and poles at two of the six fields at the complex with light-emitting diode (LED) field lights to improve safety, accessibility, and sustainability. The fields are used by thousands of kids and families from the greater Puget Sound area and beyond for practices and games. This new field lighting will allow the SERA Complex to serve players throughout the state, better accommodate local leagues, and provide high quality facilities that will encourage new players, many of whom come from homes without the financial capacity to travel for sports. The park district will contribute $350,000 from a voter-approved levy. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1349)

Seattle — Grant Requested: $250,000
Renovating the West Seattle Stadium Track and Field

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate its track and field elements, stadium amenities, and wooden grandstand at the West Seattle Stadium. The stadium is the only Seattle Parks' property with a synthetic rubber running surface dedicated to track and field and the only facility with a full venue of field events. In the past 10 years, eight USA track and field regional and national championships were held there. In the past 2 years, three national championships were not held there because of the condition of the stadium and equipment. The stadium sees nearly 40,000 users annually for practice, competition, training, conditioning, and recreation. It is used for meets for grassroots youth, middle and high schools, colleges, and masters athletes. The City will replace the synthetic surface of its track and complete lane and runway striping, event markings, and certification. The City also will replace the pole vault and high jump landing pit, the standards, and five flights of hurdles. Finally, the City will upgrade the locker rooms, restrooms, pathways and parking area to accommodate people with disabilities and renovate the wooden north grandstand. Seattle will contribute $250,000. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1379)

Pierce County **Grant Requested: $250,000**

Installing Artificial Turf on a Heritage Recreation Center Soccer Field

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to replace grass with synthetic turf on a soccer field in the Heritage Recreation Center, which is in the South Hill area of Puyallup, next to Rogers High School. The rain limits play on the field during significant parts of the year. The County also will install a drainage system. The center is used for soccer, football, and lacrosse. Pierce County will contribute $829,778. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1389)

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

Replacing Artificial Turf on Robinswood Community Park's Sports Fields

The City of Bellevue will use this grant to replace the artificial turf on two multipurpose fields in Robinswood Community Park. Converted from grass to synthetic turf in 2007, the two fields are showing a loss of their ability to cushion objects and reduce impact-related injuries. This loss may force the City to close the fields next year, which would significantly impact the local youth sports community. These fields are lighted, unfenced, and open to the public year-round for both scheduled and unscheduled use. They are used primarily for soccer, lacrosse, summer sport camps, and scheduled school activities. Bellevue will contribute $880,640. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1334)

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Requested: $250,000**

Rebuilding a Youth Athletic Field for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to rebuild a youth athletic field, the first developed, outdoor recreation facility on the reservation. The tribe will convert a vacant lot two blocks west of the Tribal Center to provide a competition-ready, youth athletic field with a synthetic turf infield, backstop, dugouts, fencing, bleachers, restrooms, parking, picnic area, and landscaping. The Tribe hopes to host a variety of tournaments and sports camps for youth at the field. Competitions initially will be focused on softball, but the site will be suitable for soccer and middle school football. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will contribute $291,559 in cash, land value, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1346)

Union Gap **Grant Requested: $165,000**

Renovating the Ahtanum Youth Activities Fields for Soccer

The City of Union Gap will use this grant to renovate the 95-acre Ahtanum Youth Activities Park to better accommodate youth soccer. The City will convert about 4 acres of practice field into three competitive soccer fields for kids under 9-years-old, install an artificial turf field (the first in Yakima County open to the public) for three-on-three league play, improve access for people

with disabilities, renovate the parking area, reconfigure the park entrance to make it safer, and landscape the area. This park is used heavily by both the Yakima Youth Soccer Association and Yakima Infantil Soccer Association for games, practices, and tournaments. The park soccer program alone will have held more than 2,000 games and service more than 1,800 youth players. Union Gap will contribute $165,908. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1330)

Pasco **Grant Requested: $133,500**

Adding Field Lights and Upgrades to Highland Park's Football Field

The City of Pasco will use this grant to install football field lights and make improvements for people with disabilities at Highland Park, which is on the east side of Pasco. The City will install field lights and new bleachers on the main field. It also will install paths to access the bleachers, viewing areas at two other fields at the park. The lights will expand the capacity of the fields to meet the needs of the park's many user groups. Pasco has seen the demand for field space and time grow during the past 20 years. Highland Park has seen the largest growth in user group's programming. The Pasco Youth Football and Cheerleading has grown from 400 kids 10 years ago to an expected 1,500 kids this fall. The park also is seeing new user groups such as lacrosse. Pasco will contribute $133,500 in cash and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1372)

Long Beach **Grant Requested: $132,000**

Renovation and Re-orientation of Stanley Park

The Long Beach Parks Department will use this grant to renovate and re-orient Stanley Park, a more than 30-year-old youth athletic facility that has met the end of its useful life. Located in central Long Beach, Stanley Park is a well-used, dilapidated, and accessibility-restricted park that has poor drainage. The City will make elements of the site accessible to people with disabilities, add parking, improve the drainage, lay new grass, and install irrigation, fencing, bullpens, dugouts, bleachers, a storage/concession building, and a batting cage. The project is supported by The Long Beach Peninsula Youth Baseball and Softball program, the Ocean Beach Youth Soccer League, and the Peninsula Youth Little League, as well as established sponsors of adult baseball tournaments. Long Beach will contribute $132,900 in cash, equipment, staff labor, a private grant, and donations of cash and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1432)

Pasco Little League **Grant Requested: $195,000**

Revitalizing the Pasco Little League Fields

The Pasco Little League will use this grant to revitalize and renovate the Pasco Little League fields and facilities. The park consists of six fields, a clubhouse, and a storage shed, which were built 25 years ago. The Little League will install lighting on two fields, replace safety netting on

six fields, and pave the main parking lot, which is currently gravel and dirt. The Pasco Little League serves more than 600 youth. Once the renovation is complete, the Little League expects to serve more than 1,000 kids. The Pasco Little League will contribute $195,000 in cash and donations of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1439)

Skagit County **Grant Requested: $144,000**
Renovating Otto Walberg Field

The Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to renovate the Otto Walberg Field at the Skagit Valley Playfields. Work will include leveling the field and adding a layer of sand, fixing drainage problems, installing irrigation systems, and adding fencing, backstops, and dugouts. The field has deteriorated to the degree that it is useable 3 months less a year than other fields in the same complex. The improvements are expected to result in fewer missed games, improved field quality, and reduced maintenance costs. The field was built in the 1980s and must be mowed with hand lawnmowers because the more efficient and heavy tractor mowers sink into the grass and damage the wet field. Skagit County Parks and Recreation uses this field for many of its youth baseball and softball camps and softball league games, and Skagit Valley College schedules several levels of collegiate play there. Skagit County will contribute $179,000 in cash, staff labor, and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1359)

Clark County **Grant Requested: $95,000**
Lighting Luke Jensen Sports Park Fields

Clark County will use this grant to install lights on three of the five multipurpose sports fields in Luke Jensen Sports Park, which is centrally located in the Hazel Dell neighborhood along the Interstate 5 corridor in Clark County. The other two fields at the park already are lighted. The lights will extend the hours of competitive play available at this heavily used park. The park is used primarily for youth soccer, baseball, softball, and lacrosse. Adding lights to additional fields would make this park only the second complex in Clark County with more than one lighted synthetic field. Between 15,000 and 25,000 people will use the site when new lighting is installed. The Vancouver West Soccer Club is committed to spending about $34,000 for lights. Clark County will contribute $95,000 in cash and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1386)

Spokane County **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Renovating a Prairie View Park Ball Field

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to renovate a practice field into a fully developed softball/baseball field at Prairie View Park. The County will reconfigure a youth baseball practice field in the park to accommodate a full-sized field and a

Little League field. The County will add field amenities such as ball-stopper netting and home run fences, which will allow the two fields to be used simultaneously and provide ample capacity for youth baseball tournaments. This work will add playing capacity, extend hours of use, and expand youth athletic opportunities at the park. The newly renovated facility will be unique in the south Spokane area and serve a broader range of the community. The renovated field will be available for pickup games and open practice by the entire community. Spokane County will contribute $826,241 in cash, a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and donations of cash and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1362)

Olympia **Grant Requested: $193,223**
Stevens Field Park Ballfield #1 Synthetic Infield

The City of Olympia will use this grant to install synthetic infield surfacing on a softball field in Stevens Field Park and to provide accessible parking and pathways in this southeast Olympia park. The renovation is expected to increase field use, decrease rain outs, improve player safety, improve accessibility, and reduce maintenance. The Olympia School District and the Thurston County Fastpitch Association strongly support this project. Olympia will contribute $193,224. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1430)

Richland **Grant Requested: $121,375**
Lighting a Field in Columbia Point Marina Park

The Richland Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to add lighting to an open field in Columbia Point Marina Park. The field is being used for ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, and flag football. This project will double the number of lighted, multipurpose sports fields in Richland, thus doubling the amount of time for practices and games that can be played year-round. The one lighted multipurpose field at Badger Mountain Park has become a major attraction to all youth groups, which has taken a toll on the turf at that park. Richland will contribute $121,375 in cash and staff labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1427)

Washington Timbers Football Club **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Installing Lights and Turf at the Harmony Sports Complex

The Washington Timbers Football Club will use this grant to install synthetic turf and lighting on a full-size, multipurpose field in the Harmony Sports Complex, in east Vancouver. The complex hosts more than 33,000 youth soccer players. The field will provide a much needed facility to support the Washington Timbers TOPSoccer program. TOPSoccer was established to give children with disabilities an opportunity to improve their physical fitness, self-esteem, and friendships through playing soccer. The football club will develop concrete pathways surrounding the field to access the facility and parking. The Washington Timbers Football Club

will contribute $360,976 in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1390)

University Place **Grant Requested: $237,500**
Installing Lights and Artificial Turf on Cirque Park Athletic Fields

The City of University Place will use this grant to replace a dirt softball infield with artificial turf and install lights on a baseball field to expand usage into the night at Cirque Bridgeport Park. The overall goal is to improve and expand field use and increase safety. University Place will contribute $237,500. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1394)

Blackhills Community Soccer **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Creating a Synthetic Turf Field at the Blackhills Community Soccer Complex

Blackhills Community Soccer will use this grant to convert one of its eight soccer fields in its Tumwater complex to an all-weather, synthetic turf field. The Blackhills Community Soccer Complex is the only soccer-only facility between Vancouver and Tukwila, and it serves a multi-county community of more than 4,500 youths. The soccer group also will use the grant to complete architectural and engineering designs and construction drawings. The need for youth soccer fields is growing. The soccer complex hosted less than 400 matches in 2013, doubling that in 2014 to 800 matches, and is on pace for about 1,000 matches this year. Converting one field to turf will allow the complex to rotate the grass fields during the winter and have more fields available for soccer the rest of the year. Blackhills Community Soccer will contribute $673,000. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1366)

Castle Rock **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Upgrading the North County Playing Fields

The City of Castle Rock will use this grant to renovate its North County Sports Complex. This 13-year-old facility has five baseball/softball fields and two full-size soccer fields. The City will install drainage and irrigation at two softball fields, light one baseball and one softball field, build a trail to the two soccer fields, and pave the plaza, pathways, and part of the parking lot. The work is expected to increase accessibility to the site and increase hours of play for youth baseball, softball, and soccer. Castle Rock will contribute $250,000 in cash, a local grant, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1429)

Kenmore **Grant Requested: $137,520**

Renovating the Moorlands Park Athletic Field

The City of Kenmore will use this grant to renovate its athletic field in Moorlands Park. Work will include removing the fencing, backstops, and sod and then adding irrigation, drainage, infield mix, a backstop, dugouts, wing fencing, enlarged playing surface, and grass. The field is used for youth baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse. This project will allow the City to improve the quality of the field, expand the number of uses, and increase the size of facility. Kenmore will contribute $168,080 in cash and a grant from the state Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1374)

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

Improving Fort Steilacoom Park's Sports Fields

The City of Lakewood will use this grant to update youth sports fields at Fort Steilacoom Park. The City will update dugouts and irrigation and install new scoreboards, fencing, portable mounds, equipment storage, entry and interpretive signs, and picnic shelters. The City also will improve access and replace the soccer field that is overlaid on the baseball outfield. The work is aimed at making the fields better able to accommodate youth sports leagues and tournaments. The baseball fields are used primarily in the spring and summer for league play but are not used easily for tournaments because they lack scoreboards and outfield fencing. The City of Lakewood will contribute $250,000. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1371)

Pierce County **Grant Requested: $250,000**

Replacing Backstops, Dugouts, and Lighting at Sprinker Recreation Center

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to replace antiquated clamshell backstops and dugouts on four softball fields and lighting on two other softball fields at the Sprinker Recreation Center, near Spanaway. The six softball fields have been in use since the 1960s and host regional tournaments. The current clamshell backstops and open bench dugouts compromise player safety when the ball is deflected from the backstop or sent over the open players' benches. The new backstops and dugouts will match those on the newer fields, increase player safety, and provide maintenance efficiencies. The County will replace the lighting on two other softball fields, which will improve the quality of light and safety for evening use, decrease operational and maintenance costs, and reduce light pollution in nearby neighborhoods. Pierce County will contribute $328,945. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1365)

Camas Little League **Grant Requested: $97,900**
Improving Camas' Forest Home Park Little League Fields

The Camas Little League will use this grant to renovate the Little League facilities in the City of Camas' Forest Home Park. The league will improve the drainage of the two Little League fields, build protected pitchers' warm-up areas, install batting cages and dugouts, add sidewalks and access into the areas for people with disabilities, build a restroom, and bury electrical lines. More than 500 kids participate in Camas Little League. The Camas Little League will contribute $97,900 in donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1440)

Island County **Grant Requested: $25,000**
Renovating the Rhododendron Athletic Field Irrigation System

Island County Parks and Recreation will use this grant to replace an old and inefficient irrigation system at Island County's Rhododendron Park, which is 5 miles south of Coupeville on Whidbey Island. The current system was built in 1992 and does not use water efficiently. Many sections of grass are stressed each summer, making the playing surface difficult to maintain. A new irrigation system will improve this situation, be easier to maintain, and will improve the look of the park, which is used for baseball and soccer. Island County will contribute $25,000 in donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1301)

South Whidbey **Grant Requested: $54,900**
Improving Drainage and Irrigation in Community Park

The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to improve the inefficient irrigation system and install drainage at two baseball fields in Community Park. The irrigation system is antiquated and requires ongoing repair and maintenance. The baseball fields are extremely important to the community because there are limited fields on the southern stretch of island. This project will ensure that the fields' capacity is kept. The South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District will contribute $67,100. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1327)

Chehalis **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Improving Stan Headwall Drainage, Irrigation, and Sewer Systems

The City of Chehalis will use this grant to improve the drainage, irrigation, and sewer systems in Stan Headwall Park. The City will improve drainage and irrigation to the Little League fields and Babe Ruth fields, both in the northern part of the park. In addition, the City will connect 1,000 feet of sewer line underground, from the east side of the park to the city's sewer interceptor line west of Interstate 5. This project will improve the field conditions and insulate the systems when

the Newaukum River floods. Chehalis will contribute $262,000 from another grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1400)

Clark County **Grant Requested: $165,000**
Improving the Drainage System in Hockinson Meadows Park

Clark County will use this grant to install a drainage system in Hockinson Meadows Park, which has soccer, baseball, and softball fields. The current system drains poorly and renders most of the fields virtually useless for 2-3 months of the spring and fall seasons. Adding a drainage system will improve turf health, provide safer field conditions, reduce the hours spent for field prep, and allow for longer field play. Clark County will contribute $165,000. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1433)

Mason County **Grant Requested: $225,000**
Lighting the Mason County Recreation Park Area Fields

Mason County will use this grant to install lights on all seven baseball/softball fields in the Mason County Recreation Area Park near Shelton. Lighting will allow 200 more games to be played a year, extending the season by a month and the playing time into the evening. The 30-acre sports complex has seven baseball/softball fields and is used by the City of Shelton, multiple youth baseball and softball leagues, and the Shelton School District, making it one of the county's most used facilities. Mason County will contribute $225,000 in cash and donations of equipment and of labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1415)

Mason County **Grant Requested: $200,000**
Replacing the Irrigation System in the Mason County Recreation Park Area

Mason County will use this grant to replace a more than 30-year-old irrigation system in the Mason County Recreation Area Park near Shelton. The County can't use the irrigation system because it floods the fields. The 30-acre sports complex has seven baseball/softball fields and is used by the City of Shelton, multiple youth baseball and softball leagues, and the Shelton School District, making it one of the county's most used facilities. The County will replace the irrigation piping, sprinkler heads, and feed pumps. Mason County will contribute $200,000 in cash and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1410)

Puyallup **Grant Requested: $114,250**
Rehabilitating Clarks Creek Athletic Courts

The City of Puyallup will use this grant to rehabilitate the failing and partially unusable sports courts at Clarks Creek Park. The City will replace the court surface, work on the drainage system to stop water from causing depressions and settling in the court, and repair the underground

wiring for court lighting. In addition, the City will install basketball backboards, pickle ball court fixtures, tennis practice back boards, and new court fencing. Currently, half of the court area is unused despite ongoing patching attempts to alleviate chronic settling and cracking of the court surface. Puyallup will contribute $114,250. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1437)

Mason County **Grant Requested: $250,000**
Installing Artificial Turf at the North Mason High School Stadium

Mason County will use this grant to replace grass with synthetic turf at the North Mason High School football and soccer stadium. The grass field turns to mud in November each year when the rains begin, rendering the field unusable. The Mason parks plan discovered a large need for football and soccer fields for youth, a need that will only increase when a new middle school is built on two practice fields. This project is a partnership between the North Mason School District, Mason County, and the local youth football and soccer associations. Mason County will contribute $720,560. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1435)

Mason County **Grant Requested: $225,000**
Restoring Two Sandhill Park Fields

Mason County will use this grant to restore two fields at Sandhill Park, in Belfair. The County will improve accessibility for people with disabilities; install new dugouts, backstops, and fencing; build a new infield and outfield; lay new turf; add irrigation in the outfield; and add new hard surfacing around the fields to improve access. Sandhill Park is the only baseball/softball complex in northern Mason County. Mason County will contribute $225,000 in cash and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. For more information and photographs of this project, visit RCO's online Project Search. (15-1436)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **6**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund: Legacy Program

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

This memo provides an update on plans for the National Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) delegated authority[1] to RCO's director to solicit and submit projects to the National Park Service (NPS) for the 2015 National Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (LWCF Legacy Program). The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program provides matching grants to states to preserve and develop quality outdoor recreation resources. Rules governing the program are in the *Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Financial Assistance Manual*.

The NPS announced plans in 2014 for this new national competitive grant program. The LWCF Legacy Program is for projects designed to acquire or develop outdoor recreation sites in large urban areas (population of 50,000 or more).

2015-16 National Competition

Plans are underway to offer the program again. On October 30, we received word that NPS has not published the federal funding opportunity notice because they are still discussing the new guidelines along with whether to combine the grant application cycles for federal fiscal years 2015 and 2016. It appears Congress will approve a new budget in mid-December. If NPS combines the amounts for the two fiscal years, they could potentially offer as much as $8 million in grants for the LWCF Legacy Program.

NPS is anticipating publishing the Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity in January or February 2016. They have not set a new application deadline yet, but are trying to accommodate requests from several states to allow more time for soliciting and submitting proposals. The deadline may be in June or July.

[1] See Item 4, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board briefing materials for September 2015.

Next Steps

Although NPS was encouraging states to solicit proposals in anticipation of a funding opportunity announcement coming out this fall, with this new information, RCO staff will wait and solicit grant proposals early next year.

When the new deadlines are set, staff will finalize Washington's schedule and will include time for the LWCF Advisory Committee to potentially, review, evaluate, and rank projects using the federal evaluation criteria. Staff anticipates bringing a ranked list of LWCF Legacy Program projects for board consideration in 2016 at the April or June meeting. In an open public meeting, the board would then select and approve projects for submittal to the National Park Service for the national competition. Thus, if the NPS schedule holds, it may not be necessary for the Director to utilize the delegation of authority to submit any applications.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group: Overview & Current Status

Prepared By: Wendy Brown, Policy Director

Summary

This memo provides background information on the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature created the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (lands group) to improve communication between state natural resources agencies about proposed land acquisitions and disposals and to make that information more accessible to the public. Subsequent recommendations and requests have resulted in expanding the membership of the lands group to more than just state agencies.

The lands group is comprised of representatives from the following state natural resource agencies:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks)
- Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
- Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC)
- Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

In addition, the lands group includes representatives of non-profit organizations, local governments, legislators, private interests, and others. RCO provides staff support and hosts the lands group's Web site. See the attached list of current land group members.

The lands group was formed primarily because the Legislature wanted a statewide strategy for transparency and coordination of land acquisitions by state agencies. That directive was driven in part by citizens and local government officials who wanted to know what land the state was planning to acquire. The main responsibilities of the lands group, as outlined in statute (RCW 79A.25.260) include:

- Reviewing agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals.
- Producing an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal plans.
- Establishing procedures for publishing the biennial forecast on web sites or other formats.
- Developing and convening an annual forum for agencies to coordinate their near-term acquisition and disposal plans.
- Developing an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions.

The lands group successfully carries out these and other mandated tasks. Every even-numbered year, the lands group collects forecasted acquisition information from three member state agencies – State Parks, DNR, WDFW - and compiles it into a statewide biennial forecast report. This report is organized by county, showing potential land acquisitions within each county, and is shared with Legislators and county officials. It is also posted on the RCO Web site.

In the odd-numbered years, the lands group requests information on land acquisitions made in the prior biennium to monitor the success of those acquisitions. Information on each acquisition forecasted four years prior, such as the amount of land forecasted to purchase versus the amount of land that was actually purchased, the costs of acquisition and on-going operation and maintenance, and if and how the land has met or is meeting its intended goals, is compiled into a statewide biennial monitoring report. That report is similarly posted on the RCO Web site and shared with Legislators and county officials.

To openly discuss both forecasted and monitored land acquisitions, the lands group holds an annual forum in which agencies, land trusts, county officials, Legislators, and other interested individuals hear about agency plans for acquisition and can ask questions.

Reauthorization

Section 7 of the lands group enabling statute says that "Prior to January 1, 2017, the group shall make a formal recommendation to the [Recreation and Conservation Funding Board] and the appropriate committees of the legislature as to whether the existence of the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group should be continued beyond July 31, 2017, and if so, whether any modifications to its enabling statute should be pursued."

Lands group agencies and other members overwhelmingly believe the group should continue in order to continue the open dialogue and sharing of information on future and past habitat and recreation land acquisitions. The group did not think statutory changes were necessary. To that end, the RCO has submitted a decision package to the Governor's office seeking reauthorization of the lands group until June 30, 2027.

Attachments

A. Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group: Membership Roster

Lands Group Membership – October 7, 2015

Affiliation / Organization	Members/Alternates	Contact Info
Washington State Legislature	Senator Linda Evans Parlette	linda.parlette@leg.wa.gov
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Kaleen Cottingham Alternate: Wendy Brown Supporting staff: Wendy Loosle Meg O'Leary	kaleen.Cottingham@rco.wa.gov wendy.brown@rco.wa.gov wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov meg.oleary@rco.wa.gov
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Pene Speaks	pene.speaks@dnr.wa.gov
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Steve Hahn	steve.Hahn@parks.wa.gov
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Clay Sprague Alternate: Cynthia Wilkerson	clay.Sprague@dfw.wa.gov cynthia.wilkerson@dfw.wa.gov
Washington State Conservation Commission	Ron Shultz Alternate: Josh Giuntoli	rshu461@ecy.wa.gov jgiuntoli@scc.wa.gov
Washington Department of Ecology	Heather Kapust	hkap461@ecy.wa.gov
Washington Department of Transportation	Paul Wagner	wagnerp@wsdot.wa.gov
County Governments/Okanogan County	Commissioner Sheilah Kennedy	skennedy@co.okanogan.wa.us
City Government Park Planners/Washington Recreation and Park Association	Leslie Betlach	lbetlach@rentonwa.gov
Pacific Coast Joint Venture	Lora Leschner	lora_leschner@pcjv.org
Washington Forest Protection Association	Eric Beach	EBeach@greendiamond.com
Puget Sound Partnership	Michael Grayum	michael.grayum@psp.wa.gov
Trust for Public Land	Bill Clarke	bill@clarke-law.net
Washington Association of Land Trusts	Hannah Clark	lchahim@forterra.org
The Nature Conservancy	Tom Bugert	tom.bugert@tnc.org
County Governments/Douglas County Commissioner	Commissioner Steve Jenkins	sjenkins@co.douglas.wa.us

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **10**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Proposed Changes to the Grant Programs' Evaluation Criteria for 2016

Prepared By: Adam Cole, Natural Resource Policy Specialist
Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo presents proposed changes to evaluation criteria for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) grant programs. The changes proposed would apply to grant applications received in 2016. Staff requests direction from the board on the proposed options in advance of distributing for public review. Staff will bring final proposals to the board in February 2016 for approval.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

At the September 2015 meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff presented to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) a list of evaluation criteria changes in preparation for new grant applications in 2016. See Attachment B of Item 6 from the September meeting materials.

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria

Since September, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff started to draft potential changes to the evaluation criteria. Table 1 summarizes the potential changes. An evaluation of each program and criteria change is in the associated attachment identified in the first column of Table 1. Each attachment contains background information, an explanation of the issue to address, options for board's consideration, staff's preliminary recommendation, and the proposed evaluation criteria change. Staff requests direction from the board on which proposals to present to the public for review and comment this winter.

Table 1. Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria for 2016

Attachment	Grant Program	Proposed Change(s)
A	Boating Facility Program	• Add question on whether the project will serve trailerable boats • Add sustainability question and expand it to address planning projects
B	Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities	• Expand sustainability question to address planning projects

Attachment	Grant Program	Proposed Change(s)
C	WWRP Trails Category	• Revise questions to align with statute • Create separate questions for water and scenic values • Clarify intent of community values question • Address natural surface/dirt trails
D	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	• Adjust scoring to allow for evaluating both elements of acquisition and development/restoration applications
E	• Land and Water Conservation Fund • Recreational Trails Program • WWRP Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access Categories	• Remove the bonus point option in the cost efficiencies question
F	• Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account • Boating Facility Program • Land and Water Conservation Fund • Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities • Recreational Trails Program • WWRP Outdoor Recreation Account Categories	• Add a question on whether a project meets objectives in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for serving underserved and healthy communities
G	WWRP Critical Habitat Category	• Simplify and revise the criteria to align with the statute • Provide a more equitable opportunity for local agencies to answer the criteria and compete for funding • Address grazing as an allowable use

Policy and Evaluation Criteria Changes Deferred

Staff has deferred the following items for further evaluation and will present options for the board at a future meeting:

- Boating Infrastructure Grants – Staff will solicit for public comments this winter based on the direction received from the board at the September 2015 meeting.
- Population Proximity Question – Staff is reviewing the statutory history of this criterion, reviewing the legislative intent, and its applicability to the board's programs.

- Trails of Statewide Significance – Staff recommends delaying the creation of an evaluation question until the board develops specific policies to address trails of statewide significance as described in RCW 79A.35.
- WWRP Riparian Protection Account – Staff is evaluating the extent of any changes needed at this time.
- WWRP State Parks Category – Staff requests time to coordinate with staff at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Timeline

Staff proposes the following timeline to accomplish the work described in this memo.

Timeframe	Task
December 2015	Revise draft evaluation criteria and prepare materials for public comment
December 2015 – January 2016	Solicit public review and comment
January 2016	Prepare final draft evaluation criteria for board consideration
February 2016	Present information at Board meeting

Link to Strategic Plan

Revising the board's policies and evaluation criteria addresses Goals 2 and 3 in the board's *Strategic Plan*.

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Attachments

A. Proposed Changes to the Evaluation Criteria for the Boating Facilities Program

B. Proposed Changes to the Evaluation Criteria for the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities program

C. Proposed Changes to the Evaluation Criteria for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails Category

D. Proposed Changes to the Evaluation Criteria for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account program

E. Proposed Changes to the Cost Efficiencies Evaluation Question

F. Proposed New Evaluation Question to Address the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

G. Proposed Changes to the Evaluation Criteria for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Critical Habitat Category

Attachment A

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria: Boating Facilities Program

Staff requests direction from the board on two potential changes to the Boating Facilities Program criteria:

1) Creating a preference for projects that predominantly serve boats on trailers, and
2) Adding a sustainability and environmental stewardship question to project evaluation.

1) Preference for Boats on Trailers

Background

Before 2011, the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) preferentially funded facilities primarily used by motorized vessels small enough to be moved around on trailers. Typically, boats on trailers are twenty-six feet or less, however they may be longer. The board removed this preference for smaller boats in 2010. The change occurred primarily in response to the boating plan's expanded scope to include all types of boating. Resulting from this change, projects for vessels over twenty-six feet in length were eligible in both the BFP and Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) programs.

According to the 2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), five times as many residents participate in boating on smaller motorized vessels than on larger boats. The Boating Grants Program Plan adopted by the board earlier this year calls for funding boating facilities to address the most important boater needs and the most popular types of boating (Strategy 1). The plan also calls for defining grant programs' priorities to fund different types of boating facilities in different grant programs and not have overlap in funding (Strategy 2). The 2007 Boater Needs Assessment called on RCO to fund more motorized boat launches as the top priority rather than marinas and other boating facilities.

Issue

Should the program continue to serve all types of boating facilities without preference, or return to providing a preference for the types of facilities the majority of boaters need, launch and retrieval sites for boats on trailers?

Options for Consideration

All of the options below would maintain the existing policy of allowing all sizes of motor boats to use facilities constructed in the BFP.

Table A1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No Change	Criteria has no question that would afford more points to projects that predominantly serve boats on trailers	Supports facilities used by all boaters. Supports projects throughout the state equally.	Does not benefit the majority of boaters, those who use boats on trailers.
2 – Provide Preference	Provide a preference for projects that predominantly serve boats on trailers. A range of 0-10 points represents between 2% to 16% of the evaluation point total.	Result in higher ranking for projects serving the majority of boaters.	Does not treat all projects equally. May fund fewer marinas, moorage buoys, and project sites not accessed by a roadway.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 2, with a point range of 0-5, which potentially represents approximately 7% of the evaluation point total. The following table includes the current evaluation criteria summary with the new criterion bolded in **red.**

Table A1.2 Current Evaluation Criteria Summary with New Criterion Highlighted

Boating Facilities Program Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scored by	**Question**	**Item**	**Project Type**	**Possible Points**
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	2	Site suitability	All	15
Advisory Committee	3a	Urgency	Acquisition	10
			Acquisition and Planning	5
			Acquisition and Development	5
Advisory Committee	3b	Project Design	Development	10
			Acquisition and Development	5
Advisory Committee	3c	Planning success (architecture and engineering only)	Planning	10
			Acquisition and Planning	5
Advisory Committee	4	Cost benefit	All	10
Advisory Committee	5	Boating experience	All	6
Advisory Committee	**6**	**Boats on Trailers**	**All**	**5**
Advisory Committee	**7**	Readiness	All	5
RCO Staff	**8**	Matching shares including non-government contributions	All	4 Local 1 State
RCO Staff	**9**	Proximity to people	All	1
RCO Staff	**10**	Growth Management Act (local agencies) preference	All	0
			Total:	**Local=66** **State=63**
			New Total with Added Criteria/Points:	**Local=66-71** **State=63-68**

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

2) Adding Sustainability Criteria Question to Boating Facilities Program

Background

In September 2011, the board adopted resolution 2011-22, which encourages greater use of sustainable design, practices, and elements in grant-funded projects. Beginning in 2012, the board added a sustainability and environmental stewardship evaluation question, with a total potential point value of 10, to several of its grant programs.

The Boating Grants Program Plan calls for adding the board's sustainability and environmental stewardship question to the Boating Facilities Program evaluation criteria (pp. 26, Strategy 4). However, because the question for scoring acquisition projects focuses on the environmental features of a site, the Boating Advisory Committee believes the question may serve as a disadvantage when acquiring property for development. Therefore, if the board adds the sustainability and environmental stewardship question to the program, staff suggests altering the question's guidance for acquisition, planning, and combination acquisition and planning projects in hopes of eliminating this disadvantage.

Options for Consideration

The following table describes options for addressing the "sustainability and environmental stewardship" question.

Table A2.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No Change	Do not add the question.	Does not introduce a possible disadvantage for any project type.	Sustainability policy statement does not benefit the program.
2 – Add to Some Project Types	Add the question only to Development, or Acquisition and Development Projects. A range of 0-10 points represents between 2% to 16% of the evaluation point total.	Does not introduce a possible disadvantage for any project type (RCO would re-weight other project scores)	Sustainability policy statement does not benefit all project types in the program.
3 – Add to All Project Types	Apply the question to Development, Acquisition, Planning, and Combination projects. Create unique guidance for each project type. A range of 0-10 points represents between 2% to 16% of the evaluation point total.	Sustainability policy statement benefits the program.	May introduce a competitive disadvantage to some project types, such as Acquisition.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 3, with a point range of 0-5, for a pilot period of one grant cycle to see what issues, if any, arise in the evaluation process. After the pilot period, staff will review the issue with the Boating Program Advisory Committee and may recommend a different point value (such as 10), or other changes based on their review.

The following table includes the current evaluation criteria summary with the addition of the sustainability and environmental stewardship question bolded in **red.**

Table A2.2 Current Evaluation Criteria Summary with New Criterion Highlighted

Boating Facilities Program Evaluation Criteria Summary				
Scored by	**Question**	**Item**	**Project Type**	**Possible Points**
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	2	Site suitability	All	15
Advisory Committee	3a	Urgency	Acquisition	10
			Acquisition and Planning	5
			Acquisition and Development	5
Advisory Committee	3b	Project Design	Development	10
			Acquisition and Development	5
Advisory Committee	3c	Planning success (architecture and engineering only)	Planning	10
			Acquisition and Planning	5
Advisory Committee	4	Cost benefit	All	10
Advisory Committee	**5**	**Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship**	**All**	**5**
Advisory Committee	**6**	Boating experience	All	6
Advisory Committee	**7**	Readiness	All	5
RCO Staff	**8**	Matching shares including non-government contributions	All	4 Local
				1 State
RCO Staff	**9**	Proximity to people	All	1
RCO Staff	**10**	Growth Management Act (local agencies) preference	All	0
			Total	**Local=66 State=63**
			New Total with Added Criteria/Points	**Local=71 State=68**

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

Attachment B

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities Program

Staff requests direction from the board on two potential changes to the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA). These would only apply to project types in the Nonmotorized, Nonhighway Road, and Off-Road Vehicle categories:

1) Amend and apply the sustainability and environmental stewardship question to all project types.
2) Clarify the pathway to score a Combination Acquisition and Development project.

1) Amending and Applying the Sustainability Question

Background

In September 2011, the board adopted resolution 2011-22, which encourages greater use of sustainable design, practices, and elements in grant-funded projects. Beginning in 2012, the board began adding a sustainability and environmental stewardship evaluation question, with a total potential point value of 10, to several of its grant programs, including the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities (NOVA) Program.

The board added the sustainability and environmental stewardship evaluation question to the NOVA evaluation criteria in January of 2014. The addition of the question, with a total potential score of 10, did not apply to "Planning" projects. This created a potential 10-point scoring disadvantage for planning project proposals. In response, staff added some sustainability guidance to the "Planning" evaluation question and increased the total possible points from 10 to 20. This approach ensured all project types had some "sustainability" evaluation and the same total possible points, but it remains unclear if this approach was the most useful application of the sustainability and environmental stewardship evaluation question.

In addition, the question's guidance for "Development" project types was applied to "Maintenance and Operation" projects. Staff recently reviewed the guidance, revealing the need to create a new section of guidance for Maintenance and Operations projects that address unique work types that go beyond development. The current sustainability criterion guidance is referenced in Manual 14, pp. 50.

Issue

The sustainability and environmental stewardship question as taken from other programs does not apply to "Planning" projects in NOVA, and the standard guidance for "Development" projects are inadequate for the range of work commonly performed in a "Maintenance and Operations" projects. To maximize the benefit of the sustainability and environmental stewardship evaluation question, it should directly apply to all project types and the guidance within the question should directly relate to the work performed in each project type.

Options for Consideration

The following table describes options for addressing the "sustainability and environmental stewardship" question and guidance.

Table B1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No Change	No change to the question's guidance. For Planning projects, guidance remain in the Planning question (see verbiage of question #6 at the end of this Attachment).	Program evaluation remains consistent with previous grant round.	All project types may not benefit equally from the question. Guidance provided for Maintenance and Operations project type do not fit well.
2 – Remove Question as a Stand-Alone Criterion	Remove the sustainability question as a stand-alone criterion but add appropriate sustainability guidance into each project evaluation question.	Program evaluation remains generally consistent with previous grant round with more appropriate guidance given by project type.	Potentially weakens the intent of the sustainability policy statement.
3 – Add to All Project Types	Remove the sustainability guidance from the Planning question and apply the sustainability and environmental stewardship question as a stand-alone criterion to all project types with appropriate guidance for each.	All project types fully benefit from the sustainability question. Applicants and evaluators use guidance that directly apply to the project type.	Sustainability question may disadvantage some project types.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Applying a total potential point value of 10 points (the current value) means the question represents 12% of the total score of a Nonmotorized/Nonhighway project, and 13% of an Off-Road Vehicle project.

Staff recommends Option 3, with a point range of 0-5, for a pilot period of one grant cycle to see what issues may arise in the evaluation process. After the pilot period, staff will review the issue with the NOVA Advisory Committee and may recommend a different point value (such as 10) or other changes based on the outcome of the review. (See Table B2.2: NOVA Evaluation Criteria Summary and Table B2.3 Planning Criteria Changes at the end of this Attachment).

2) Clarify Scoring Pathway for Combination Acquisition and Development Projects

Background

It is unclear in the evaluation questions summary how Combination Acquisition and Development Projects are scored.

Issue

Without clear published guidance, applicants and evaluators need direction from staff on how Combination Acquisition and Development Projects will be scored.

Options for Consideration

The following table describes options for providing guidance on the evaluation questions and criteria for Combination Acquisition and Development Projects.

Table B2.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No Change	Do nothing.	Program evaluation remains consistent with previous grant round.	Unclear to applicants and evaluators how Combination Acquisition and Development projects get scored.
2 – Include Evaluation Pathway in Criteria Summary	Create new rows on the evaluation criteria summary to show how Combination Acquisition and Development projects are scored.	Clearly shows how evaluators score Combination Acquisition and Development projects.	May not be consistent with previous grant round scoring procedures.

Staff Preliminary Recommendations

Staff recommends Option 2. The following table includes the current evaluation criteria summary with the addition of new criteria and scoring specified for "Planning" and "Combination Acquisition and Development" projects bolded in **red.**

Table B2.2 Current Evaluation Criteria Summary with New Criterion Highlighted

NOVA Evaluation Questions Summary					
Scored By	**Evaluation Question**	**Title**	**Category and Project Type Questions**	**Maximum Points**	**NOVA Plan Policy**
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15	A-1, C-7
Advisory Committee	2	Need fulfillment	All	15	A-1, C-6, C-7
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	Acquisition	10	C-15
			Combination Acquisition and Development	**5**	
Advisory Committee	4	Project design	Development	10	C-1, C-5, C-7, C-8, C-14
			Combination Acquisition and Development	**5**	
Advisory Committee	5	Maintenance	Maintenance and Operation	10	C-5, C-7, C-8, C-14
Advisory Committee	6	Error! Reference source not found.	Planning	**10**	C-6, C-15
Advisory Committee	7	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	Acquisition, Development, Maintenance and Operation, and **Planning**	**5**	**A-1, C-5, C-14**
Advisory Committee	8	Readiness to proceed	All	5	

NOVA Evaluation Questions Summary					
Scored By	**Evaluation Question**	**Title**	**Category and Project Type Questions**	**Maximum Points**	**NOVA Plan Policy**
Advisory Committee	9	Predominantly natural	Nonmotorized and Nonhighway Road category projects only.	5	C-13
Advisory Committee	10	Project support	All	10	C-3, C-4
Advisory Committee	11	Cost-benefit	All	5	A-1, C-3
RCO staff	12	Matching shares	All	5	C-4
RCO staff	13	Population proximity	All	2	C-2
RCO staff	14	Growth Management Act preference	All	0	
Nonhighway and Nonmotorized Total Points Possible				**82 (77)**	
ORV Total Possible Points				**77 (72)**	

The following table details the recommended changes to the "Planning" criterion.

Table B2.3 Recommending Changes to the "Planning" Criterion

6. Planning. To what extent will the proposed plan or study help provide opportunities and address sustainability of the natural environment?[1] (Applicants respond only to bulleted items clearly relevant to your project.)

Recreation Benefit and Public Involvement Factors

- Will this project directly benefit the intended recreation? Explain. (For example, will it result in a development proposal, or will more planning be required?)

What are the results of any public involvement in the planning proposal? Proposed Plan Scope and Outcomes Factors

- Are the project's planning goals and objectives appropriate? Explain.
- Is the proposed plan or study cost-effective?
- Does the plan or study reflect current planning or design standards or is the approach untested?
- Are there any conditions on site or in the study area that might require extraordinary or unique planning or design efforts?
- What is the complexity or feasibility of environmental mitigation that could be required?
- Does the plan or study address maintenance and stewardship of the planning area?
- What are the qualifications and experience of the personnel, including consultants?

~~Sustainability Factors~~

- ~~How do the natural characteristics of the site support future planned uses?~~

- ~~Will the plan or study address how to protect, enhance, or restore wetlands and other ecosystem functions of the site?~~
- ~~Does the plan or study include a response to any invasive species on site or within the study area?~~
- ~~What other noteworthy characteristics demonstrate how the natural features within the planning area contribute to energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?~~

▲ Point Range: 0-5 points, which staff later multiplies ~~by 4~~, by **2**

0 points	Evidence is vague or it appears that the project will not lead to new opportunities for the intended type of recreation. ~~or does not show any concepts of sustainability.~~
1-2 points	Fair to moderate evidence. Proposal likely will lead to weak or below average new recreation opportunities. ~~and sustainability concepts.~~
3 points	Good. Proposal likely will lead to an above average or several solid recreation opportunities. ~~and sustainability concepts.~~
4-5 points	Very good to excellent. Proposal likely will lead to an outstanding opportunity in the intended recreation type. ~~and improved sustainability concepts.~~

Revised 2014.

[1] An applicant should address the recreation opportunities provided in the specific grant category in which he or she is applying. For example, if the applicant is applying for an off-road vehicle grant, he or she should describe the off-road vehicle opportunities that would be provided.

Attachment C

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Trails Category

Staff requests direction from the board on changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Trails program, including:

1) Changes and updates to the criteria.
2) Expanding the policy statement that requires a physical separation between a trail and roadway.

1) Proposed Criteria Changes

Background

Grants in this category fund projects for which the primary intent is to acquire, develop, or renovate pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or cross-country ski trails. Trails funded through this program may have either hard or natural surfacing and may include land and/or facilities. State and local agencies may apply for WWRP Trails grants.

Staff routinely conducts reviews of the WWRP evaluation processes and criteria. In particular, staff reviews the criteria and process during post-evaluation meetings with advisory committee members. Staff also reviews the processes and criteria based on interactions with applicants during the application and funding process.

In 2004, the board followed staff recommendation to change the WWRP Trails evaluation criteria as follows:

1) Combined the evaluation questions for "Community Linkages" and "Trail Linkages";
2) Combined the "Water Access and Views" with the "Scenic Values" evaluation question; and
3) Updated the habitat question from "Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat" to "Wildlife Habitat Connectivity" and provided new guidance for applicants and evaluators.

Staff recommended these changes to reduce any disadvantage to projects in areas of the state where aquatic resources are not in abundance, reduce seemingly redundant questions, and to simplify the requirement to evaluate effects on the respective habitat. See Attachment C.1 for the current WWRP – Trails evaluation criteria.

For WWRP – Trails, evaluation criteria are identified in statute (RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a). It states (emphasis added):

> "In determining the acquisition and development priorities, the board shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:
>
> - Community support for the project
> - Immediacy of threat to the site;
> - ***Linkage between communities***
> - ***Linkage between trails***
> - Existing or potential usage
> - Consistency with plans
> - ***Availability of water access or views***
> - ***Enhancement of wildlife habitat***

- ***Scenic values of the site.***

Issues

Following stakeholder comments, feedback from evaluators, and staff review of the WWRP Trails category, there are four evaluation criteria issues for which staff requests direction from the board:

1) Natural Surface Trails: According to some stakeholders, the guidance in the "Design" and "Trails and Community Linkages" questions may disadvantage applicants who want to construct natural surface/dirt trails. Natural surface trails are generally thought of as native dirt, native gravel, or wood chip surface. There is no statutory preference or definition with regard to trail surfacing. However, Manual 10a states, "Trails funded through this program may have either hard or natural surfacing" (p. 3). "Trail" is defined by the WWRP statute as "public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians"[1].

   Staff do not believe the criteria or the respective guidance create a disadvantage for "natural surface" projects in this category, however, the program statutes and its intent may favor projects that are more community, regional, or statewide-oriented which are generally not natural surfaced trails but rather paved or crushed rock.

2) Trail and Community Linkages: This evaluation question combines two distinct statutory preferences into one evaluation question. In doing so, and given the current guidance for the question, it may disadvantage projects with natural surface trails.

3) Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values: This evaluation question combines two distinct statutory preferences into one question and according to some stakeholders and evaluators, gives excessive advantage to projects adjacent to water. For projects not near water, stakeholders cite the water access and views portion of the question as a disadvantage.

4) Wildlife Habitat Connectivity: This evaluation question proves difficult for applicants to answer and for evaluators to score. Many trails projects develop areas that provide wildlife habitat, or otherwise introduce people into areas where wildlife exists. The question is not precisely the preference stated in statute.

Options for Consideration

Table C1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Issue	Problem	Staff Preliminary Recommendation
1 – Natural Surface Trails	According to some stakeholders, the guidance in the Design, and Trails and Community Linkage questions may disadvantage applicants who want to construct natural surface/dirt trails.	Staff recommends amending the guidance in the Design, and Trails and Community Linkage question (proposing 2 new questions now, see number 2 below) to reduce the likelihood of disadvantage due to trail surface type.
2 – Trail and Community Linkages Question	This evaluation question combines two distinct statutory preferences into one evaluation question. In doing so, and given the current guidance for the question, it may disadvantage projects with natural surface trails.	Staff is recommending re-creating two separate questions, "Linkages Between Trails" and "Linkages Between Communities," and providing guidance that may minimize any disadvantage due to trail surface type.

[1] RCW 79A.15.010(11)

3 – Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values Question	This evaluation question combines two distinct statutory preferences into one question and according to some stakeholders and evaluators, gives excessive advantage to projects adjacent to water. For projects not near water, stakeholders cite the water access and views portion of the question as a disadvantage.	Staff suggests the Board consider re-creating two stand-alone questions "Water Access and Views" and "Scenic Values of the Site" and amend the guidance therein to reduce any disadvantage for sponsors in dry areas of the state.
4 – Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Question	Applicants find this question hard to answer and evaluators find the question difficult to score as many trails projects develop areas that provide wildlife habitat, or otherwise introduce people into areas where wildlife exists. The question is not precisely the preference stated in statute.	Staff suggests the board return this question to its statutory roots, and simplify the guidance given to applicants and evaluators. The statutory preference is called "Enhancement of wildlife habitat" for which there is no statutory definition.

Staff Preliminary Recommendations

Staff requests direction on the recommended changes to the trails criteria identified in **RED** in the following tables for evaluation criteria and revised questions.

Table C1.2 Current Evaluation Criteria Summary with New Criterion Highlighted

Trails Criteria Summary				
Score	**#**	**Question**	**Project Type**	**Maximum Points Possible**
Advisory Committee	1	Need	All	15
Advisory Committee	**2**	**Linkages Between Trails**	All	**7.5**
Advisory Committee	**3**	**Linkages Between Communities**	All	**7.5**
Advisory Committee	**4**	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	15
			Combination	7.5
Advisory Committee	**5**	**Project Design**	Development	15
			Combination	7.5
Evaluation Team	**6**	Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	All	10
Advisory Committee	**7**	**Availability of Water Access or Views**	All	**5**
Advisory Committee	**8**	**Scenic Values**	All	**5**
Advisory Committee	**9**	**Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat**	All	5
Advisory Committee	**10**	Project Support	All	10
Advisory Committee	**11**	Cost Efficiencies	All	5
RCO Staff	**12**	Growth Management Act Preference	All	0
RCO Staff	**13**	Population Proximity	All	3
Total Points Possible: 88				

Table C1.3 Proposed New Questions

Intent	Current Question	Proposed Question(s)
Reduce Disadvantage for Soft Surface Trail Projects.	**2. Trails and Community Linkages.** Does the trail project connect trails and communities or provide linkages to community oriented facilities or resources? Applicants should show trail and/or community linkages to the advisory committee. To what extent does will the trail project link to existing trails or provide potential linkages? Does the project enhance a statewide or community trails network? Broadly interpret the term community to include, but not be limited to, the following linkages: • Neighborhoods, subdivisions, business districts • Destination facilities, such as parks, scenic overlooks, schools, churches, libraries • Urban to rural areas	**2. Linkages Between Trails.** Does the trail project connect existing trails? • Describe to what extent the proposed trail or trailhead links and serves existing trails and trail networks, or will provide potential linkages? • Does a coordinated plan identify the proposed linkages? • Does the project enhance a statewide or community trails network? **3. Linkages Between Communities**. Does the trail project connect communities? Applicants should show how the project will create linkages between communities. Broadly interpret the term *community* to include, but not be limited to, the following linkages: • Neighborhoods, subdivisions, business districts • Destinations, such as parks, landscapes, scenic overlooks, schools, churches, libraries, cultural sites. • Urban to rural areas Different groups of people.

Reduce Disadvantage for Soft Surface Trail Projects.	**4. Project Design.** Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use(s)? (Development and Combination projects only) Considerations include, but are not limited to: • Design complements need. • Design is barrier-free and accessible. • Adequate surfacing, width, spatial relationships. • Grades, curves, and switchbacks. • Appropriate setting and compatibility of uses. • Road crossings and trailhead locations. • Loops and destination trails. • Ease of maintenance. • Realistic cost estimates provided. • Renovation returns the site/facility to its original use and capacity. When considering renovation projects, a proposal to restore a currently underused site to its original intended capacity could score higher if the renovation is to correct problems that are due to circumstances beyond the control of the sponsor (i.e. natural disaster, reached life expectancy, etc.) and are not associated with inadequate maintenance of the facility.	**5. Project Design.** Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use(s)? (Development and Combination projects only) Considerations include, but are not limited to: • Design consistent with need, and need of intended users. • Adequate surfacing, width, spatial relationships. • Design reduces user conflicts. • Appropriate setting. • Road and trail crossings well planned. • Signs and parking provided at trailhead locations. • Loops and destination of trails. • Ease and cost of maintenance. • Realistic cost estimates provided. • Based on the most current applicable Americans with Disabilities Act or Architectural Barriers Act standard, guidance, or best practice, the design is accessible to the greatest extent possible, given the context and purpose of the trail. • If trail is adjacent to a roadway, is there adequate separation from the roadway to ensure a safe and quality recreation experience? Renovation returns the site/facility to its original use and capacity, or expands its capacity and useful life (the need for renovation should not be due to lack of adequate maintenance)?

Reduce Disadvantage For Trails with No Water Access.	**6. Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values**. Does the project provide scenic values and/or direct and immediate recreational *access to or views of* a "significant" natural water body? Water access is the primary criterion; scenic values or views of water are secondary.[2] Considerations include, but are not limited to: • How long does it take to reach the access? • What quality is the access (for example, are there obstructions – vegetation, mud, inclines, etc.)? • What percentage of visitors likely will use the access? • What activities are enhanced by the access? • Is comparable access available nearby? • What is the quality of any view of water (consider obstructions, restrictions, distance, clarity, diversity, etc.)? • How does distance and perspective affect the view or scenic value? • How much diversity and variety is provided by the view? (A view may be more interesting if it simultaneously includes water, mountains, sky, or water, city skylines, and other diverse elements.)	**7. Water Access or Views.** Does the project provide direct access to water or provide views of aquatic resources? Considerations include, but are not limited to: • How long does it take to reach the water access or view of water? • What quality is the access or view (for example, are there obstructions – vegetation, mud, inclines, etc.)? • What percentage of visitors likely will use the access or view? **7. Scenic Values of the Site**. Does the project provide scenic values other than what has been presented in the previous question "Water Access and Views"? Considerations include, but are not limited to: • How long does it take to reach an area of scenic value? • Is there high quantity and quality scenic value? • What percentage of visitors likely will access the scenic values of the site? • How does distance and perspective affect the view or scenic value? How much scenic view diversity and variety is provided.

[2] Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.070(6)(a)(vii)(ix)

Reduce Difficulty, Return to Statutory Verbiage	**7. Wildlife Habitat Connectivity**. Will this proposal enhance wildlife's *access to food, water, or cover*?[3] Although wildlife biologists commonly agree that most trails act as barriers that negatively impact wildlife connectivity, such is not always the case. Consider, is the project likely to enhance access to food, water, or cover? That is: • Will it add any of these elements where they are lacking? • Will it protect these elements where they are declining? • Will the trail introduce significant human intrusions? • What steps will the sponsor take to mitigate or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife?	**9. Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat**. Will this proposal enhance wildlife habitat? Although wildlife biologists commonly agree that most trails negatively affect wildlife to some extent, such is not always the case. Will the project: • Protect, restore, expand, strengthen, or create new habitat? • Enhance access to food, water, or cover? Are you using native plants? Are you leaving piles of rock and branches behind (for example)? • Benefit a species or habitat that is protected by a federal, state, or local regulation? • Will you design the site for wildlife passage? Will lighting be directed to avoid impacts to wildlife? • Will you be monitoring wildlife before and after the project to measure impacts? Is your maintenance budget sufficient to maintain habitat health? • Is the size of available habitat, to include adjacent land, sufficient for the wildlife there? Will you be encouraging, or coordinating with, adjacent landowners to improve habitat on their land? • To what extent with the project maintain or improve ecosystem health?

[3] Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.070(6)(a)(viii)

2) Trails Separated From Roadway

Background

WWRP Manual 10a describes criteria for trails that must be "separated by physical barriers" (p. 3).

Issue

Staff request direction on expanding the definitions of "physical barriers" and "separated" because project sponsors often provide a diversity of structures and features, which staff must then evaluate on a case-by-case basis. Expanding the "separated by physical barriers" policy statement will improve project quality and bring consistency and guidance to the project planning, application, and evaluation processes, and help with RCO's compliance responsibilities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff propose the following updates to the Manual 10a section as noted above:

"Grants in this category provide for projects whose primary intent is to acquire, develop, or renovate pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, or cross-country ski trails. The intent of this funding source is to acquire, develop or renovate statewide, regional, and community-oriented recreational trails that provide linkages between communities or other trails, or provide access to destinations of interest to recreationists. Trails in this category are routes constructed for recreational and pedestrian use and may be used as alternatives to vehicle routes within a transportation system. Trails must be for non-motorized use and cannot be part of a street or roadway such as a sidewalk or unprotected road shoulder or any other area of a roadway such as a painted bike/pedestrian lane. Trails adjacent to roadways ~~that are~~must be separated by space and potentially physical barriers to ensure a quality and safe recreational experience~~and are improved solely for pedestrian, equestrian, or bicycle use are eligible~~. These trails, their landscapes, signage, and barriers must conform to federal, state and local codes and regulations. Where a trail funded in this category is wholly or partially along a roadway, that portion of the trail:

1. Must have a strip of land no less than 10 feet wide (or run length) between it and the road,
    a. However, if and where a barrier is used; such as a guardrail, curb, jersey barrier, fence, (etc.), it must be contiguous along the part of the trail that is along a roadway. In these cases, the strip of land may be no less than 3 feet.
        i. Vegetation such as a contiguous row of thick shrubs may substitute as a barrier.
        ii. A dramatic change in grade between a roadway and trail may also substitute as a barrier.
        iii. The barrier may not be contiguous where needed to allow access for pedestrians or other purpose such as a utility or light pole or maintenance needs.

A space and/or a barrier separating a trail from a roadway may not be required where trails approach a roadway to cross it, at the crossing itself, in areas that have sever spatial limitations, or if not allowed by law, regulation, or published government guidances.~~.~~

Pathways and access routes developed primarily to connect elements, spaces, or facilities within a site is not a trail.

The board may waive these requirements."

Attachment D

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Program

Staff requests direction from the board on a potential change to the Aquatic Lands Enhancement (ALEA) Program by requiring applicants to answer all the evaluation questions and the multipliers are adjusted to balance the total maximum points.

Evaluation Questions for Acquisition and Development / Restoration

Background

The board adopted the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) evaluation criteria in 2008. At the time, the board significantly revised the criteria and provided a preference for projects that would meet the multiple objectives of the grant program to protect and restore aquatic lands and provide public access to them.

Issue

Combination projects for acquisition of real property and restoration or development of aquatic lands is an eligible type in the ALEA program. In other board grant programs, combination projects are scored on both the acquisition and the development or restoration components of the projects. The ALEA criteria are not set up this way. Evaluators must score acquisition OR development/restoration components based on the part of the project with the highest cost. Evaluators have expressed concern that they must ignore certain components of a project during scoring. Applicants can find it confusing on which evaluation criteria to answer.

Options for Consideration

The board could choose one of the following options to address the concern raised by evaluators and applicants.

Table D1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No change	Applicants would continue to answer the evaluation question about acquisition OR development/restoration elements, not both.	Projects are scored based on the elements with the highest cost.	Projects are not scored on all of the elements contained in the application.
2 – Adjust the scoring table	Applicants would answer all the evaluation questions and the multipliers are adjusted to balance the total maximum points.	Projects are scored based on all the elements contained in the application.	Maximum points are reduced for the acquisition and development/restoration questions giving them less weight.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends option two. This option is consistent with the method used in other board grant programs that have combination projects.

The scoring tables below reflect the preferred option 2 for each of the types of ALEA projects.

Table D1.2 Projects Meeting a Single Program Purpose – Proposed Evaluation Question Summary

Scored By	#	Question	Evaluators Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	0-5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	0-5	4	20
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability *(acquisition projects only)*	0-5	2	10
		(acquisition and development)	0-5	1	5
		~~OR~~			
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability *(development projects only)*	0-5	2	10
		(acquisition and development)	0-5	1	5
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	0-5	2	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	0	1	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	0-1	1	1
			Total Possible Points	**66**	

Table D1.3 Projects Meeting Both Program Purposes: Protection and Enhancement AND Public Access Projects – Proposed Evaluation Question Summary

Scored By	#	Question	Elements	Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points	Total Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability (acquisition projects only)	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
		(acquisition, development and restoration projects)	All Elements	0-5	1	5	5
~~OR~~							
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability (restoration and development projects only)	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
		(acquisition, development and restoration projects)	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	0.5	2.5	5
			Public Access Elements	0-5	0.5	2.5	
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	All Elements	0	1	0	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	All Elements	0-1	1	1	1
					Total Possible Points	**71**	**71**

Attachment E

Proposed Changes to the Cost Efficiencies Evaluation Question

Background

The board adopted the cost efficiencies evaluation question in November 2013 and January 2014. The intent of the cost efficiencies question is to award evaluation points to applicants who are leveraging non-governmental funds to help with the costs of the proposed project. The question applies to the following grant programs:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - Development and Maintenance Projects
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP):
    - Local Parks Category
    - Trails Category
    - Water Access Category

The current weight of the cost efficiencies question is seven percent for RTP and WWRP Trails, and eight percent for LWCF, WWRP Local Parks, and WWRP Water Access.

Current Cost Efficiencies Question

Cost efficiencies. To what extent does this project demonstrate efficiencies or a reduction in government costs through documented use of donations or other resources?

Donations – cash, real property, volunteer labor, equipment use, or materials.

- What are the donations for this project?
- Who is making the donation?
- What is the value of the donation and how was the value determined?
- Is the donation in hand?
- If the donation is not in hand, do you have a letter of commitment from the donor that specifies what is being donated and when?
- Is the donation necessary for implementation of the project? Are donations included in the project proposal?

Private grants awarded by non-governmental organizations

- Is there a private grant that is being used as match for this project?
- Who awarded the grant?
- What is the grant amount?
- What is the purpose of the grant?
- When will grant funds be available?

Are there other efficiencies for this project that will result in cost savings?

- What is the cost efficiency?
- Who is providing it?
- What's the value?
- When was the commitment made and when does it expire?

Point Range: Evaluators award 0-5 points.

<u>Evaluators may add 1 point to the score assigned above, if an applicant demonstrates cost savings through donations and private grants. Matching grants from governmental entities are not eligible for consideration under this factor</u>. *[emphasis added]*

Issue

The cost efficiencies question includes a bonus point for applications that demonstrate cost savings through donations and private grants. Evaluators and RCO staff expressed concern that this bonus point was redundant since the evaluation question is about scoring for donations and private grant resources. The purpose of the bonus point seems unclear.

Options for Consideration

The board could choose one of the following options to address the concern raised by evaluators and staff.

Table E1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No change	Evaluators would continue to score based on donations and private grants and also award a bonus point for the same types of contributions.	Provides an extra point for evaluators to award at their discretion.	Provides an extra point for something that has already been scored
2 – Remove the bonus point option	Evaluators would consider all types of cost efficiencies together when scoring. Maximum points would be five.	Provides a consistent method for scoring cost efficiencies without double-counting.	Removes the ability for evaluators to award a bonus point and reduces an applicant's maximum possible score.
3 – Remove the bonus point option and add the point to maximum score for the question	Evaluators would consider all types of cost efficiencies together when scoring. Maximum points would be six.	Provides a consistent method for scoring cost efficiencies without double-counting and maintains the same weight for the question.	Removes the ability for evaluators to award a bonus point.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends option two. This option would maintain the zero to five scoring range for the question and remove the "double-counting" that currently exists with the bonus point. It would also reduce the weight of the cost efficiencies question, which staff believes is appropriate considering the weight is already between seven and eight percent of the total possible points. Removing the bonus point would reduce the weight to between six and seven percent.

Attachment F

Proposed New Evaluation Question to Address the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Background

The board adopted the Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP) in 2013. The plan includes recommendations to provide for outdoor recreation facilities that support community health initiatives and meet the needs of underserved communities.

Underserved communities are those communities that traditionally have lower participation rates when compared to other demographic groups. In the 2013 Plan, the underserved communities were:

- People with disabilities,
- People of color,
- Residents over 46 years old,
- Women, and
- People who live in self-described urban or suburban communities.

Issue

The 2016 grant cycle is the first opportunity to consider how best to target grant funding to meet the recommendations in SCORP. Implementing the recommendations in SCORP can be accomplished, in part, by prioritizing the board's grant funding to projects that support such efforts. Supporting community health initiatives and meeting the needs of underserved communities can be partly accomplished by providing a preference in the board's grant programs to target such efforts. Currently, applicants can discuss meeting any of the recommendations in SCORP when they answer evaluation questions about project need. However, there is no specific evaluation question about the needs in SCORP, except in the LWCF, and no criteria specifically target health benefits or underserved residents statewide.

Options for Consideration

The board could choose one of the following options to incorporate health and underserved communities in the evaluation criteria.

Table F1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No change	Applicants would continue to incorporate meeting needs identified in SCORP when responding to evaluation questions about project need.	Applicants have flexibility in how they answer the evaluation question on project need that can include local, regional, and state needs.	Doesn't specifically target the recommendations in SCORP.
2 – Create a new evaluation question	A new question would be added to all recreation grant categories to specifically ask whether a project will address community health initiatives or meet the needs of underserved communities.	Targets the recommendations in SCORP and awards points to projects that meet these statewide needs.	Adding questions to evaluation criteria can dilute the intent of the specific grant program. Projects that are a local priority may not score as well.

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
3 – Revise the evaluation question on project need	Include a specific reference to whether a project will address community health initiatives or meet the needs of underserved communities in the evaluation question on project need.	Highlights the recommendations in SCORP while maintaining flexibility in how applicants answer the evaluation question on project need that can include local, regional, and state needs.	Doesn't specifically target the recommendations in SCORP. Projects that are a local priority may not score as well.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends option two. This option provides the strongest response to incorporating statewide priorities from SCORP into the ranking of applications and awarding grant funds. Staff recommends a new evaluation question be added to the following categories:

- Boating Facilities Program
- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Account program
- Recreational Trail Program
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:
    - Local Parks Category
    - Trails Category
    - Water Access Category

The new criteria would specifically target supporting healthy communities and underserved populations. Below is a proposed new evaluation question created with the assistance from staff at the Department of Health's Office of Healthy Communities. The question is framed so that it could be updated when the priorities in SCORP change. The maximum possible points could be based on a percent of the total in each category such as five or ten percent weight.

Proposed Evaluation Question

SCORP Priorities - *How will this project address statewide or regional priorities as described in the Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan?*

- How will this project specifically provide a diversity of recreation opportunities that meet the needs of the state's underserved populations which are:
    - People with disabilities
    - People of color
    - Residents over 46 years old
    - Women
    - People who live in urban or suburban communities
- How will this project help increase physical activities among people of all ages and abilities or low income and diverse communities?
- Will this project support federal, state, regional or local health initiatives such as:
    - National Physical Activity plan
    - Healthy Communities Washington from the Washington Department of Health
    - Health Impact Assessments from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Pew Charitable Trust

Attachment G

Proposed Changes to Evaluation Criteria: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Critical Habitat Category

Background

The board adopted the evaluation criteria for the WWRP Critical Habitat category in 1999. In 2005, the Legislature added local agencies as an eligible sponsor and an additional evaluation criterion that requires consideration of how a local project has statewide significance. In 2011, the board adopted the Allowable Uses policy that allows sponsors to graze critical habitat lands if the use does not diminish the essential purpose of the grant, it was occurring before the sponsor purchased the property and it is disclosed in the application evaluation materials.

Issue

The evaluation criteria have not been significantly reviewed since 1999 and should be evaluated for two reasons. First, no local agencies has been awarded grant funds in the category since they were added as eligible sponsors in 2006. Local agencies do not compete well, if they apply at all. Second, the criteria do not reflect the need to disclose grazing if it is a proposed allowable use. There is no avenue for evaluators to review the grazing information and evaluate it.

Options for Consideration

The board could choose one of following options to revise the WWRP Critical Habitat evaluation criteria.

Table G1.1 Options for Board Consideration

Option	Description	PROS	CONS
1 – No change	Keep the current evaluation criteria. Staff would provide technical assistance to local agencies on how best to apply for funds. Staff would instruct applicants to address grazing uses within the existing evaluation question on "Management and Viability".	Addresses issues within the current evaluation criteria framework.	Does not address reasons why local agencies are not competing well in the category. Does not provide direction to applicants and evaluators on how to include grazing uses in the evaluation materials.
2 – Modify the evaluation criteria	Modifications would be made to incorporate local agency planning and prioritization efforts into the existing evaluation criteria and to include grazing uses under the "Management and Viability" question.	Incorporates specific evaluation information within current evaluation framework.	Local agencies may still not compete as well as state agencies.
3 – Revise the evaluation criteria	Simplify and streamline the evaluation criteria to closely align with the statutory criteria and incorporate grazing uses.	Relies directly on the statute to guide the allocation of funds. Simplifies the criteria so all eligible sponsors can more easily respond. Addresses grazing uses.	Significant revisions to the criteria may alter the types of projects awarded funds.

Staff Preliminary Recommendation

Staff recommends option three to revise the evaluation criteria. This option aligns the evaluation criteria with the statute and makes it simpler for all applicants to respond. It also incorporates grazing uses into the evaluation of the project.

Table G1.2 Crosswalk of Proposed Revisions to WWRP Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?[4] "Paint a picture" of your project for the evaluators – the what, where, and why. This is the "heart" of your presentation and evaluators will draw conclusions based on the information presented about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and wildlife. *The Bigger Picture* How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e., species management population plan, habitat conservation, local, watershed, statewide, agency, or conservation), or a coordinated region-wide prioritization effort? What is the status of the plan? Does this project assist in implementation of a local shoreline master program, updated according to Revised Code of Washington 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130? What process was used to identify this project as a priority? What specific role does this project play in a broader watershed or landscape picture? Is it part of a phased project? Is it a stand-alone site or habitat? For Water Resource Inventory Areas 1-19, how is the project referenced in the *Action Agenda* developed by the Puget Sound Partnership?	**1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics** Is this project recommended in a: • Watershed plan, • Habitat conservation plan, • Coordinated region-wide prioritization effort, or • Limiting factors analysis or critical pathways analysis for salmon species?[6] Is the project consistent with: • Local land use plan, • Regional or statewide recreational plan, or • Regional or statewide resource plan?[7] Does the project assist in the implementation of a: • Local shoreline master plan (RCW 90.58.080) or • Local comprehensive plan (RCW 36.70A.130)?[8] What is the uniqueness of the site?[9]

[4] RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iii, v - vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)
[6] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(iii)
[7] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(xi)
[8] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(xi)
[9] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(v)

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
The *Action Agenda* can be found online at www.psp.wa.gov. Evaluators should ignore this question for projects outside Water Resource Inventory Areas 1-19. Local agencies only: What is the statewide significance of the project site? Does it meet priorities identified in a state plan? What elevates this site to a state significance level as opposed to a site that meets needs identified for the local community? *Uniqueness and Significance* Explain how the site is unique or significant on a global, regional, state, ecosystem, and/or watershed level. How unique is the site in relation to habitat quality, connectivity, diversity, and rarity? How is the site important in providing critical habitat or biological function for wildlife species or communities? How does this site compare to others of the same type? *Fish and Wildlife Species or Communities* Which, if any, are the target species or communities[5]? (Target species may or may not be special status species.) Are the target species or communities geographically isolated to this particular site? Explain the condition of the population of target species. Which species have the potential and likelihood to use the site in the future and will reintroduction occur naturally or otherwise? *Quality of Habitat* Describe the ecological and biological quality of the habitat. What specific role does the habitat play in supporting the species or communities using the site? How is this habitat important in providing food, water,	What is the quality of the habitat?[10] For local agencies, does the site have statewide significance?[11] Maximum Points = 20

[5] A target species or community is the project's primary objective for protection and stands to gain the greatest benefit from the acquisition. For example, a project's primary objective may be to acquire and protect high quality shrub-steppe. This is the "target community" but that community also provides important habitat for shrub-steppe-dependent species.
[10] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(vii)
[11] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(xiv)

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
cover, connectivity, and resting areas? Are the size, quality, and other characteristics of the habitat adequate to support the target species or communities within the context of the project areas? Has the habitat or characteristics of the site been identified as limiting factors or critical pathways to the target species and communities? ▲ Maximum Points = 20	
2. Species or Communities with Special Status What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table (See table below)?[12] This question's intent is to determine the significance of the species or communities with special status and how they may benefit from your project. Some special status species or communities may benefit on a more passive basis, while others may benefit directly. In the interest of time, you may want to address only the species or communities that benefit the most from this project. *Immediacy of Threat to the Species or Communities* Describe the immediacy of threat to the species or communities (e.g., imminent danger of extinction or extirpation; threatened within the foreseeable future, or concern because of current trends; population stable, but catastrophic event could threaten; no foreseeable threat). *Importance of Habitat Acquisition to Species or Community Protection or Recovery* Describe the relative importance of habitat acquisition when compared to other protection or recovery tasks such as habitat	**2. Species or Communities with Special Status** What are the diversity of species using the site?[13] What endangered, threatened, or sensitive species are present?[14] How is the project integrated with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species?[15] Maximum Points = 10

[12] RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iv, ix, xiii)
[13] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(vi)
[14] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(ix)
[15] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(xiii)

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
restoration, captive breeding, translocation, regulatory protection, etc. Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of the species or communities. Identify any recovery plans, conservation strategies, or similar plans that include reference to this site. How does this project assist with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species? *Ecological Roles* Does the species play an especially important role in the ecosystem in which it lives? Do other species depend on it for their survival? Will its loss substantially alter the functioning of the ecosystem? *Taxonomic Distinctness* How evolutionarily distinct is the species in question? That is, is it recognized as the only species in its genus or is it one of ten species in the genus? Is it only recognized as a subspecies? Example: Some scientists think that more evolutionarily distinct organisms should have a higher priority for protection. Based on this assumption, if all else is equal, saving the sole surviving member of a genus may have a higher priority than saving an imperiled species within a large genus that contains many other species. Similarly, protecting a full species normally would be given a higher priority than protecting a subspecies and population. Example: The Olympic mudminnow *(Novumbrahubbsi)* is the sole surviving member of its genus *Novumbra,* whereas, the peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* is a member of a large genus containing 37 species. *Rarity* Describe the distribution or range and, if known, the abundance of a species or community. Examples: The Olympic mudminnow occurs in western Washington and nowhere else in the world. The number of populations are fewer than in the past, but 14	

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
of 16 populations monitored from 1993-1998 appear stable and in no immediate danger of extinction. The peregrine falcon is cosmopolitan, occurring on every continent. The two Washington subspecies were endangered; they increased from a low of 1 known breeding pair in 1978 to 56 breeding pair in 1999. The federal government considers this species recovered in the United States; it was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999, but will be monitored for another decade. ▲ Maximum Points = 10	
3. Manageability and Viability What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?[16] This question's intent is to determine whether the site can be managed, and how it will be managed, to protect the target species or communities. *Immediacy of Threat of the Habitat* What, and how immediate or imminent, are the threats to the habitat at the site (i.e., inherent, ecological, human, conversion, abatable or non-abatable threats)? Are these new threats or ongoing threats? How do or will these threats affect the function of the habitat? How will protection of the site affect these threats? What steps already have been taken to secure the land or reduce the threats? *Long-Term Viability* What regulatory protections currently are afforded the site (i.e., county comprehensive plan, critical areas ordinances, zoning, development regulation, shoreline management rules, forest practice rules	**3. Management and Viability** What is the immediacy of threat to the site?[17] What is the long-term viability of the site?[18] How will the project enhance existing public property?[19] Maximum Points = 10 **4. Ongoing Use and Stewardship** What is the ongoing stewardship program for the site, including control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species? What are the sources of funds from which the stewardship program will be funded?[20] Maximum Points = 10

[16] RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(ii, iv, viii, x)
[17] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(iv)
[18] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(viii)
[19] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(x)
[20] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(ii)

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
including landowner landscape plans, habitat conservation plans, etc.)? Demonstrate how the site will be managed over time to maintain the desired characteristics. Who will maintain it and what human and financial resources are available to do it? What management needs are there? Is the habitat recoverable? What restorative efforts, if any, are needed and planned? What is happening across the landscape or watershed that may affect the viability of the site? Describe any long-term site monitoring plans and identify who will implement monitoring? *Enhancement of Existing Protected Land* Are there other protected lands (public and private) near or adjoining this site that have complementary or compatible land uses for the target species (consider wide-ranging or migratory species)? Are they managed in a manner consistent with the needs of the target species or communities? Is this site part of a larger ownership? If so, describe the connectivity and management of the other land. *Ongoing Stewardship* Describe the ongoing stewardship program for the site that includes control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of funds from which the program will be funded. ▲ Maximum Points = 15	
4. Public Benefit and Support To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?[21] This question's intent is to find out what the unique public benefits are of your project.	**5. Support for the Project** What is the community support for the project?[22] Maximum Points = 5

[21] RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(i, xii)
[22] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(i)

Current Evaluation Criteria	Proposed Revised Evaluation Criteria
Public benefit should not be equated with "public access." The question is not meant to discount projects for *not* having overwhelming support or educational opportunities. It may be that your project has one or the other qualities and not both. Your answer will be scored on those unique qualities and how they are appropriate for, or of benefit to, your project. *Project Support* Describe the support or partnerships from the community, interest groups, volunteers, public agencies, etc. How have these groups been involved in project development? Explain any known opposition to the project. Describe and document other monetary means that have been secured to help cover the costs for the project, i.e., grants, donations, in-kind contributions, etc. *Educational or Scientific Value* Describe the scientific and educational values of the site. Is there an identified research or educational need documented in a management plan, thesis, or scientific journal related to the habitat, species, or communities at the site? How likely is it that these opportunities will come to fruition? How accessible is the site for these activities? ▲ Maximum Points = 5	**6. Educational and scientific value of the site** What is the educational and scientific value of the site?[23] Maximum Points = 5 **7. Public Enjoyment** What are the opportunities for public enjoyment of the site?[24] Maximum Points = 5 points
Total Possible Points = 50	**Total Possible Points = 65**

[23] RCW 79A.15.060(5)(a)(xii)
[24] RCW 79A.15.010(3)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **11**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria and Policies

Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the public comments received and staff responses for the proposed changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Farmland Preservation Account evaluation criteria and program policies. This memo also includes revised criteria and policies based on public comments received. Staff recommends approval of the revised criteria and policies. If approved, the new criteria and policies will apply to new grant applications in 2016.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2015-23

Purpose of Resolution: Adopt revised policies and evaluation criteria for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account.

Background

In September 2015, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff briefed the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) on proposed changes to the evaluation criteria and some of the program policies in the Farmland Preservation Account (FPA) of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). The board provided feedback on the proposed changes and directed staff to solicit public comment on the proposed changes.

Public Comments Received

Public Comment Period and Response

RCO announced an opportunity for the public to comment on September 28, 2015 and accepted comments through October 16, 2015. Staff sent an email notification to over 2,700 individuals and posted the information on RCO's Policy and Rule-making Web page. Eight individuals submitted comments and their comments are included in Attachment A, along with RCO staff's reply.

Summary of Comments

One member of the public supported all the revisions. The remaining public comments received are briefly summarized as follows:

Definition of Farmland

- One person in support.
- Two persons with different concerns:
    - Not all valuable farmland may meet the definition.
    - Lands may fall out of the classification in the future.
    - Assessor's may need guidelines on how to interpret the Open Space Tax Act.

Project Scope May Include One or More Parcels

- One person suggested using definitions from the Open Space Tax Act for consistency.

Limits on the Amount of Impervious Surface

- One person in support.

Public Access Within A Farmland Conservation Easement

- Two persons in support.
- Three persons with similar concerns:
    - A preference for public access appears inconsistent with the intent of the FPA.
    - Landowners should have flexibility to determine the types of public access on their land.

Amendments to the Project Scope Must be Reviewed by the Advisory Committee

- One person in support.
- Two persons with similar concerns that advisory committee members should not be involved in reviewing changes in the scope of a project.
- One person with a suggestion that the review be based on agricultural values rather than conservation values.

Eligibility

- The Swinomish Tribe stated that grant programs need to clearly reward proposals that implement good stewardship and discourage those that do not. They requested the board require any farmland conservation easement that includes a salmon-bearing stream to include a minimum riparian buffer width as a prerequisite for funding. The Tribe suggested the board adopt guidance from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as the minimum riparian buffer requirement along salmon streams. They were also concerned that only 14% of points are awarded for the Farm Stewardship question and felt the question is vague.

Evaluation Criteria

- Overall: One person concerned about the guidance and definitions for evaluators when scoring subjective questions.
- #1 – Viability of the Site
    - One person in support of rangeland and cropland criteria.
- #2 – Threat to the Land
    - One person concerned about threat based on the likelihood of conversion of the farm to other uses and that farms that are low threat but high agricultural value will not score well.
- #4 – On-site Infrastructure
    - One person concerned that the lack of on-site infrastructure may cause a farm to score low.
- #5 – Building Envelope
    - Two persons concerned that properties that do not have a building envelop may not score well.
- #6 – Farmland Stewardship

    - Three persons with different concerns.
        - The weight is too low and the points should clearly reward good stewardship practices.
        - The weight is too high.
        - Some farms don't need stewardship practices and would not score well.
        - Requiring permanent protection of stewardship practices is unnecessary.
        - Certain stewardship practices removed productive land from agriculture.
- # 7 – Benefits to the Community
    - Two persons with different concerns.
        - Need to recognize local conservation district plans and letters of support.
        - Need to recognize the benefits of local food policy initiatives.
        - Including benefits of a recreation plan are inconsistent with the FPA program.
        - There shouldn't be a preference for a specific type of recreation.
        - Agricultural tourism should be recognized as a form of public recreation.
- # 8 – Match
    - One person with concerns on how the match is applied to a sponsor that is not required to provide match.
- #9 – Easement Duration
    - One person with concerns that there is no preference for permanent easements in the statute.

Changes Based on Public Comment

In response to the public comment received, RCO staff revised the draft FPA policies and evaluation criteria as follows:

<u>Project Scope May Include One or More Parcels</u>

- Utilized the definition for "same owner" as defined in RCW 84.34.020(6)(b)(i) and "family" as defined in RCW 84.34.020(6)(b)(ii). Expanded the definition of "contiguous" to include land divided by a public road, but otherwise an integral part of a farming operation.

<u>Public Access Within A Farmland Conservation Easement</u>

- Revised the final sentence of the policy to state that public access is considered as one of many community benefits in the Community Values evaluation question.

<u>Amendments to the Project Scope Must be Reviewed by the Advisory Committee</u>

- Added the "farmland" before the term "conservation values" as the benchmark for the advisory committee to review a scope change request.

Evaluation Criteria

- #6 – Farmland Stewardship
    - Added more examples of stewardship practices that a landowner might voluntary participate in to benefit fish and wildlife habitat such as compliance with NOAA riparian buffer guidance
- # 7 – Benefits to the Community
    - Added a reference to whether area Native American tribes support the project.
    - Added a reference to whether the project is identified in a local conservation district plan.

RCO staff prepared final draft FPA policies and evaluation criteria based on comments from the public and review by RCO's Communications Director. The next section of the memo explains the FPA policies and evaluation criteria for the board's consideration.

Proposed FPA Policies and Evaluation Criteria

Proposed FPA Policies for Consideration

The complete text of the final draft policies are in Attachment B. Table 2 provides a summary of the policies.

Table 2: Summary of Proposed FPA Policies

Proposed Policy	Reason for Proposed Policy
A. Definition of Farmland	State law requires that all land meet the definition of farm and agricultural land as defined in the Open Space Tax Act. The change proposed clarifies how RCO will apply the definition when reviewing parcels for eligibility.
B. Project Scope May Include One or More Parcels	This new policy sets requirements when an application includes more than one parcel. Parcels either must be contiguous or owned by the same ownership.
C. Limits on the Amount of Impervious Surface	Current policy limits the amount of the land that is impervious and not available for cropland or rangeland use. The revised policy clarifies when the director may allow for an exception to the limit: 1) when matching funds are from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and 2) on an individual project basis.
D. Public Access Within a Farmland Conservation Easement	This new policy would allow for current or future public access on protected farmland if agreeable to the landowner.
E. Amendments to the Project Scope Must be Reviewed by the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee	This new policy requires the director to consult with the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee whenever a sponsor requests to add or remove parcels from the scope of a project. The Committee evaluates the request to determine whether it will have similar farmland conservation values as the parcels in the application. This new policy is at the request of the Committee.

Proposed FPA Evaluation Criteria for Consideration

The complete text of the final draft FPA evaluation criteria is in Attachment C. Table 3 provide a summary of the evaluation criteria.

Table 3: Summary of Proposed FPA Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Questions	Total Points	Percent of Total
1. Viability of the Site - What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?	16	29%
2. Threat to the Land - What is the likelihood the land will not stay in agricultural use if it is not protected?	10	18%
3. Access to Markets - How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets?	4	7%
4. On-site Infrastructure - How well is the land's agricultural productivity supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, houses, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure?	4	7%

Evaluation Questions	Total Points	Percent of Total
5. Building Envelope - How much of the property is included in the building envelope?	4	7%
6. Farmland Stewardship - What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?	8	14%
7. Benefits to the Community - How will protecting the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community support the project?	8	14%
8. Match - Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?	2	4%
9. Easement Duration - What is the duration of the conservation easement?	0	0%
Total Points	56	100%

Board Direction

RCO staff seeks board direction on the proposed FPA policies and evaluation criteria. Resolution 2015-23 in Attachment D is provided for the board's consideration.

Next Steps

Should the board approve policies and evaluation criteria for the FPA program, the new policies and criteria will apply starting in 2016.

Link to Strategic Plan

Revising the board's grant program policies and evaluation criteria addresses Goals 1, 2 and 3 in the board's *Strategic Plan*:

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Attachments

A. Public Comments Received on Proposed WWRP Farmland Preservation Account (FPA) Changes

B. Proposed FPA Policies for Consideration

C. Proposed FPA Evaluation Criteria for Consideration

D. Resolution 2015-23

Public Comments Received on Proposed Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account Program Changes

Comment Period: September 28 – October 16, 2015

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Al LePage **Executive Director** **National Coast Trail Association**	Hello: I quickly reviewed the proposed changes, and overall they seem both appropriate and reasonable. I especially approve of the proposals relative to trails and the recreation component for farmland preservation, too. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and best wishes as the organization moves forward with a new executive director.	Thank you for your comments.
Angie Feser, ASLA **Parks Planner** **City of Covington**	I read over the document and having limited knowledge of most of the programs, don't have any comments on it. However, I do support the encouragement of public access for the Farmland program. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment!	Thank you for your comments.
Melanie Moon, Citizen	I've just read the proposed changes to the WWRP program. I have been involved in the farmland preservation portion of WWRP as a project manager for the Columbia Land Trust. My comments are as follows:	
	Land being in or eligible for Open Space makes sense.	Thank you.
	Impervious surface: makes sense.	Thank you.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Melanie Moon, Citizen	Public Access: seems odd to give preference to projects consistent with a regional or state recreation plan when it is farmland preservation project.	The consideration for projects consistent with a regional or state recreation plan is required in RCW 79A.15.130 and reflected in proposed changes to the Community Values evaluation question. To avoid any confusion when scoring the Community Values question, RCO will recommend that the sentence in the public access policy statement be reworded to consider applications that are consistent with such plans when scoring benefits in the Community Values evaluation question.
	Amendment of parcels: I really like this addition as a problem solving tool when certain parcels drop out of a project for one reason or another.	Thank you.
	Ranking: Building envelope: Can I assume NO building envelope would bring in the total 4 points? There isn't really any clarity for this in the proposed example. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	Evaluators would score the building envelope criteria on an individual project basis. Projects that do not include a building envelope may or may not score 4 points depending on the project. A project that does not include a building envelope because the farmer does not need one to operate the farm should score higher. For example, structures are located on other parcels that are already protected and a building envelop is not needed on the proposed project. However, a project with no building envelope and the farm lacks the structures needed for viability into the future should receive a lower score.
Jeanne K. Demorest Environmental Planner Wildlife Program Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and	Good proposals – especially for Farmland Preservation. The revisions will really help with some of the issues we've been discussing for the past few years. I will miss being on the committee!	Thank you for your comment and your past service on the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Former WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee Member		
Larry Wasserman. Environmental Policy Director, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	See attached e-mail. Following is a summary of comments in the e-mail: Adopt guidance that clearly communicates that funding will not be provided that perpetuates land management practices that are inconsistent with the RCO goals. We believe the expenditure of public funds to protect farmland should have a prerequisite that scientifically justifiable buffers be established along salmon streams. The buffers adopted by the Department of Ecology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration meet these requirements. Riparian buffers should be a prerequisite for eligibility to receive funds.	Thank you for your comments. RCO staff will share your concerns with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Staff will recommend including NOAA guidance and other endangered species act guidance as a consideration under the "Farm Stewardship" evaluation question. Projects implementing the NOAA guidance would score higher than projects that do not. Once a farmland conservation easement is in place, nothing would prohibit a farmer from setting aside salmon habitat and improving it (as long as the property continues to meet the definition of "farm and agricultural land" in the Open Space Tax Act). In addition, staff will recommend that applicants consult with area tribes as part of their work to garner community support and include letters of support from areas tribes in their response to the "Community Values" evaluation question.
	Only 14% of points are awarded for the Farmland Stewardship question. These criteria are vague.	The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board proposed the eight points for the Farmland Stewardship question. The WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee previously recommended six points for the maximum. RCO staff will share your concern with the board. The stewardship practices listed under the Farm Stewardship question are meant to be examples of the types of stewardship practices farmers are most typically

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Larry Wasserman. Environmental Policy Director, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community		engaged in. There could be many other types of practices that landowners are engaged in and the intent is to allow for a variety when scoring the applications.
	Programs need to clearly reward proposals that implement good stewardship and discourage those that do not.	RCW 79A.15.130(9) requires consideration of any farmland project in relation to benefits to salmon, fish and wildlife habitat, and integration with recovery efforts. Under the list of examples under the "Farm Stewardship" question, staff will recommend adding a reference that stewardship practices may include meeting minimum guidelines for endangered species recovery as described by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, please be aware that parcels must continue to meet the definition of "farm and agricultural land" in the Open Space Tax Act which has a maximum threshold for how much land may be set aside for non-farm purposes.
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission	See attached letter. Following is a summary of comments in the letter: Parcel Eligibility - Meeting the definition of farm and ag land for the life of the easement is against the direction of RCW 79A.15.130 to maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity. RCO should use the farm and ag conservation land classification in RCW 84.34.020(8) as a transition tool for property owners that are not able to meet the definition in RCW 84.34.020(2).	Thank you for your comments. We understand the Open Space Tax Act classification of farms may change over time due to a number of different reasons such as fallow periods, changes in ownership, and market variability. The definition of farmlands in RCW 79A.15.010(4) constrains the program to only those lands which meet the definition of in RCW 84.34.020(2) of the Open Space Tax Act. The definition does not provide direct authority to allow lands classified as conservation lands RCW 84.34.020(8) to be eligible for program funding. RCO staff will recommend we continue to work on this issue with the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Department of

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission		Revenue. It may also require a statutory change to expand the types of eligible parcels for funding.
	RCO needs to provide clear guidelines and criteria to the assessor to verify eligibility. Assessors differ on how current use classifications are applied.	Providing guidelines to county assessors about the Open Space Tax Act is the responsibility of the Department of Revenue. It is RCO staff's understanding that DOR is looking to develop such guidelines and RCO will offer to assist them, if appropriate.
	Concern for how the eligibility would be applied to multiple parcels of a single farm but not contiguous. How would one parcel not meeting eligibility impact the whole application? If a parcel does not meet eligibility in its current condition, what factors and criteria does RCO want assessors to use?	Eligibility would be based on the county assessor's classification under RCW 84.34.020(2) of the Open Space Tax Act. Those parcels that meet the classification as "farm and agricultural land" in the Open Space Tax Act would be eligible for funding. Those that do not meet the classification would need to be removed from the application. RCO expects the county assessor's to use the statutory requirements in RCW 84.34.020(2) to makes determinations of eligibility.
	One or More Parcels in the Same Application - Recommend using RCW 84.34.020(6) for the definitions of contiguous, same property owner, and family.	Thank you for the suggestions. Staff will recommend using the definitions for "same ownership" and "family" in the Open Space Tax Act. Staff will also recommend adding to the definition of "contiguous" to address land divided by a public road. Using the exact definition for contiguous in the Open Space Tax Act would be more restrictive than proposed as it limits it to properties under the same ownership. The proposed definition is simply that the properties touch one another regardless of ownership.
	Public Access - Public access is a property owner right and does not need to be linked to the easement document. Allowing public trails introduces a non-compatible use for farmland. There is no definition of the	We agree that allowing the public to access the property is a property right exercised by the property owner. However, once the easement is placed on the property, the property owner's rights are constrained by the

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission	types of trails allowed. Referring to recreational plans is a concern.	easement. RCW 79A.15.130(5) specifically requires any "right of access" by the public be included in the conservation easement. Therefore, RCO staff believes any rights of the public to access the property must identified in the easement. RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. While public access may be a non-farm use, such uses are permitted in the Open Space Tax Act as incidental uses. Incidental uses are limited to no more than twenty percent of the classified land. The proposed policy is meant to cover any type of public access, not just trails. Details of the types of access would be negotiated within the easement. The reference to the recreation plan is in RCW 79A.15.130(9)(d) and must be considered in the evaluation criteria.
	Giving preference to projects with public access is not consistent with the Farmland Preservation Account in RCW 79A.15.130. Landowners who already grant access to the public should not be penalized. Agri-tourism is a form of public access which should not be addressed in the easement. Public access should be at the discretion of the landowner and sponsor.	Staff believes the intent of the statute is to allow for public access where appropriate and provide a preference for those projects which provide multiple benefits for protecting farmland and allowing for some form of recreational use. If a landowner already provides a form of public access to their farms and wishes to continue to have the ability to do so, evaluators should consider this in their scoring under the Community Values question. RCO staff believes agro-tourism is a part of the farm operations directly and does not need to be a prescriptive term in the conservation easement.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission	Scope Change Requests - Requests for scope changes should not be an activity of advisory committee members. When membership changes, how would they effectively evaluate requests? How many members must be consulted? Do they need to reach consensus? Who presents the request – sponsors or RCO staff?	This proposal was suggested in response to requests from the Farmland Preservation Account Advisory Committee. The current scope change policy allows the director discretion to consult with an ad hoc advisory committee for any scope change request (See Manual 3). The proposed policy to include the Farmland Advisory Committee in the review of scope change requests clarifies who the ad hoc advisory committee would be for farmland projects. It also expands the policy to require their consultation rather than it being discretionary. The director has exercised this discretion to consult with an ad hoc committee on an individual project basis. This policy would set a precedent to require consultation. Thank you for your questions about how the process would work to consult with them on a scope change request. Membership is staggered on the committee, but there is the possibility that some members may not have scored the original application. In those cases, the newer members would be reviewing the original application and the scope change request in tandem to determine whether it has the same farmland conservation values. The director has discretion on determining the procedures for which to consult with the advisory committee. At this time, RCO envisions staff would communicate the proposed scope change to the advisory committee.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission	Concern that the term conservation values is environmentally related not based on agricultural values.	The intent was to have the advisory committee make a recommendation to the director about the "farmland conservation values" of the proposed change. RCO staff will recommend the term "conservation values" be revised to "farmland conservation values".
	Evaluation Criteria #1 – Viability – Clarify if the points are applied for two different categories. Bushel forecast is subjective. Is there a range that evaluators will use?	The points would be applied based on the types of farmland in the application which may include more than one. Bushel yields can vary greatly and applicants should discuss past and potential yields when answering the question.
	Evaluation Criteria #2 – Threat – Need definitions for the low, medium, and high likelihood that the land will not stay in agricultural use. Farmers are disadvantaged by this criteria if they are being proactive. A considerable threat is acquisition of farmland for habitat and species purposes. Would showing the property as a priority for habitat purposes be considered a high likelihood the land would not stay in agriculture?	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. This question is meant to be a subjective question and each advisory committee member will determine what a low, medium, or high likelihood is and then apply that method consistently across applications. Farms located in an area that is at a low likelihood of conversion from agricultural use will not score well. Staff believes this is the intent of the criteria in RCW 79A.15.130(9)(c). The likelihood of a farm converting out of farmland use can be for many reasons and may include efforts to restore habitat for endangered and sensitive species.
	Evaluation Criteria #3 – Access to Markets – Evaluators need clear guidance on little, adequate, or superior market opportunity. What if a market does not exist, but the farmer engages in activity to bring that market?	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. This question is meant to be a subjective question and each advisory committee member will determine what a little, adequate, or superior market opportunities are and then apply that method consistently across applications. If there is no market support at the time the project is evaluated, it will likely score low in comparison to those applications

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission		where there is adequate or superior market opportunities that already exist.
	Evaluation Criteria #4 – On-site Infrastructure – Farms that are new or just starting operations may be penalized. Equipment may not always be on site and not necessary. Need clear guidance for evaluators.	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. The question is worded so that an evaluator may score high points when there is adequate infrastructure to support the farming operation. The intent of the question is to distinguish between those projects that have good on-site infrastructure and those that are lacking in facilities to support the farm operation.
	Evaluation Criteria #5 – Building Envelope – It appears projects with no building envelope are penalized. What is the appropriate size of a building envelope? Need clear guidance for evaluators.	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Evaluators would score the building envelope criteria on an individual project basis. Projects that do not include a building envelope may or may not score 4 points depending on the project. A project that does not include a building envelope because the farmer does not need one to operate the farm should score higher. For example, structures are located on other parcels that are already protected and a building envelope is not needed on the proposed project. However, a project with no building envelope and the farm lacks the structures needed for viability into the future should receive a lower score.
	Evaluation Criteria #6 – Farm Stewardship – Farms that do not need stewardship practices would be penalized in the proposed scoring system. Farms that have good stewardship but that are not enrolled in a program would be penalized. Bonus points should be awarded for those farms that don't need stewardship practices. Remove the zero scoring option. The Voluntary Stewardship Program does not include all counties and	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. RCW 79A.15.130(9) requires consideration of whether there are fish and wildlife benefits of the proposed farmland preservation project. If there is a property that has no fish and wildlife habitat benefit, it would score lower based on this consideration. The examples listed are not meant to be exclusive but a guide to the most widely known

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission	is a couple of year away from implementation. Requiring practices in the easement seems unnecessary.	programs that provide stewardship practices. The last example is meant to be broad so that applicants can demonstrate stewardship practices that may not be listed in the previous examples. The intent is to require the stewardship practice(s) be based on known practices to protect or improve fish and wildlife habitat rather than practices that are unknown for their benefits. RCO staff will recommend expanding the list of potential examples of stewardship programs and guidelines as a way to inform applicants of the different types of common stewardship practices.
	Evaluation Criteria #7 – Benefits to the Community – Evaluators need guidance on what are additional benefits. Recommend adding conservation district plans as a reference for benefits to the community. May need to amend RCW 79A.15.130 to recognize food policy work at the local level. There appears to be an assumption that there is already a benefit to the community, why do they need to do more? Linking public access to a recreation plan is inconsistent with the goal of the program. A letter from the local conservation district should be considered as community support.	This question is meant to be a subjective question and each advisory committee member will determine what a few or many community benefits will occur as a result of protecting the farm. The intent of this question is to address other benefits of protecting the land in addition to farming uses. The farm benefits are considered in the other criteria. RCO staff will recommend adding a reference to local conservation district plans to the list of other community benefits. A letter of support from the local conservation district would be considered community support.
	Evaluation Criteria #8 - Match – How are projects scored for sponsors that are not required to provide match? Other WWRP programs do not penalize agencies for no match if it is not required.	The Washington State Conservation Commission is not required to provide a matching share per RCW 79A.15.130. Therefore, the minimum matching share is zero. The question will award points to any sponsor that provide five percent or more additional match above the minimum requirement regardless of what the minimum requirement is. For the WSCC, any match of five percent or more would score points. For other sponsors, any

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Josh Giuntoli, Office of Farmland Preservation, Washington State Conservation Commission		match of 55% or more would score points. The only other WWRP category that includes a question on matching share is the Riparian Protection Program and the question has a 3% weight, which is similar to the weight proposed for the farmland criteria.
	Evaluation Criteria #9 – Easement Duration – RCW 79A.15.130 does not require preference for perpetual easements.	You are correct. The statute does not require a preference be given for perpetual farmland conservation easements. Providing this preference is a long-standing policy of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board since the grant program started. The intent is to ensure state funds are used efficiently since term easements are typically 80 percent of the cost of perpetual easements.
Joshua Monaghan Senior Program Manager King Conservation District	See attached letter. Following is a summary of comments in the letter: Concern for the sole use of the Open Space Tax Act to define farm and agricultural lands and determine eligibility. Some of the most vulnerable lands are those that may not actively meet the definition but if protected could in the future.	Thank you for your comments. RCO staff understands that some land may not currently meet the Open Space Tax definition and to be eligible for grant funding. However, the program is directed by RCW 79A.15.010(4) which defines farmland as "farm and agricultural land" in RCW 84.34.020(2). The program does not have the statutory flexibility to include other types of land without a change to the law.
	The district is concerned about the prominent percentage of Farmland Stewardship in the evaluation criteria. It may be contradictory to benefit removing acres from farm production in order to facility fish and wildlife habitat.	The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board proposed the eight points for the Farmland Stewardship criteria. The WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee previously recommended six points for the maximum. RCO staff will share your concern with them.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Hannah Clark, Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts	See attached letter. Following is a summary of comments in the letter: Supports the use of NRCS definition of impervious surface when NRCS funds are used as match.	Thank you.
	Support for considering rangeland and cropland in the evaluation criteria.	Thank you.
	Agrees there is a value to specifying public access may be a permitted use. Some clarity would be helpful on how evaluators will give preference to those projects as well as resource plans. The Community Values question is more appropriate.	The statement regarding preference for projects that are consistent with a regional or statewide recreation plan was not intended to favor these projects over other elements of the Community Values criteria. RCO staff will recommend the sentence be reworded to so that all the community benefits in the criteria are considered equally.
	The evaluation criteria should not favor specific types of recreation and remain flexible to include farm tours, educational school visits, and farmer's markets.	The proposed policy on public access is intended to address traditional outdoor recreation opportunities, not agro-tourism activities that are part of the farm operation. RCO staff remains cautious to linking the public's "right of access" with efforts by the landowner to invite the public to farm related tourism activities. Doing so would require those types of activities to be included as a permitted use in the farmland conservation easement per RCW 79A.15.130(5). Currently agro-tourism activities are often silent in the easement as these are part of the farm operation and not as "right of access". We think this gives the landowner the most

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Hannah Clark, Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts		flexibility with offering agro-tourism activities on their farm. The Community Values evaluation question includes any benefit to the community including education tours.
	We are concerned about the proposed policy that the Farmland Advisory Committee will review of requests to change a parcel. This change is an additional burden, is precedent setting, and is inconsistent with the scope change process in other categories of WWRP.	RCO staff will share your concern with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. The current scope change policy allows the director discretion to consult with an ad hoc advisory committee for any scope change request (See Manual 3). The proposed policy to include the Farmland Advisory Committee in the review of scope change requests clarifies who the ad hoc advisory committee would be for farmland projects. It also expands the policy to require their consultation rather than it being discretionary. The director has exercised this discretion to consult with an ad hoc committee on an individual project basis. This policy would set a precedent to require consultation.

From: Larry Wasserman [mailto:lwasserman@swinomish.nsn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:29 AM
To: RCO MI Policy Changes (RCO)
Cc: Stanford, Derek; Waldo, James; Gjurasic, Davor
Subject: Policy Changes Associated with WWRP program and Farmland Preservation Program criteria

Dear Ms. Connelly,

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community appreciates this opportunity to recommend changes to the RCO Farmland Preservation Program. As you may be aware, the Puget Sound Tribes have been involved in the Treaty Rights at Risk effort to improve the protection and restoration measures being implemented for salmon and steelhead. One of the major focal points of this effort is associated with insuring that the expenditure of conservation funds will actually result in practices designed to meet water quality standards and salmon protection and restoration needs. As a result of our efforts, EPA has established criteria based on NOAA-Fisheries recommended buffer width to require that scientifically appropriate buffers along salmon streams be installed on agricultural lands as a prerequisite for receipt of EPA funds. With minor modifications, DOE has embraced this approach with funds it receives from EPA.

In addition, NRCS has now instituted a policy in Washington State that establishes a ranking system whereby those landowners or organizations applying for funding to purchase conservation easements under the ACEP must be willing to establish buffers along salmon streams on their lands in order to rank high enough to receive funds. We are aware of at least one Conservation District which, while originally prepared to work within this system, chose instead to receive funds from RCO because no such similar standards have been established.

It is well documented that agriculture is one of the largest sources of non-point pollution in Washington State and nationwide. In addition, a number of studies have demonstrated that voluntary practices consisting of NRCS BMPs have not achieved water quality standards. EPA reports that at the current rate of improvement it will take 1000 years to meet the water quality standards adopted pursuant to the Clean Water Act on a national scale. DOE has also found that NRCS BMPs are not adequate to meet water quality standards.. The Swinomish Tribe believes that conservation funding should only be provided to those landowners willing to implement practices proven to meet water quality standards and salmon needs.

The goals of the RCO are stated as follows:

Manage the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us in an effective, efficient, and open way.
Protect and improve ecosystems so that they sustain its biodiversity: plants, wildlife, fish, and people.
Protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Washingtonians.

Given your commitment to ecosystem protection and improvement, we believe that it is important that you adopt guidance that clearly communicates that RCO will not provide funding that perpetuates land management practices that are inconsistent with these goals. The Tribe is supportive of the protection of farmlands so long as activities on those farms are protective of the environment and not contributing to water quality pollution and the degradation of salmon habitat. However, we believe that the expenditure of public funds to protect farmland should have as a prerequisite that scientifically justifiable buffers be established along all salmon streams within properties proposed for protection. The buffers widths adopted by DOE and NOAA meet these requirements. The current criteria found within your evaluation questions for the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account provides only 14% of the total evaluation points if an adequate Farmland Stewardship program is in place. And these criteria in and of themselves are

quite vague. Mere enrollment in a conservation incentive program or participation in a voluntary stewardship program, regardless of effectiveness, will generate points. In essence, on farm environmental practices have very little effect on the overall ranking of projects. We believe that RCO can and ought to play a key role in incentivizing good stewardship on agricultural lands. To do that, your programs need to clearly reward proposals that implement good stewardship and discourage those that do not.
Given the permanence of easement programs, we strongly recommend that establishment of riparian buffers along salmon stream should be a prerequisite for eligibility to receive funds. This would be consistent with EPA policy, and would eliminate the opportunity for those who are unwilling to meet NRCS farmland easement program criteria to utilize RCO funding to support poor stewardship.

Again, we appreciate this opportunity to provide recommendations regarding how to more effectively assure that state funding supporting voluntary programs incentivizes the practices needed to restore and protect habitat into the future.

Sincerely,

Larry Wasserman
Environmental Policy Director
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Office of Farmland Preservation

FROM: Josh Giuntoli, WSCC Staff

SUBJECT: Comments on proposed RCO WWRP Farmland policy and criteria changes

DATE: October 16, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed policy and criteria changes for the WWRP Farmland Preservation program.

Comments below are guided and informed by the programs primary purpose as identified in statute:

> RCW 79A.15.130 (1) - Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the farmlands preservation account must be distributed for the acquisition and preservation of farmlands <u>in order to maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon these lands.</u> (Emphasis added)

Specific comments are found in the two tables included below (**Table 1 – Policy** and **Table 2 – Ranking Criteria**).

General comments - Policy

Overall concerns with linking Open Space Farm and Ag classified status or eligible to be classified status to the life of the easement. Open Space has very specific requirements based on individual parcel size including income requirements. It is recognized that there are discrepancies in how this program is implemented county to county. Requiring the property to meet the definition of Open Space Farm and Ag for the life of the easement does not account for any changes in statute that may occur in the future, and it becomes prescriptive in how the land is to be managed (must produce income) and does not account for periods of change with the farm or cropping patterns. Considering there may be statutory changes or differences in implementation, there is concern this could lead to unintended consequences and unnecessary legal costs. The easement document as provided for by RCO already requires the land be available for agriculture, not in active production.

With the potential new role for assessors to determine parcels not currently enrolled, would recommend that RCO work with the assessor community to develop a consistent application/process for determining eligibility for parcels not currently enrolled.

Would recommend looking at RCW 84.34.2 (8) (Farm and Ag Conservation Classification) and its relationship to this policy. RCW 79a.15.130 is clear that the program is to maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon farmland, not mandate into the future. There could be times where the property does not meet the classification, but is still available for agricultural use. RCW 84.34.2 (8) can

be used by assessors to not go through full removal proceedings if there is a goal to get the land back into production. For multiple parcel applications, would recommend linking definitions and guidance provided by the Washington Department of Revenue based on SSB 5359 passed in 2011 which defines family, contiguous, and provides guidance on other entity structures. A link to this document can be found comment Table 1.

Regarding public access, overall concern with the direction this policy is moving the program. Public access is the right of the landowner and may already be occurring voluntarily. With the high competiveness of this program, projects that introduce a non-ag value found in a recreation plan are given preference if access is linked to a recreation plan. This is inconsistent with the purpose of the farmland program and ranks non-agricultural values higher than agricultural values.

Would recommend scope changes occur between applicants and grant managers. Should advisory committee members be tasked to review changes, concern they are being asked to evaluate on "conservation values" rather than "agricultural values". Conservation values are generally considered to be non-agricultural values (habitat/species support). This is an agricultural land protection program, not a habitat and species protection program. In general, a dual benefit is already occurring for habitat and species with protection of agricultural land.

General comments – Ranking Criteria

Appreciate the effort to streamline the ranking and scoring process. An overarching comment would be to be clear with what is being asked of evaluators for each scored criteria. The criteria appear to have become more subjective and lacks clear guidance for evaluators and project proponents. As a former evaluator and applicant for RCO farmland grant funding, lack of guidance and clarity for how projects will be evaluated is a difficult challenge to landowners, evaluators, and applicants. For ranking, primary goal should be to eliminate subjectivity from the evaluation process.

Table 1 – Policy

Proposed Policy	Comment
Parcel Eligibility 1. State Law Defines "Farmland" in WWRP the Same as "Farm and Agricultural Land" in the Open Space Tax Act	1. Meeting the definition of farm and ag land for the life of the easement is against the direction of RCW 79A.15.130. Open Space Farm and Ag requires a certain level of production for 3 of 5 years or farms can be removed. Farms that may be in transition or fall out of compliance with Open Space through statute or other changes are disadvantaged. Land should meet eligibility at time of application and allow for the easement document to monitor whether terms and conditions of the land are being met.
Parcel Eligibility 2. Each Parcel in a Grant Application Must Be Classified or Eligible for Classification as Farm and Agricultural Land in the Open Space Tax Act	2. Recommend language that allows for farm and ag conservation land classification (RCW 84.34.2 (8)). Assessors can use RCW 84.34.2 (8)) as a tool if removal is being considered. This allows a landowner to transition back to an agricultural activity and go through full removal process. 3. Meeting the definition of farm and ag land for the life of the easement is against the direction of RCW 79A.15.130. Open Space Farm and Ag requires a certain level of production for 3 of 5 years or farms can be

	removed. Recommend that easement assure that the land be available for agriculture, not whether it meets open space in the future. 4. Meeting the definition of farm and ag land as defined in RCW 84.34.020 for the life of the easement is not consistent with the primary purpose of the program - RCW 79a.15.130 is to <u>maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon farmland.</u> An ag activity need not be occurring, however, the land needs to be available for ag, not in a non-ag state of use. In addition, open space may be amended in the future which could impact lands in preservation status. Primary purpose of RCW 79a.15.130 is to <u>maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon farmland, not mandate.</u> 5. Open Space enrollees may un-enroll for a variety of reasons including estate planning. The effect of being encumbered through an easement may even negate the necessity to be enrolled or meet the requirements at some point in the future. 6. RCO needs to provide clear guidelines and criteria to the assessor to verify eligibility. Recommend a template for the assessor and applicants to use. 7. It is a recognized issue that assessors differ on how current use classification is applied across the 39 counties. Applications for parcels that are not currently classified but are seeking a determination of eligibility may be disadvantaged. 8. Concern about multiple parcel applications and the process by which assessors determine the homesite exemption allowed under RCW 84.34 for parcels under 20 acres that farm on non-contiguous parcels. Current practice is to remove one acre as a homesite.
<u>Parcel Eligibility</u> 3. Open Space Tax Classification	1. Policy states to be eligible for funding, applicant must demonstrate each parcel meets the definition of farm and ag. Concern about how this is applied on a project with
as Farm and Agricultural Land is Determined at the Application Due Date	multiple parcels operating as a single farm but not contiguous. With the assessors having to determine parcels not currently classified, assessor may require fiscal documentation for each individual parcel if not contiguous. 2. If an application has multiple projects, and if each project has multiple parcels, how does one parcel not meeting eligibility impact the whole application? 3. If a parcel does not meet eligibility in its current condition, but is currently used for an agricultural activity, what factors and criteria is RCO wanting

	assessors to evaluate to determine if it would be eligible?
One or more parcels 1. All Parcels Proposed for Acquisition Must be Identified in the Grant Application	No comments
One or more parcels 2. Each Parcel Must be Identified by a Map and with a County Parcel Number	No Comments
One or more parcels 3. All Parcel Must Be Contiguous or Owned by the Same Property Owner or Family Group of Property Owners	1. Recommend aligning this section with DOR guidance for implementation of *SSB 5359: Contiguous Parcels December 2011 FAQ*. Available at: http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTa x/prop RnLs.aspx/ 2. Recommend using definition of "contiguous" as found in RCW 84.34.020 (6) 3. Recommend using definition of "same ownership" found in RCW 84.34.020 (6) instead of "same property owner". 4. Recommend using definition of "family" as found in RCW 84.34.020 (6)
One or more parcels 4. Definition of Property Owner and Family Group	1. Recommend aligning this section with DOR guidance for implementation of *SSB 5359: Contiguous Parcels December 2011 FAQ*. Available at: http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTa x/prop RnLs.aspx/ 2. Recommend using definition of "same ownership" and "family" as found in RCW 84.34.020 (6)
One or more parcels 5. Definition of Contiguous	1. Recommend aligning this section with DOR guidance for implementation of *SSB 5359: Contiguous Parcels December 2011 FAQ*. Available at: http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindTaxesAndRates/PropertyTa x/prop RnLs.aspx/ 2. Recommend using definition of "contiguous" as found in RCW 84.34.020 (6)
Impervious Surfaces 1. Definition of Impervious Surface	No Comment
Impervious Surfaces 2. Impervious Surface Limits are Based on Farm Size	No Comment
Public Access 1. No Right of Access by the Public	1. General comment, it is the already the right of the property owner to allow for public access (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, etc…). Not necessary to link this

Unless Explicitly Included as a Permitted Use	into the agricultural easement document. 2. Allowing public trails introduces a non-compatible use for farmland. Concern for neighboring farms including animal interactions and loss of farmland. Assuming a width of 10' for trail, that is nearly 5% of an acre that would be unavailable for an agricultural activity. 3. Concern there is no clear definition of what type of trail would be allowed and how much of a footprint would be allowed. In essence, it is encouraging loss of viable agricultural ground. For rangeland projects, if a landowner wants to allow public access via an unimproved roadway, the landowner is already able to do this. Not necessary to link this to the easement. 4. Referring to recreational plans is a concern. These are not designed and developed to account for farmland protection.
<u>Public Access</u> 2. Public Access is a Benefit to the Community	1. Regarding evaluators being asked to give preference for public access linked to a recreation plan, this is not consistent with RCW 79A.15.130. Preference should be given to farms in current agricultural production or for landowners who provide access at their own discretion. 2. A potential public trail linked to a recreation plan that would limit the agricultural potential is to be given preference - Conversely, a property owner who already grants access at his own discretion is penalized. This is
	against the spirit and intent of this program – preserve farmland. 3. A landowner may currently be engaged in agri-tourism which allows for public access - this is a voluntary, food related community activity. Future owners may not want to engage in agri-tourism for liability purposes,. Would recommend this not be added or amended into the easement. This will only add future legal costs to entities to amend the easement and limit future use of the land. 4. Public access should be at the discretion of the landowner and partner entity and not a scored community benefit.
<u>Farmland Advisory Committee</u> 1. The Director Consults with the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee on all Requests to Change a Parcel	1. This should be an activity between applicants and grant manager – not advisory members. 2. Concern when the advisory board changes membership, how would they effectively evaluate a project change. 3. Advisory members are already volunteering time to evaluate projects, this essentially keeps them on retainer.

	Is there a threshold for how many advisory members must be consulted prior to determination? Does there need to be consensus? 4. Are changes presented to evaluators by applicants or grant manager?
Farmland Advisory Committee 2. WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee Provides a Recommendation to the Director on all Requests to Change a Parcel	1. Concern with use of the term "conservation values". "Conservation Values" are generally understood to be environmentally related. The committee is asked to provide one of three recommendations, all conservation value related. The bullets should be reworded from "conservation values" to "agricultural values". Project changes should be evaluated on their agricultural values, not conservation values.
Farmland Advisory Committee 3. Requests to Change a Parcel Must Comply with the Scope Change Policy	No comment

Table 2 – Ranking Criteria

Criteria Questions	Points Total	% of Total	Comment
1. Viability of the Site - What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?	16	29%	1. Clarify if the 16 points are to be applied for two different categories of applications – cropland/pastureland and rangeland. 2. Future potential bushel forecast is very subjective – would be easy to inflate with no backup other than to say it is expected cropping practices would improve which would lead to increased yields. 3. Is there a range for potential bushel forecast that evaluators will use to evaluate?
2. Threat to the Land - What is the likelihood the land will not stay in an agricultural use?			1. How do applicants and evaluators determine the difference between low, medium and high likelihood that it will not stay in agricultural use. Evaluators need clear guidance for evaluating – considering it is nearly 20% of the score. 2. Need definition for low likelihood it will not stay in ag use.

	10	18%	3. Need definition for medium likelihood it will not stay in ag use. 4. Need definition for high likelihood it will not stay in ag use. 5. Farmers that are proactive and are using an easement as an estate planning tool and to preserve the future of the farm are disadvantaged by this scoring criteria. Highest points for high likelihood it will not stay in ag. We work with landowners that want to see ag continue and this program is a tool for them to achieve this. We are penalized by working with agricultural landowners with a vision for their farm to remain in ag and not in some non-ag use. 6. A considerable threat to future agricultural use is acquisition of land for habitat and species purposes. Would showing the property on the state's priority habitat and species map show how this could be considered a high likelihood to not stay in agriculture? It may be a priority for another entity to acquire for non-ag purposes.
3. Access to Markets - How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets?	4	7%	1. How do applicants and evaluators determine the difference between the different options for market opportunity? Evaluators need clear guidance for evaluating this criteria. 2. Define "little or no market opportunity" 3. Define "adequate market opportunity" 4. Define "superior market opportunity" 5. What if a market does not yet exist, but the farmer engages in an activity that brings about that market. Seems this criteria penalizes innovation and diversity.
4. On-site Infrastructure - How well is the land's agricultural productivity			1. Potential to penalize new and

supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, housing, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure?	4	7%	beginning farmers who may just be starting in their farm operation. 2. What about wall to wall farm parcels. I.E. a 40 acre parcel that is 100% farmed. No onsite infrastructure necessary – appears this type of project is penalized. Farmers may travel in their equipment to work the land. Equipment may not be on-site. Need clear guidance for evaluators.
5. Building Envelope - How much of the property is included in the building envelope?	4	7%	1. What if there is no building envelope? I.E. a 40 acre parcel that is 100% farmed. No building envelope necessary – appears this type of project is penalized. 2. What is the appropriate size of building envelope, is there a guidance document that explains what constitutes appropriate versus not appropriate building envelope? Need clear guidance for evaluators.
6. Farmland Stewardship - What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and wildlife habitat?	8	14%	1. Penalizes applications where stewardship practices may not be necessary. Not everyone needs a practice. 2. If a farm chooses to engage in stewardship practices, the farm may only need one, under this scoring scenario, farms are penalized by not needing more work done. Not all farms are in need of multiple practices. 3. A farm may already have a great riparian area and is up to standards. A federal program like CREP would not be necessary, under this criteria, those farms are penalized. 4. Bonus points should be awarded for those that do not need practices. 5. Should remove the 0 point scoring option. 6. What if a county is not in VSP. The program is still a couple years away from any implementation of specific practices – VSP counties

			are only in the planning stages. 7. By requiring practices be included in the easement. Seems unnecessary as the model ag easement provided by RCO already has a stewardship section. See 5.3 of model easement. Some practices are only for certain time periods (CREP).
7. Benefits to the Community - How will protection of the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community support the project?	8	14%	1. What is the definition of additional benefits? Evaluators need clear guidance. 2. Recommend a conservation district annual or long range plan referenced in the benefits to the community list. These plans are the result of a community led process to identify natural resource priorities in each of the state's 45 conservation districts. 3. RCW 79A.15.130 may need amending to recognize food policy work and ordinances at the local level – many of these support the preservation of farms for future food security. 4. These criteria are to be scored based on whether protection will lead to <u>few additional benefits</u> or <u>many additional benefits</u>. Appears it is assuming there is already a <u>benefit to the community</u> which may be all that is necessary. To get more points, they are to do more? 5. With preference being required for public access, a community value may already be achieved via voluntary access by landowner. Linking the preference to a recreation plan is inconsistent with the goal of preserving farmland. 6. A letter from the local conservation district elected board should be considered as community support.
8. Match - Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?	2	4%	1. How are projects scored for entities not required to bring match. Other

			WWRP grant categories do not penalize agencies for no match, this program and criteria penalizes.
9. Easement Duration - What is the Duration of the Conservation Easement?	0	0%	1. RCW 79A.15.130 does not require preference over termed easements versus perpetual.
New total	**56**		

King Conservation District
1107 SW Grady Way Suite 130 • Renton, WA 98057 • Phone (425) 282-1900
Fax (425) 282-1898 • www.kingcd.org

To: WA State Recreation and Conservation Office

From: Staff, King Conservation District

Subject: Comments on proposed RCO WWRP Farmland Policy and Criteria Changes

Date: October 16, 2015

Comments pertinent to following proposed policy changes:

- WWRP Farmland Preservation Account Policies
- WWRP Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria

DEAR LESLIE and RCO STAFF,

Thank you for inviting input on the proposed policy and criteria changes. We recognize that the purpose of this agricultural land funding is to help protect agricultural lands at risk from future conversion to non-ag development. Our staff team have read through and have two comments to share at this time:

1. The district is concerned about the sole use of the Open Space Tax Act definition of farm and agricultural lands to determine eligible parcels for the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account. Some of the most vulnerable properties for land use conversion within King County are those that may not actively meet the Open Space Tax Act definition of farm and agricultural land currently, but provided they are protected, could in the future.

2. Under the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria, the district is also concerned about the prominent percentage Farmland Stewardship accounts for in the evaluation criteria. If the intent of the agricultural preservation program is to preserve land for agricultural purposes, it may be contradictory to benefit those in which acreage is being removed from production in order to facilitate the installation of fish and wildlife habitat under a recognized program. Furthermore, if the pertinent parcels are already providing fish and wildlife habitat, but not through a recognized program, they are penalized through this category.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. If you would like to discuss these comments, we would be more than happy to. You can contact us through Joshua Monaghan, Senior Program Manager at 425-282-1903.

Sincerely,

The King Conservation District Staff
Insert Hannah's comments

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION of LAND TRUSTS

PO Box 2001 | Seattle, WA 98111

Bainbridge Island Land Trust Blue Mountain Land Trust Capitol Land Trust
Center for Natural Lands Management
Chehalis River Basin Land Trust
Chelan--Douglas Land Trust
Columbia Land Trust
The Conservation Fund Forterra
Great Peninsula Conservancy
Inland Northwest Land Trust
Jefferson Land Trust
Kittitas Conservation Trust
Lummi Island Heritage Trust
The Nature Conservancy of Washington
Nisqually Land Trust North
Olympic Land Trust
Okanogan Land Trust
Palouse Land Trust PCC
Farmland Trust
San Juan Preservation Trust Skagit Land Trust
The Trust for Public Land Vashon--Maury Island Land Trust Whatcom Land Trust
Whidbey Camano Land Trust

October 16, 2015

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Ms. Cottingham,

I am writing to provide input from the Washington Association of Land Trusts on the proposed policy changes and evaluation criteria changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account.

We first want to thank RCO and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for your thoughtful approach to modifications to WWRP. Most of the proposed policy and criteria changes are improvements to the program that make the program much easier to administer, and as a result achieve more for our farms, habitat, and parks across the state. In particular, we would like to commend RCO for recognizing the challenges of matching NRCS and WWRP grants. Specifically, the policy recommendation to allow a project to use the NRCS definition of impervious surface when NRCS funds are used to match WWRP is very welcome.

We are also grateful that you are considering both rangeland and cropland in your evaluation criteria. Like you, we recognize that rangeland does not fit well into the current criteria and that continued funding for rangeland projects is important to the success of the program. We would welcome the opportunity to help you and your staff further consider how to meet the goals of both working farms and working ranches in the future.

As organizations that apply for these funds and work closely with landowners, the Association's member land trusts have a few specific questions and concerns regarding the recommended policy changes that we wish to share with you.

Regarding the proposed change to public access within a farmland conservation easement property, the Association agrees that there is value in specifying that public access may be a permitted use and that RCFB may consider consistency with a regional or statewide recreation plan as a benefit to the community in evaluating projects. The proposed new policystates, "Evaluators shall give preference for applications that are consistent with such plans when scoring the appropriate evaluation question." However, some clarity would be helpful. The Community Values question is the most appropriate. Under Community Values, one of the benefits to community that is considered is whether the project is consistent with a "regional or statewide recreation or resource plan." Resource plans are also referenced here. In line with the RCW 79A.15.130 for the "preservation of farmlands in order to maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity," many farmland projects may better fit into resource plans. We suggest that clarity be added that there be preference for applications that are consistent with regional or statewide recreation or resource plans.

It is also important that evaluation criteria not favor specific types of recreation and remains flexible to meet the needs of the landowner. For example, we encourage that the policy includes activities that engage the public in learning about farms and food like farm tours, educational school visits, and farmers' markets as public access, in addition to the listed activities like trails, water access, hunting and fishing. We look forward to working with RCO as they work on multiple benefits criteria and find a solution to public access being permissible without incentivizing specific types of recreation.

Oversight of scope changes is essential to ensure quality projects, and our member land trusts have had a very good experience working with you as RCO Director when scope changes are needed. We are concerned about the proposed new policy that the Farmland Advisory Committee will review all requests to change a parcel in a WWRP Farmland Preservation Project. This change adds an additional burden, is precedent setting and is inconsistent with the scope change process in other categories within WWRP.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at Hannah@walandtrusts.org or (206) 294----1696.

Sincerely,

Hannah Clark

Executive Director, Washington Association of Land Trusts

Proposed Changes to Policies in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account

A. Definition of Farmland

CURRENT POLICY:

Farmland is interpreted as "farm and agricultural land" and is defined in Appendix A. [Appendix A is the text from the Open Space Tax Act.]

PROPOSED REVISED POLICY: PARCELS ELIGIBLE IN THE WWRP FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

This policy applies to each parcel included in a grant application to the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account.

1. **State Law Defines "Farmland" in WWRP[1] the Same as "Farm and Agricultural Land" in the Open Space Tax Act[2]**

   The director will ensure each parcel protected with funds from the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account meets the definition of farm and agricultural land in the Open Space Tax Act. ~~Parcels must continue to meet the definition of farm and agricultural land for the life of the conservation easement.~~

2. **~~Each Parcel in a Grant Application Must Be Classified or Eligible for Classification as Farm and Agricultural Land in the Open Space Tax Act~~ Applicants Must Provide Documentation that Parcels Meet Eligibility Requirements**

   Applicants must provide documentation that each parcel in a grant application is classified as farm and agricultural land in the Open Space Tax Act. Acceptable forms of documentation are a ~~letter or other~~ written document from the county assessor, a current property tax notice, or a recent title report~~, which~~ that shows the classification as an encumbrance on the property. The director relies on documentation provided by the applicant to make a determination of eligibility.

   If a parcel is not classified as farm and agricultural land, an applicant may seek an informal or preliminary determination from the county assessor ~~where the parcel is located as to whether~~ that the parcel could be classified as farm and agricultural land in the Open Space Tax Act. Acceptable documentation ~~of an informal or preliminary determination is~~ are a letter from the county assessor or the county assessor's approval of an application for farm and agricultural land classification.

   The property owner is not required to participate in the Open Space Tax Act. However, meeting the definition of farm and agricultural land is required for the life of the conservation easement as stated in section ~~1~~ 3 of this policy.

3. **~~Open Space Tax Classification as Farm and Agricultural Land~~ Eligibility is Determined at the Application Due Date**

[1] RCW 79A.15.010(4)
[2] RCW 84.34.020(2)

To be eligible for grant funding, the applicant must demonstrate that each parcel in the grant application meets the definition of farm and agricultural land in the Open Space Tax Act by the application due date. The director may extend the deadline up until the date of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting when it approves the ranked list of projects. Parcels must continue to meet the definition of farm and agricultural land for the life of the conservation easement.

B. Project Scope May Include One or More Parcels

NEW POLICY: APPLICATIONS MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE PARCELS IN THE WWRP FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACCOUNT

This policy applies to each grant application to the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account.

1. All Parcels Proposed for Acquisition Must be Identified in the Grant Application

The director will ensure each application identifies all parcels proposed for acquisition by the technical completion deadline.

2. Each Parcel Must be Identified by a Map and a County Parcel Number

Each application must include a map that identifies each parcel in the application and the parcel's identification number.

3. All Parcels Must Be Contiguous or ~~Owned by the Same Landowner~~ Within the Same Ownership

~~If there is more than one parcel in an application, the parcels must be:~~

- ~~Contiguous, if the parcels are owned by different property owners, or~~
- ~~Contiguous or non-contiguous, if the parcels are owned by a family group of property owners.~~

If there is more than one parcel in an application, the parcels must be either owned by the same ownership as defined in RCW 84.34.020(6)(b)(i) and (ii) or contiguous to each other.

4. Definition of Property Owner ~~and Family Group~~

For purposes of this policy, property owner means the individual, individuals, or business(es) that holds title to a parcel of land. ~~Property owners who are immediate family members or operate a family farm under the same licensed business are considered a family group of property owners. Immediate family members are grandparents, parents, spouses, in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and children, including adopted, half and step family members.~~

5. Definition of Contiguous

For purposes of this policy, contiguous means two or more parcels ~~which~~ that physically touch one another along a boundary or a point. Land divided by a public road, but otherwise an integral part of a farming operation, is considered contiguous.

C. Limits on the Amount of Impervious Surface

CURRENT POLICY:

For the purpose of the agricultural conservation easement, "impervious surfaces" means all hard surface areas that either prevent or retard water runoff and absorption. Impervious surfaces have the effect of removing soil from cultivation. Because the goal of this program is to preserve the opportunity for agriculture, impervious surfaces limits will be based on a sliding scale related to farm size.

Farm Size	Amount of Impervious Surfaces Allowed
50 acres	6 percent+
51-100 acres	6 percent
101-200 acres	5 percent
201-500 acres	4 percent
501-1,000 acres	3 percent
1,001+ acres	2 percent

This sliding scale is a general guideline, with adjustments made on a case-by-case basis.

If the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program is a funding partner, the limit is 2 percent. The 2 percent maximum may be waived by the easement program's state conservationist on a case-by-case basis.

PROPOSED REVISED POLICY: THE AMOUNT OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACE WITHIN THE FARMLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT AREA IS LIMITED

This policy applies to each farmland conservation easement in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account.

1. **Definition of Impervious Surface**

   Impervious surface is defined as all hard surface areas that either prevent or retard water absorption into the soil and have the effect of removing soil from cultivation.

2. **Impervious Surface Limits are Based on Farm Size**

   The maximum percent land within the farmland conservation easement area allowed to be impervious surface is:

Size of the Easement Area	Percent of Land Allowed to be Impervious Surface
50 acres or less	6 percent or more
51-100 acres	6 percent
101-200 acres	5 percent

Size of the Easement Area	Percent of Land Allowed to be Impervious Surface
201-500 acres	4 percent
501-1,000 acres	3 percent
1,001+ acres	2 percent

EXCEPTION: When the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides matching funds to a WWRP Farmland Preservation Account easement, the director may use the definition of impervious surface used by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as long as it does not exceed the maximum amount as described in the table above.

EXCEPTION: The director may approve a higher percentage of land as impervious surface on an individual project basis.

D. Public Access Within a Farmland Conservation Easement

PROPOSED NEW POLICY: PUBLIC ACCESS WITHIN A FARMLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT

This policy applies to each farmland conservation easement in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account.

1. No Right of Access by the Public Unless Explicitly Included as a Permitted Use

~~Per~~ By state law, the acquisition of property does not provide a right of access to the property unless it is ~~explicitly~~ stated explicitly as a permitted use in the farmland conservation easement. [3]

If a property owner, or future property owner, of the farmland conservation easement and the sponsor agrees to allow public access ~~with~~in the conservation easement area, such use shall be identified as a permitted use and included in the farmland conservation easement or amended into the easement at a later date. Examples of public access are public trails, water access sites, and areas for wildlife viewing, ~~and~~ hunting, and fishing.

2. Public Access is a Benefit to the Community

~~Per~~ By state law, acquisition priorities for the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account shall consider whether a farmland conservation easement is consistent with a regional or statewide recreation plan.[4] Evaluators shall ~~give preference for~~ give consideration applications that are consistent with such plans ~~when scoring the appropriate~~the other benefits in the Community Values evaluation question.

E. Amendments to the Project Scope Must be Reviewed by the Advisory Committee (new)

PROPOSED NEW POLICY: THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEWS ALL REQUESTS TO CHANGE A PARCEL IN A WWRP FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROJECT

[3] RCW 79A.15.130(5)
[4] RCW 79A.15.130(9(d)

This policy applies to projects funded in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account during the project agreement period of performance when a sponsor requests to add or remove parcels from the project agreement.

1. The Director Consults with the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee on all Requests to Change a Parcel

The director will consult with the WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee on any request to change a parcel in a project funded in the Farmland Preservation Account. A parcel change includes requests to remove parcels or add new parcels to the scope of a project.

2. WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee Provides a Recommendation to the Director on all Requests to Change a Parcel

The WWRP Farmland Advisory Committee reviews any request to add or remove a parcel to determine whether the change would result in similar farmland conservation values as those presented in the application. The committee will recommend to the director that the change provides less, more or similar farmland conservation values when compared with the parcel(s) presented in the application. ~~The Committee provides one of the following recommendations to the director:~~

- ~~The change provides less farmland conservation value compared to the parcel(s) presented in the application, or~~
- ~~The change provides similar farmland conservation values as the parcel(s) presented in the application, or~~
- ~~The change provides more farmland conservation values compared to the parcel(s) presented in the application.~~

3. Requests to Change a Parcel Must Comply with the Scope Change Policy

Any request to change a parcel in a project funded from the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account must comply with the board's policy on scope changes as described in *Manual 3, Acquisition Projects*.

Proposed Evaluation Criteria in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Account

1. Viability of the Site

What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?[5] Viability of the site includes:

- Soil types,~~,~~
- Suitability for producing different types or varieties of crops,~~ and~~
- Water availability.

Score 0 - 16 points based on the viability of the site for agricultural production.

When considering the viability of the site as cropland and pastureland, consider whether the site has suitable soils and enough water ~~availability~~ to produce a variety of crops. Applicants should provide information about the types of crops that could be grown on the site now and in the future and the potential bushel yield.

When considering the viability of the site as rangeland, consider whether the site has suitable soils and enough water ~~availability~~ to produce stock. Applicants should provide a specific number of animals that the land could produce such as "animal management units" (AMUs) or the "carrying capacity".

2. Threat to the Land

What is the likelihood the land will not stay in ~~an~~ agricultural use if it is not protected?[6]

Score the question based on the severity of the threat that the property will be converted to some use other than agriculture.

- Low likelihood it will ~~not stay in agricultural~~be converted to another use (0 point)
- Medium likelihood it will ~~not stay in agricultural~~be converted to another use (1 – 5 points)
- High likelihood it will ~~not stay in agricultural~~be converted to another use (6 – 10 points)

3. Access to Markets

How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets? [7]

Available markets may include formal private markets, commodity exchanges and auctions, and public markets.

- There are little to no market opportunities that support agricultural productivity of the land. (0 points)

[5] The viability of the site for continued agricultural production, including, but not limited to: Soil types; suitability for producing different types or varieties of crops; and water availability. (RCW 79A.15.130(9(h))
[6] The likelihood of the conversion of the site to nonagricultural or more highly developed usage. (RCW 79A.15.130(9(c))
[7] Farm-to-market access. (RCW 79A.15.130(9(h))

- There are adequate market opportunities that support agricultural productivity of the land. (1-2 points)
- There are superior market opportunities that support agricultural productivity of the land. (3-4 points)

4. On-site Infrastructure

How well is the land's agricultural productivity supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, ~~housing~~houses, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure? [8]

Score 0 - 4 points based on how well the land's agricultural productivity is supported. For example:

- There are no on-site production and support facilities, even though they are needed, to support the agricultural productivity of the land. (0 points)
- The agricultural productivity of the land is supported by production and support facilities off-site. (1 – 2 points)
- There are on-site production and support facilities to support the agricultural productivity of the land. (3 – 4 points)

5. Building Envelope

How much of the property is included in the building envelope?

- The size of the building envelope is not appropriate for the size of the farm. (0 points)
- The size of the building envelope is appropriate for the size of the farm. (1 - 4 points)

6. Farmland Stewardship

What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?

The focus of the stewardship practices is on providing habitat for salmon, ~~other~~ fish and other wildlife species, migratory birds, and endangered, threatened or sensitive species.[9]

Types of stewardship practices must include practices from a recognized program or published guidelines. Examples are:

✓ Habitat land is set aside which meets minimum guidelines for endangered species recovery as described by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The land set aside may not exceed the maximum thresholds set in the Open Space Tax Act.

[8] The viability of the site for continued agricultural production, including, but not limited to: On-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, housing, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure. (RCW 79A.15.130(9(h))

[9] Benefits to salmonids (RCW 79A.15.130(9(e)), benefits to other fish and wildlife habitat (RCW 79A.15.130(9(f)), integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species (RCW 79A.15.130(9(g)), and migratory bird habitat and forage area (RCW 79A.15.130(9(i)(v))).

- ✓ Enrollment in one or more conservation incentive programs through the Natural Resources Conservation Service~~,~~.

- ✓ Participation in the voluntary stewardship program administered by the Washington State Conservation Commission~~,~~

- ✓ Participation in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's habitat programs.~~;~~

- ✓ Participation in habitat improvements funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.~~; and~~

- ✓ Agreements or voluntary commitments made to support habitat for specific species.

Score as follows:

- There are no specific stewardship practices in place. (0 points)
- There are one or more stewardship practices planned for the future. (1-3 points)
- There are one or more stewardship practices in place. (4-6 points)
- BONUS POINTS: The stewardship practices will be included in the terms of the conservation easement as required stewardship practices for the duration of the easement. (Add 1-2 points to the score.)

7. Benefits to the Community

How will ~~protection of~~ protecting the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community and area Native American tribes support the project?[10]

- The project will provide few additional benefits to the community. (0 - 3 points)
- The project will provide many additional benefits to the community. (4 - 6 points)
- There are ~~O~~one or more letters of support ~~included~~ in the application that demonstrate community support for the project. (2 additional points)

Benefits to the community include:

- ✓ The project is identified as a recommendation in a:
  - Coordinated region-wide prioritization effort~~,~~
  - Critical pathways analysis~~,~~
  - Habitat conservation plan~~,~~
  - Limiting factors analysis~~, or~~
  - Watershed plan. [11]

- ✓ The project is consistent with a:
  - Local land use plan~~, or~~
  - Regional or statewide recreational or resource plan.[12]

- ✓ The project assists in the implementation of:
  - A local shoreline master plan updated according to RCW 90.58.080, or

[10] RCW 79A.15.130(9(a))
[11] RCW 79A.15.130(9(b))
[12] RCW 79A.15.130(9(d))

- A local comprehensive plan updated according to RCW 36.70A.130.[13]

✓ The project provides protection of a view or an aquifer recharge.[14]

✓ The project will provide occasional ~~or periodic~~ collection of storm water runoff.[15]

✓ The project will create agricultural jobs.[16]

✓ The project will provide some educational opportunities.[17]

✓ The project is identified in an annual or long-range plan of the local conservation district.

OBJECTIVE SCORED QUESTIONS

8. Match

Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

- The applicant is not providing additional match above the minimum requirements. (0 points)
- The applicant is providing 5 percent or more additional match above the minimum requirements. (2 points)

9. Easement Duration

What is the duration of the conservation easement?

- The duration of the conservation easement is forever ~~(perpetual)~~. (0 points)
- The duration of the conservation easement is not forever ~~(less than perpetual)~~. (-10 points)

[13] RCW 79A.15.130(9(d))
[14] RCW 79A.15.130(9(i))
[15] RCW 79A.15.130(9(i))
[16] RCW 79A.15.130(9(i))
[17] RCW 79A.15.130(9(i))

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2015-23
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Evaluation Criteria and Policies

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 79A.15.130, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) administers and approves policies that govern the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation Account and sets evaluation criteria for grant applications, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), with board direction, completed a two-year review of the grant program in 2014 which resulted in a number of recommendation on how to improve the program, and

WHEREAS, the RCO prepared draft policies and evaluation criteria and solicited for comments from the Farmland Advisory Committee and over 2,700 members of the public, and staff adjusted the policies and evaluation criteria as appropriate and recommends the board approve the final draft materials as presented in Attachments B and C, and

WHEREAS, the changes are consistent with state law, the board's administrative rules, the recommendations in the program review, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board adopts the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Protection Account policies and evaluation criteria as depicted in Attachments B and C, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board directs RCO staff to incorporate these changes in the appropriate policy manuals with language that reflects the policy intent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these policies shall be effective beginning with the 2016 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **12**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Changes to Grant Program Policies

Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the public comments received and staff responses for two proposed policy changes: 1) scope change requests in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and 2) multiple locations for trail projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Trails and Water Access categories of the WWRP.

Staff recommends approval of the revised policies based on public comments received. If approved, the new policies will apply to grant applications submitted in 2016.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2015-24

Purpose of Resolution: Adopt revised policies a for 1) scope change requests in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and 2) multiple locations for trail projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Trails and Water Access categories of the WWRP.

Background

At the September 2015 meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff to proceed with gathering public comments on a list of potential policy changes in preparation for new grant applications in 2016. Further background information is in Item 6 from the September meeting.

- Control and Tenure
- Additional Acquisition Project Scope Change Policy for WWRP
- Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails
- Preference for Boats on Trailers in the Boating Facility Program

RCO staff prepared materials on the first three policy items for public comment. The policy on boats and trails regarding changes to the evaluation criteria is addressed separately under Item 10.

Public Comments Received

Public Comment Period and Response

RCO announced an opportunity for the public to comment on September 28, 2015 and accepted comments through October 16, 2015. Staff sent an email notification to over 2,700 individuals and posted the information on RCO's Policy and Rule-making Web page. In total, ten individuals submitted comments.

Summary of Comments

One member of the public supported all the revisions. One person had a specific project concern. Both of these comments with staff replies are in Table 1 of Attachment A.

Additional Acquisition Project Scope Change Policy for WWRP
One person commented on this proposed policy with a concern about incorporating review of the local jurisdiction when considering a scope change request. The comment with staff reply is in Table 2 of Attachment A.

Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails
One person commented on this proposed policy with a concern about the difficulty scoring multiple locations within the same application when the trail in between may not be fully developed. The comment with staff reply is in Table 3 of Attachment A.

Control and Tenure
Seven individuals commented on this proposed policy with concerns about:

- Clarifying requirements for planning grants.
- Addressing specific lease and easement requirements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- Clarifying requirements for property that is not under lease or easement but still under "grandfathered" control.
- Obtaining control and tenure one year after a project agreement is executed.
- Eligibility of costs for mitigation actions related to obtaining control and tenure.
- Allowing sponsors to proceed with construction without control and tenure documents complete.
- Clarifying requirements for projects that occur on sponsor owned or managed lands.
- Addressing requirements for existing leases that may not meet the time required.

The comments with staff replies are in Table 4 of Attachment A, followed by a copy of the proposed policy. Based on the nature and breadth of the public comments submitted, RCO staff is not prepared at this time to proceed with a recommendation. Staff requests more time to further explore commenters concerns and investigate further DNR and WSDOT lease and easement requirements before making any revisions.

Changes Based on Public Comment

RCO staff does not propose any changes based on public comment received on the following two policies:

- Additional Acquisition Project Scope Change Policy for WWRP
- Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails

RCO staff prepared final draft policies based on review from RCO's Communications Director. The next section of the memo explains the two policies for the board's consideration.

Additional Scope Change Policy for WWRP

Background

In 2005, the Legislature amended the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) statute to require applicants to notify the governing body of the local jurisdiction of the proposed land acquisitions in their area[1]. This was to provide the local jurisdiction the opportunity to be informed of public land acquisitions that occur within their jurisdiction and to provide them an opportunity to provide comment to the Governor and Legislature. Applicants provide notice of the WWRP grant application to the local governing body and typically include a description of the proposed project and a parcel map or map of the geographic envelope.

Issue

At the September board meeting, staff presented information about how the local jurisdiction review of an application can be complicated when an application includes multiple parcels in a geographic envelope as allowed in the board's Multi-site Acquisition policy. Rather than an issue with the acquisition policy, the board felt there was a different issue with how local jurisdictions would be involved in a change in a project's scope after the award of grant funds. The board directed staff to prepare a new policy to link local jurisdiction review with the scope change process and solicit public comments.

Final Proposal

The final proposed policy is in Attachment B. As previously, mention, one person commented on this proposed policy with a concern about incorporating review of the local jurisdiction when considering a scope change request. However, staff believes it would be contrary to the intent of the law to include review at the time of application, fund a project, then change the scope without additional review from the local jurisdiction. Staff recommends approval of the final proposed policy.

Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails

Background

Current policy prohibits grant proposals in most programs from performing project work at more than one work site. A work site is a single area where work occurs. Trail projects, both upland and water based trails, can sometimes include work at multiple worksites that benefits the trail or trail system in the same project. Applicants must submit separate applications for each project occurring at a separate worksite, even if they directly benefit or are dependent upon one another.

Trail projects are funded in many of the board's grant programs, but mostly in the following grant programs:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails and Water Access categories.

Issue

Under the current policy, applicants either submit separate applications for each trailhead or put-in site and compete against themselves for funding, or they phase the project and delay implementation until

[1] RCW 79A.15.110

the subsequent year. Under either scenario, applicants must break up projects, which may be counterproductive to building or completing a regional trail system. The result is increased work and risk to the applicant, and only a portion of the trail system is complete if only one phase is completed. Other consequences may be that users may create their own trailhead or put-in site to get by until facilities are built causing natural resource damage from the user-built trailheads and put-in site and increase the expense of the project in the future to restore damaged habitat.

Final Proposed Policy

The final proposed policy is in Attachment C. As previously, mention, one person commented on this proposed policy with a concern about the ability to score multiple locations within the same application when the trail in between may not be fully developed. However, staff recommends the board adopt the policy as written because applicants are not required to combine locations into one application. Applicants would still be able to submit separate applications if it makes more sense. Advisory committee members evaluating projects with more than one location should score appropriately and differentiate between applications that will results in a fully developed contiguous trail and a partially developed contiguous trail.

Board Direction

RCO staff seeks board direction on the two proposed policy changes: 1) scope change requests in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and 2) multiple locations for trail projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and the Trails and Water Access categories of the WWRP.

Resolution 2015-24 in Attachment D is provided for the board's consideration.

Next Steps

Should the board approve the policies they will apply starting in 2016.

Link to Strategic Plan

Revising the board's grant program policies and evaluation criteria addresses Goals 1, 2 and 3 in the board's *Strategic Plan*:

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Attachments

A. Public Comments Received on Proposed Policy Changes
B. Additional Acquisition Project Scope Change Policy for WWRP for Consideration
C. Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails for Consideration
D. Resolution 2015-24

Attachment A

Public Comments Received on Proposed Grant Program Policy Changes

Comment Period: September 28 – October 16, 2015

Table 1: General Public Comments Received

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Lori Flemm, Director **Parks and Recreation Dept.** **City of Lacey**	I reviewed the proposed policy changes to: • Control and Tenure Requirements for Development and Restoration Projects • Multiple Locations for Trails or Water Trails • Scope Changes for Acquisition Projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and have no comments or concerns. I did not review the Farmland Preservation Account proposals. Thank you for seeking our input.	Thank you for your comments.
Toni Reading	I would like to submit support for any policy change that requires consideration for public access full time to projects. From my personal experience, tennis courts that were built under a city/schools partnership through this program where full access was granted (signing in at some schools depending on policy) in the past is now under restricted use to only non-school hour usage for public users. These courts are the only courts in good playable condition within my city and the next courts require a 14 mile round trip excursion and there are only 2 of them as well. Heading the other direction, the next playable courts are in Skykomish in King County! As a retired individual that plays whenever possible (and year round) and that only moved to this area because those courts	Thank you for contacting us. RCO staff would like to learn more about this specific project issue. There may be an issue with compliance of existing policy or a need to change existing policy. A grants manager will contact you.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
	existed, I find this newly restrictive situation very frustrating and a waste as they are rarely used by the school! At this point I would suggest excising the school from the partnership and separating the courts out from the school "restricted zone" as this feels like a "taking" of an asset that was meant for public use. Thank you for allowing input!	

Table 2: Public Comments Received on Proposed Additional Requirements for Requests to Change the Scope of an Acquisition Project Funded in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Melanie Moon, Citizen	I've just read the proposed changes to the WWRP program. I have been involved in the farmland preservation portion of WWRP as a project manager for the Columbia Land Trust. My comments are as follows: Scope Amendment: I like the additional flexibility for amendment to scope of project. I am concerned about the requirement to inform the local jurisdictions as my experience has been that their response depends on a variety of ever changing factors. Am I to assume that approval is dependent on local/county government approval? Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	RCW 79A.15.110 requires all applications for the acquisition of land in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to be reviewed by the governing body of the local jurisdiction. The intent of the policy change is to extend the same level of review when a sponsor requests a change to the scope of the project. Staff believes it would be contrary to the intent of the law to include review at the time of application, fund a project, then change the scope without additional review from the local jurisdiction. Approval of the request to change the scope of a project is not contingent on local jurisdiction approval; however, the opinion of the local jurisdiction would be a factor to consider before making a decision.

Table 3: Public Comments Received on Proposed New Policy to Allow More Than One Location for Trail or Water Trail Development Projects

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Jim Harris **Washington State Parks, Region Director - Retired** **WWRP Trails Advisory Committee, Member**	With regard to the proposed policy change regarding Multiple Locations for Trails Or Water Trails Projects within a single project application: The benefits of such a change are understood if it results in a contiguous fully developed trail, but that is not a requirement under the proposed change. Proposed change may result in grant applications in which one location has strong merits and the other has weak merits. Applicants will try to utilize the strength of one site to achieve funding at another location. This is problematic if the second location does not match the quality of other applications seeking funding. The lack of contiguous development negates the argument that it is all part of a holistic project. The proposed change will place a burden on the efforts of an advisory committee trying to evaluate the strengths of various projects and recommend funding based upon a criteria based evaluation, when multiple locations with varying merits are blended into a single application. Based upon these thoughts, I would recommend that multiple locations only be considered in a single project application if it results in a contiguous developed trail. Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on this issue.	The proposed policy include the following statement: "If an application includes more than one location, the proposed development at each location must result in a contiguous trail experience under the control of the sponsor when the project is complete. The contiguous trail experience does not need to be fully developed, but it must be open and maintained for use by the public." We share your concern; however, RCO will recommend the board adopt the proposed policy as written because the policy does not require applicants to combine locations. It may or may not be advantageous for the applicant to include more than one location in the same application. Applicants would still be able to submit separate applications if it makes more sense. Advisory committee members evaluating projects with more than one location should score appropriately and differentiate between applications that will results in a fully developed contiguous trail and a partially developed contiguous trail.

Table 4: Public Comments Received on Proposed Changes to Control and Tenure Requirements
The proposed policy follows this table of comments.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Timothy W. Burns, P.E. **Assistant Director** **Capital and Asset Management Program** **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**	Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed changes and offer up recommended revisions. WDFW Capital and Asset Management Program has prepared the attached comments regarding the proposed changes to the control and tenure requirement. In general, the proposed revisions will work for most uplands deeds and leases. However, leases and permits between state agencies (i.e. WDFW, DNR and WSDOT) should be treated differently. For the past 15 years we have addressed these leases as part of the permitting process. This system has worked well to complete projects in a timely manner and within our RCO contractual requirements. Ultimately, the State remains the property owner and our separate agencies have worked as a team to complete the project within budget and schedule constraints. Thank you again for involving us in the comment process. If you would like to meet and discuss further, we would welcome the opportunity. **Statement #1 - Sponsors Must Have Adequate Control and Tenure** There are also policies regarding acquisition and specific sections for DNR leases that should be included in the current policy. Note there may need to be additional clarification on planning only grants – at what stage do they need to show control and tenure? Practice: Practice for the past 15 years has been to require proof of adequate control and tenure of the property by way of deed	Thank you for your comments. Control and tenure requirements are an important element to project implementation. RCO staff will recommend to the board that we work more with our sponsors and public to help refine this policy, including participation from DNR and WSDOT. RCO staff would like to understand more about the DNR lease policies that you refer. With regard to planning only grants, control and tenure is not required at the planning stage, but can be included in the scope of the planning project.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Timothy W. Burns, P.E. **Assistant Director** **Capital and Asset Management Program** **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**	or easement at the beginning of a contract. For State projects, this does not include DNR leases or WSDOT Airspace leases. These leases are applied for and received as part of the permit process. DNR and WSDOT require survey, design, and permitting prior to issuing a lease. At times, the DNR lease is the last item to be completed before the project is final.	RCO staff would like to understand more about the DNR lease and WSDOT lease requirements.
	Note that the RCO manuals list DNR leases separate from control and tenure. They do not fit with typical land lease and easements and need to be treated separately.	DNR leases are a form of control and tenure. RCO staff will work to align the language in the manuals to make this clear.
	Comment: For State projects where there are multiple departments involved, the underlying owner is the State. WDFW has many water access sites that are "grandfathered" into this arrangement without lease paperwork from DNR or WSDOT. New site leases are not a priority for any departments. We have had that understanding with RCO for many years now. Once we have a redevelopment project assigned, we present the new design to the state agencies and go apply for leases – there is no incentive to receive leases prior to our new work.	RCO staff would like to further explore your comment about "grandfathered" sites and how that is applied to new projects.
	Statement # 2 - Control and Tenure Must Be Secured within One Year	
	Comment: The requirement for control and tenure within a year's time will likely not work for most DNR and WSDOT leases. It is our experience that we first must fully design and permit a project before we can apply for the lease. USACE permit or extensive county permits often take longer than a year. The real-estate divisions for DNR and WSDOT have no time limit for processing a lease, and there is seldom a quick turnaround from time of application. With this in mind, it is likely every project would have to go to the Board for an extension.	The intent of the one-year timeframe was to ensure projects were moving forward quickly to reduce the level of re-appropriation of capital budget funds. RCO staff understands your concerns and would like to discuss timing issues with applicants, DNR, and WSDOT further.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Timothy W. Burns, P.E. **Assistant Director** **Capital and Asset Management Program** **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**	Recommend: Remove the one year requirement for DNR and WSDOT leases (state to state). **Statement #4 - Period of Control and Tenure** Comment: DNR leases for boat ramps are for 12 years. It would be more practical for RCO to recognize this and thus eliminate the need for a variance with every lease. This would also eliminate the "risk" to the sponsor. Recommend: Single out DNR leases for boat launches as acceptable for 10 year leases. (this allows two years to finish construction after receiving the lease). **Statement #5 - Terms of Control and Tenure** Comment: The exception is consistent with the recent leases that we have received. **Statement #6 - No Reimbursement of Construction Costs Until Control and Tenure is Secure** Comments: For state to state leases (DNR and WSDOT), we often have a verbal go ahead for construction. The programs realize that the formality in their real-estate divisions take between 6 months to 2 years. If we wait for the leases, some projects could be delayed by years. The State is the underlying owner and our Departments work to have timely results whenever possible. Recommend: For State to State leases, require that leases have been submitted prior to construction. **Statement #7 - Costs to Secure Control and Tenure are Not Eligible Costs in Development or Restoration Projects** Comments: DNR has recently started putting mitigation elements in the conditions such as LWD or signage. These items	RCO would like to work on the lease term requirements further with applicants and DNR. Thank you. RCO staff would like to discuss this suggestion further to understand when proceed to construction without a secure lease or easement.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
	should be covered. Often conditions are linked to permit conditions; these items should be covered as eligible costs. DNR and WSDOT leases should be treated closer to permits so requirements for mitigation, survey or signage is still covered. Recommend: For state to state leases, allow for costs for permitting and mitigation conditions.	RCO staff would like to discuss whether costs related to acquiring a lease or easement should be considered an acquisition cost or a development cost.
Lorena Landon **Citizen** **Boating Programs Advisory Committee Member**	After review of the RCO proposed policy changes, I respectfully submit the following comment(s): Under "Control And Tenure Requirements" page 1 under item number 2, the last paragraph of this section: I would suggest capitalizing "Project Agreement" to indicate a defined term within the RCO. I would also suggest expanding this paragraph to provide further explanation or clarification. Is there a specified time limit after such an Agreement is granted in which the sponsor must thereafter obtain proof of the required Control and Tenure? (within 1 year or less, or before project starts etc.)	Thank you for your comments. RCO staff will make the correction to the term "project agreement" as suggested. The intent of **Statement #2 - Control and Tenure Must Be Secured within One Year** is to require proof of control and tenure one year from the date of execution of the Project Agreement.
Philip Wolff **Recreation Manager** **Black Hills District – Capitol Forest** **WA DNR, South Puget Sound Region**	I support these proposed changes to control and tenure. Having government agencies lease or obtain easements on "their" own land causes managers to enter into agreements which may not have a basis in law and can place an unneeded encumbrance on the land.	Thank you for your comments. RCO staff would like to discuss further the circumstances when agencies must obtain permission for project on land managed by their agency and how that relates to the control and tenure requirement.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Ken Graham **Real Estate Program Coordinator** **Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**	**Statement #1 - Sponsors Must Have Adequate Control and Tenure** Need to define "Adequate". **Statement #4 - Period of Control and Tenure** Length of control and tenure-"to the period identified in the grant program policies"- Is this still 25 years? Please clarify. If the control and tenure documents are already in place prior and the grant award is well into the original term of the document, can this be a requirement in the application stage and have RCO commit to the "adequate" term of control and tenure? Example: 30 year lease with the National Park Service and there is 15 years remaining on the lease, can RCO approve a control and tenure time equal to the time remaining on the lease? My assumption is that at the end of the 30 year term, the lease will be renewed anyway. This works with many federal agencies and some state agencies.	Thank you for your comments. RCO staff will clarify "adequate" in statement #1. The control and tenure period is different for each grant program and is in *Manual 4, Development Policies* and *Manual 5, Restoration Policies*. RCO staff would like to explore options for control and tenure requirements at locations where the applicant already holds a lease or easement.
Darcy Mitchem, Citizen	Thank you for the opportunity to comment: My biggest concern is in the policies of "control and tenure" for development projects, specifically item 7. I believe this should be modified so that easements/access agreements ARE part of the costs of a development or renovation project if the project is located on public land. Here's why: I have been working with the Toutle Valley community association for a decade on acquiring public access	Thank you for your comments. The proposed policy states that costs for control and tenure are not eligible development costs because those costs are eligible as acquisition costs. In other words, costs for securing a lease or easement are considered a cost to acquire property rights, which is an acquisition cost, not a development costs. Applicants who need to pay for a lease or easement must submit an application for an acquisition project. They can also submit costs for acquisition and development, which is called a combination project.

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
Darcy Mitchem, Citizen	to public land. In our area an entire DNR forest (35,000 acres) and a large WDFW wildlife area of 7,000 acres have no legal public access and no control and tenure and thus no grant eligibility for recreation developments . We also have a fish hatchery and trailheads without legal public access. We need more grants that address lack of access, not less. Even the recent SCORP and NOVA plans talk about the need for general legal access to more public lands. Vast amounts of timberland area now under some sort of fee-for-entry system. Weyerhaeuser alone controls over a million acres in Washington in this way. Much of our public lands, especially DNR land, is interspersed with these private lands or is landlocked by private lands. We need to expand our toolbox to acquire legal public access to public lands. If we incorporate the funding of public use easements into development costs, we "kill two birds with one stone" and improve the overall efficiency of the grant process. If the DNR, for example, wanted to put a campground on that landlocked 35,000 acres, the RCO would require TWO grants--one for an acquisition of an easement to the land (where it competes with fee simple purchase of land,) and another grant for the campground development. These two projects would probably be separated by at least one grant cycle, since the campground would be contingent on the easement. It would be better to be able to roll them into one project: more efficient, more timely, and a better use of taxpayer funds. Survey after survey notes that "lack of access" is one of the biggest impediments to outdoor recreation. Adding control/tenure costs to development projects expands the options for acquiring access. It is hard to justify acquiring access to public land without a facility (campground, trailhead, snowpark) and it is impossible to get a development grant on	

Commenter	Comment	Staff Reply
	land that has no legal public access. This is the Catch 22 the Toutle Valley and similar areas have been dealing with. Restoration projects do not need long term access so I wouldn't worry about that.	
Ron Davis, Citizen	Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed policy changes for grant projects. My comments are on Control and Tenure and "Awarding a grant for a development, renovation, or restoration project located on property not owned by a sponsor…" This is a fundamental change to existing procedures that requires a sponsor to have control and tenure of a site BEFORE a grant is awarded. This procedure is also different than other state grant making agencies such as CTED and Ecology and delays RCO's staff work of control and tenure verification from before the grant award is made to when the project is underway. It also creates the potential for lengthier projects that would be subject to legislative re-appropriation. The briefing memo does not describe the justification for why this policy change is necessary and rationale for why this is good policy. Projects that do not have control and tenure are likely far from shovel ready.	The proposed policy states: "A sponsor must secure control and tenure on land they do not own within one year from the date the RCFB or director approves funding for the project." The intent of this policy is to require proof of control and tenure one year from the date of execution of the Project Agreement. It is not required before the grant is awarded, but before a project agreement is offered to the sponsor. RCO staff will re-word the proposed policy to make this distinction clear.

PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
PROPOSED REVISED CONTROL AND TENURE POLICY:

This policy applies to any development, renovation, or restoration project or portion of a project located on property not owned by a sponsor.

1. **Sponsors Must Have Adequate Control and Tenure**

   To protect the grant-assisted investment, a sponsor must have adequate control and tenure of property where the development or restoration project is located.

2. **Control and Tenure Must Be Secured within One Year**

   A sponsor must secure control and tenure on land they do not own within one year from the date the RCFB or director approves funding for the project. If the sponsor does not secure control and tenure within the one-year period, the director shall terminate the project or, upon formal request, may seek approval from the RCFB to extend the time period for securing the control and tenure.

   The RCO may issue a project agreement before a sponsor secures control and tenure.

3. **Acceptable Forms of Control and Tenure**

   A sponsor must secure a lease or easement on the property to be developed, renovated or restored. However, if the sponsor and the landowner are both government entities, a use agreement is an acceptable form of control and tenure.

   EXCEPTION: For projects funded in the LWCF program, perpetual easements are the only acceptable form of control and tenure.

4. **Period of Control and Tenure**

   The lease, easement, or use agreement must extend from the date of the final reimbursement or the date RCO accepts the project as complete to the period identified in the grant program policies.

   EXCEPTION: Upon request for projects located on state or federal property, the director may approve a period of control and tenure for less than the period identified in the grant program policies on a project-by-project basis. The sponsor shall provide adequate justification, as determined by the director, for the request.

5. **Terms of Control and Tenure**

   The development, renovation or restoration project must be consistent with and legally permissible under the conditions of the lease, easement, or use agreement.

   The lease, easement or use agreement must provide for the RCFB's and RCO's right to inspect and access lands developed, renovated or restored with grant assistance.

   The lease, easement, or use agreement may not be revocable at will.

EXCEPTION: For projects located on state or federal property, the lease, easement, or use agreement may be revocable at will. If the property owner revokes a lease, easement, or use agreement before the minimum period of control and tenure in statement #4 above, the sponsor will be required to replace the development or restoration project as required in Title 286 of the Washington Administrative Code and the RCFB's compliance policy. The RCO shall condition the project agreement with the sponsor to reflect this exception and the compliance requirements.

6. No Reimbursement of Construction Costs Until Control and Tenure is Secure

Sponsors may not proceed with construction of development, renovation and restoration work and RCO will not reimburse for such costs until the sponsor secures the required control and tenure.

7. Costs to Secure Control and Tenure are Not Eligible Costs in Development or Restoration Projects

Costs to secure control and tenure, including requirements and conditions from the property owner, are not eligible costs in development, renovation or restoration projects. Such costs may be eligible acquisition project costs depending on the specific grant program policies.

8. Sponsor's Compliance Obligation Ends When Control and Tenure Ends

A sponsor's long-term compliance obligation ends on the portion of the project subject to a lease, easement, or use agreement when the period of control and tenure ends. Other portions of the project located on property owned by the sponsor are subject to the long-term obligations as specified in the grant program and the project agreement.

Attachment B – Additional Scope Change Policy for WWRP

CURRENT SCOPE CHANGE POLICY:

The RCFB and SRFB decide a significant change in the project's scope. Typically, such a modification includes any that the Director feels may have changed the project's evaluation score. Not included are changes that do not significantly modify the way the public uses a facility or the intended habitat conservation, salmon recovery, or recreational opportunity funded by RCFB or SRFB.[2]

The RCFB and the SRFB subcommittee shall consider the following factors in deciding whether to approve a major scope change for acquisition projects:

- Is the amended project eligible in the same grant program category? Is it eligible in another program category?
- What is the reaction and/or position, if any, of the local government (for RCFB funded projects) or lead entity (for SRFB funded projects) with regard to the requested amendment?
- How does the amended project fit with priorities identified in state approved strategies including, but not limited to, the Natural Heritage Plan, State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Lands 20/20, Biodiversity Strategy, A Regional Recovery Plan, or a three-year work plan for salmon recovery?
- Will federal or other matching resources be lost if a scope change is not approved? If so, how, why, or how much?
- What opportunity will be lost if the request is not granted? (Consider, for example, consequences to the public, the resources, and the grant program.)
- What other project or projects could the money go to if this request is denied?
- How does the amended project compare with the original project and with the alternate project on the funding priority list?

Sponsors and their outdoor grants manager shall provide information related to these factors to the board or board subcommittee.[3]

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROJECT SCOPE CHANGE POLICY FOR WWRP

This policy applies to:

- Acquisition projects funded in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) only,
- Any request to change the scope of an acquisition project to a different property or properties than was evaluated in the grant application.

This policy is in addition to the existing policy on scope changes.

[2] Resolution #2004-09
[3] Resolution #2010-04

1. Sponsors Must Inform the Local Jurisdiction of a Proposed Change in Scope

State law requires all applications for the acquisition of property in the WWRP to be reviewed by the legislative authority of the city or county where the property is located.[4] A sponsor who requests a change in the scope of an application after it receives funding also must comply with this state law.

A sponsor must inform both the legislative authority of the city or county where the property is in the original application and the proposed scope change, if different.

A sponsor must inform the city or county legislative authority of the change in the scope of the project and provide notice that the city of county may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the RCO identifying its position about the proposed change in scope.

2. The Director Shall Consult with the Governor's Office and the Legislature

If the city or county legislative authority sends RCO a letter about its position the scope change , the director shall make the letter and the proposed scope change request available to the Governor and the Legislature. The director shall request the Governor and Legislature respond within 30 days.

3. Requests Will Not Be Approved if Opposed by the City or County Legislative Authority, Governor, or Legislature

The director may approve certain requests based on the authority granted in the RCFB's scope change policy. All other requests will be reviewed by the RCFB.

The RCFB or director will not approve any request to change the scope of an acquisition project if it is opposed by the city or county legislative authority, Governor, or Legislature.

4. Sponsors Must Follow the Procedures Established by the Director

The director establishes procedures to document compliance with the requirement for local jurisdiction review. A sponsor requesting a change to the scope of an acquisition project also must follow these procedures unless waived by the director.

[4] RCW 79A.15.110

Attachment C – Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails

PROPOSED NEW POLICY:

This policy applies to:

- Applications for development projects in the:
  - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and
  - Trails and Water Access categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

This policy supersedes policies previously adopted regarding ineligible projects for trail or water trail projects only.

1. Applications for Development of Trails or Water Trails May Include More Than One Location

Applications for development of trails or water trails may include more than one location under the following conditions:

- The proposed trail or water trail development at each location is:
  - On the same body of water in the same county for water trail systems,
  - On the same trail in the same county for land based trail systems, or
  - On the same land or water trail system within two counties of the sponsor's management unit.

2. Multiple Locations Must Result in a Contiguous Trail System

If an application includes more than one location, the proposed development at each location must result in a contiguous trail experience under the control of the sponsor when the project is complete.

The contiguous trail experience does not need to be fully developed, but it must be open and maintained for use by the public.

3. Sponsors Must Maintain the Trail Experience

Sponsors must maintain the area developed at the locations funded in the grant as well as the area of the contiguous trail experience for the period of on-going obligations in the project agreement.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2015-24
New WWRP and ALEA Grant Program Policies

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) administers and approves policies that govern the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) program, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), with board direction, drafted two new policies for public review and comment: 1) Scope Change Policy for WWRP and 2) Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails, and

WHEREAS, RCO solicited comments from over 2,700 members of the public and posted notice on its Web site, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments, adjusted the policies as appropriate and recommends the board approve the final draft materials as presented in Attachments B and C, and

WHEREAS, the new policies are consistent with state law and the board's administrative rules,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board adopts an additional Scope Change Policy for WWRP as described in Attachment B and that the policy applies to all acquisition projects funded in the WWRP, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board adopts a new policy to allow for Multi-Site Development for Trails and Water Trails as described in Attachment C and that the policy applies to applications in the ALEA program and the Trails and Water Access categories of the WWRP, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board directs RCO staff to incorporate these changes in the appropriate policy manuals with language that reflects the policy intent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these policies shall be effective beginning with the 2016 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **13**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Communications Plan Update

Prepared By: Susan Zemek, Communications Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the communication plan activities that have taken place in the first two years of RCO's 5-year communication plan and outlines activities that will occur in coming years.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) communications staff developed a 5-year, agency-wide, multi-board communications plan, which began in 2013. The plan has three main goals:

- **Goal 1:** Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.
- **Goal 2:** Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.
- **Goal 3:** Strengthen RCO's internal communications.

To accomplish these goals, communications staff developed a series of strategies and activities. In general, staff has made progress in all three goal areas. Most work has focused on the first two goals through media outreach, production of informational materials in publications and online, and development of a social media presence.

Goal 1: Build Support for RCO's Missions

To build support for the agency's missions, communications staff developed four strategies:

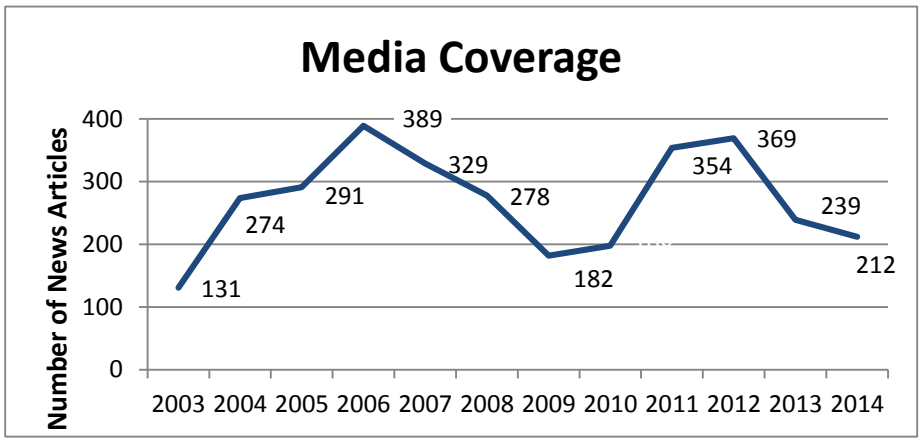
1. Create compelling information about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.
2. Engage the media in telling the story of RCO's missions.
3. Engage partners in educating their constituents about RCO's missions.
4. Educate the public.

Strategy 1: Create Compelling Information

Significant resources are dedicated to this goal. While the agency hasn't formalized key messages yet, communications staff has weaved the theme that recreation and conservation are important to

Washington State economically, environmentally, and culturally into its publications, Web site, and speeches made by agency leadership.

Strategy 2: Engage the Media

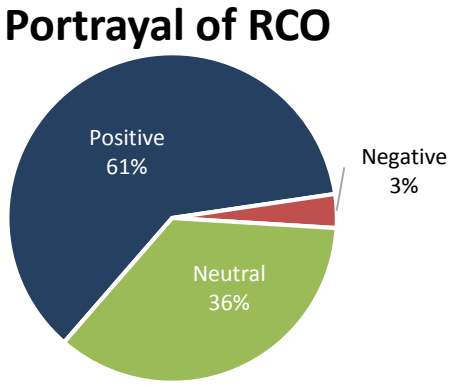


Media coverage of RCO, its boards, and missions has improved significantly since the start of the communications program in 2003.

In fact, the number of news articles written about the agency has increased by more than 60 percent since 2003,generating nearly 1,000 articles.

In 2003, the number of news articles resulting directly from the agency's news releases was 10. In 2014, that number jumped to 97. In many cases, the news articles are printed nearly verbatim from the news releases.

The number of media impressions (the number of newspaper subscribers who could see any article) has topped 65 million and what people are seeing about RCO is positive the majority of time.



Strategy 3: Engage Partners in Educating their Constituents about RCO's Missions

To expand the reach of RCO's messages, RCO engages partner organizations to help spread the word to their constituents. Since 2013, RCO has reached out and asked its partners to share information on the following agency activities:

- RCO's economic study
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program review
- Recruitment for advisory committee volunteers
- Opening of grant rounds and their deadlines
- Recognition of successful projects through the Bravo Award
- Grant awards
- The work of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation
- RCO's boating app, Washington Water Cruiser
- National Get Outdoors Day celebrated on the Capitol Campus

Bravo Award and Events

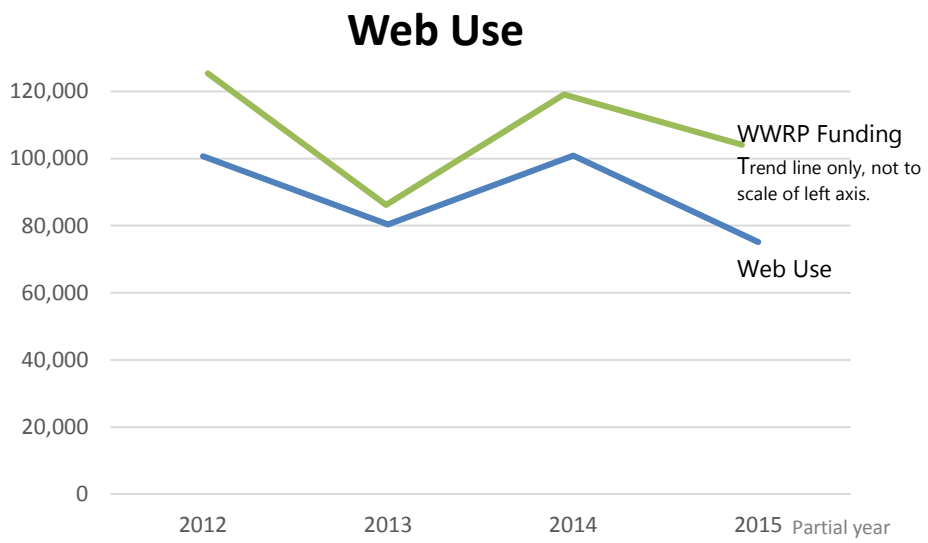
Another major work activity is the recognition of top-ranking projects through RCO's Bravo Award. By working with our partners to arrange recognition events, we not only showcase the local benefits of RCO's mission but also engage our partners in spreading the word. From 2013 to present, RCO leadership and board members have spoken at nearly forty events, including ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, conferences, and ten Bravo Award celebrations.

Strategy 4: Educate the Public

In addition to educating the public through the media and partners, RCO reaches the public through the agency's Web site and social media tools.

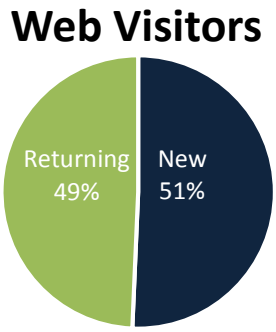
Web Site Usage

Visitation to RCO's Web site varies with the amount of grant money offered. When WWRP funds are up, so are the agency's Web visits. This makes sense when you consider RCO's core clients are grant applicants and recipients.



However, the number of people who are returning to our site increased in 2013 and 2014 and is on track to increase in this year. RCO has near equal new and returning visitors. Most clients still use their desktop (87 percent) to interact with our Web site and they are focused on technical information, viewing about three pages per session and spending about 3 minutes on the RCO Web site.

Most Viewed Pages	Page Views
Grants	29,328
Prism	26,135
Documents	22,475
Salmon Recovery	16,070
Manuals by the Number	13,966
Grant Schedules	13,461
Maps	13,237
Grant News	12,340



Goal 2: Ensure RCO Maintains its Brand as an Exemplary, Ethical, and Open Grant Agency

RCO is a small state agency and fairly unknown, but among its clients it has a stellar reputation. To increase awareness of RCO and its brand, communications staff developed three strategies:

1. Increase partners' understanding of RCO grant processes and programs.
2. Ensure RCO's grant processes and programs are accessible to the public.
3. Provide tools for staff to be RCO brand ambassadors.

Strategy 1: Increase Partners' Understanding of RCO Grant Processes and Programs

RCO desires to work with its partners in meaningful ways. It is important for the agency to keep its partners informed of RCO activities, policy changes, and issues and to work with them collaboratively on issues. RCO accomplishes this by:

- Monthly and quarterly meetings between the director and key partners. (nearly 20 held since 2013).
- A monthly newsletter for grant recipients called *Grant News You Can Use*.
- Online grant workshops to deliver information about RCO processes to its partners.

Strategy 2: Ensure RCO's Grant Processes and Programs are Accessible to the Public

To help the public better understand the role of RCO, the agency needs to ensure its information is clear and easily understood. The communications staff accomplishes this through its Web sites, publications, social media, and news releases by regularly updating:

- 24 fact sheets
- 22 grant program manuals
- 10 news releases (on average) a year
- 4 public Web sites, 1 internal Web site (375 pages updated to date in 2015, including 250 documents and 14 new pages)
- 2 mobile applications (Washington Water Cruiser and Invasive Species)
- 1 Web application (public lands inventory)
- 2 social media sites
- Multiple annual and summary reports

In addition, communications staff meets monthly with a key partner, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, to discuss outreach efforts. The communications staff provides a quarterly list of projects nearing completion to better help the coalition work with grant recipients on community ribbon-cutting celebrations.

Strategy 3: Provide Tools for Staff to be RCO Brand Ambassadors

As RCO's key ambassadors, it is important to ensure staff have the communications tools they need to do their jobs successfully. Communications staff prepares talking point for staff who may be representing the agency at events, shares news coverage of RCO programs to help staff stay informed, and helps staff with their writing and design of information pieces for clients.

Goal 3: Strengthen RCO's Internal Communications.

RCO values open communication with staff. To accomplish this, communications staff works with the director on a monthly newsletter to staff, informing them of agency happenings. This update is shared with our grant funding boards and members of the governor's staff. The newsletter also is published on

the agency's internal Web site. In addition, RCO hosts quarterly all staff meetings and holds impromptu meetings in the director's office to convey breaking news.

Future Implementation

In the remaining 2 years of the current communications plan, staff will continue its current efforts and will add the following items:

- Develop key messages for all boards.
- Update the media distribution list with an effort to add more blogs and other social media outlets.
- Continue to expand the agency's social media footprint.
- Proactively work with project sponsors and partners to schedule community celebrations for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, if it continues to be funded.
- Formalize the graphic standards for agency publications, presentations, and e-mail.
- Survey staff about use of internal communications tools and determine a path forward.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **14**

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Revising the Board's Strategic Plan and Performance Measures - Continued Board Member Discussion

Prepared By: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director

Summary

This item outlines past discussions the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) has had related to its strategic plan and performance measures. This information will serve has the basis for members to continue the discussion on modifying these key documents to reflect the desired future direction of the board.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted its current strategic plan in June 2012 (Attachment A). Within the plan, the board's mission is stated: "Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations." In support of this mission, the plan focuses on three goals:

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

The plan contains several objectives that tie to the three goals and a series of performance measures that allow the board the opportunity to gauge the plan's effectiveness.

Board Direction and Discussions

April 2015 Board Discussion

At the board's April retreat, there was a lengthy discussion about the board's strategic plan and performance measures. Board members agreed that the current plan is still relevant but perhaps some modification may be needed to reflect current trends.

The board identified the following key future considerations and action items:

1. **Strategic Plan**
    a. How to address quality of life
    b. How to respond to emerging trends
    c. How to reflect other investments or costs leveraged by the board's investments (i.e. volunteer time)
    d. How to capture costs of operating and maintaining projects into the future
    e. How should the board encourage meaningful civic engagement

2. **Performance Measures**
    a. Develop performance measures that reflect:
        i. Is the funding going to the right places?
        ii. The "big picture" by use or project type (i.e., some uses, such as trails, span several funding sources/categories)
        iii. How historic data compares to a recent span of time-trends
    b. Have further discussion about measures that would better align with a unifying statewide strategy.

June 2015 Board Discussion

In 2012 the board adopted performance measures that, until mid-2015, were not being actively monitored and reported. In June 2015, staff presented the board with a graphic overview of its performance measures and included outcomes for review and discussion (Attachment B). After a brief conversation, the suggestion was made by one board member to form a team to scope the performance measures that meet board, staff, and legislative needs. It was decided that Chair Spanel would choose whether to form a subcommittee.

October 2015 Actions

After some consideration, Chair Spanel decided that instead of forming a subcommittee to work on the board's strategic plan and performance measures update, the board as a whole would hold a discussion and decide on a path forward at the November meeting.

Performance Measures – Factors to Consider

When developing or adjusting performance measures, staff suggests the board consider whether the measures are:

1. Cost Effective
    a. Is data available?
    b. Can data can be "rolled up" to the program, board, or agency level?
    c. Can the measure be compared to a target?
2. Timely
    a. Is the data current and updated on a set schedule?
3. Relevant
    a. Does the measure tell a story about whether the program, board, or agency is meeting its objectives?

   b. Does the measure relate to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)?
   c. Does the measure tie to the board and agency's strategic plan?

4. Understandable
   a. Is the measure clear?
   b. Is the measure concise?
   c. Is the measure is non-technical?

Next Steps

After board discussion, staff will conduct the necessary work to research/refine performance measures and update the board's strategic plan as directed.

Attachments

A. Board's Current Strategic Plan (adopted June 2012)
B. Board's Strategic Plan Performance Measures (presented in June 2015)
C. Agency Performance Measures (presented in June 2015)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

Mission

Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Goals

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are fundamental concepts that form the basis for Board policy.

Principle 1. The Board's primary roles are to (1) ensure the best possible investment of funds in protecting and improving habitats, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation opportunities, (2) provide accountability for those investments, and (3) provide citizen oversight to the funding process.

Principle 2. Successful protection and improvement of Washington's ecosystems and recreation requires coordination across all levels of government and geographic scales. Decisions and actions should be guided by a statewide perspective coupled with each local community's social, economic, and cultural values and priorities.

Principle 3. The plans and strategies (conservation and/or recreation) of federal, state, tribal, local government, and other partners should help guide the identification and prioritization of projects.

Principle 4. Projects must have explicit objectives, as well as appropriate designs and implementation plans to meet those objectives.

Principle 5. The Board will continue to work with federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties to evaluate and improve the funding process. The Board also will continue to ensure that it funds the highest priority projects with integrity and impartiality and provides accountability to the Legislature and the public to sustain that funding and those investments.

Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Objective 1.A.
Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.

- Strategy 1.A.1. – Evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation and conservation needs.
- Strategy 1.A.2. –Gather and interpret data that inform plans and help the board to provide grant programs that balance investments across a range of activities.
- Strategy 1.A.3. – Coordinate recreation resources information and priorities.

Objective 1.B.
Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

- Strategy 1.B.4. – Provide partners with funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitats.
    - For example, this includes projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species; maintain fully functioning ecosystems; protect unique urban wildlife habitats; and/or protect game and non-game wildlife.
- Strategy 1.B.5. – Provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.
    - For example, this includes projects such as bicycling and walking facilities "close to home"; programs that assist with facility operation and maintenance; facilities most conducive to improved health; outdoor sports facilities; programs that provide improved recreation data; and/or access to nature and natural settings (includes fishing and hunting).
- Strategy 1.B.6. – Help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects.

Goal 2: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Objective 2.A.
Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities

- Strategy 2.A.1. – Evaluate and develop policies and practices to reduce the number of projects not starting or finishing on time.
- Strategy 2.A.2. – Regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs.
- Strategy 2.A.3. – Ensure the work of the Board and staff is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner.

Objective 2.B
Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

- Strategy 2.B.4. – Ensure the Board has time on its agenda to discuss high-level policy issues.
- Strategy 2.B.5. – Implement a Board member and staff feedback process.

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Objective 3.A
Broaden public support and applicant pool for the Board's grant programs.

- Strategy 3.A.1. – Expand the Board's support by developing key partnerships.
- Strategy 3.A.2. – Increase public understanding of project benefits including economic and ecosystem benefits.
- Strategy 3.A.3. – Perform regular assessments to determine the public's priorities for outdoor recreation and conservation funding.
- Strategy 3.A.4 – Advocate for the protection of habitat and recreation through multiple venues.
- Strategy 3.A.5 – Expand reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grant programs.

Key Performance Measures

Goal	Framing Question	Measure
We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.	Is the board creating opportunities for recreation?	Projects funded by type, location
	Is the board protecting natural systems and landscapes?	Acres protected (through acquisition) or restored
	Are we affecting the health of Washingtonians?	Percent of respondents to OFM and statewide recreation surveys reporting participation in active recreation
We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.	Is the evaluation process objective and fair?	Percent of applicants reporting that the evaluation is objective and fair
	Are we managing grants efficiently and reducing project delays?	Agency re-appropriation rate
	How well do we maintain the state's investments?	Percent of grants in compliance {Sustainability measure to be developed with policy)
We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.	Are stakeholders involved in policy development?	Percent of sponsors agreeing with the survey question that "The board considers input before making policy decisions"
	Are we achieving statewide participation in our grant programs?	Number of funded projects by location (e.g., county or other geography)

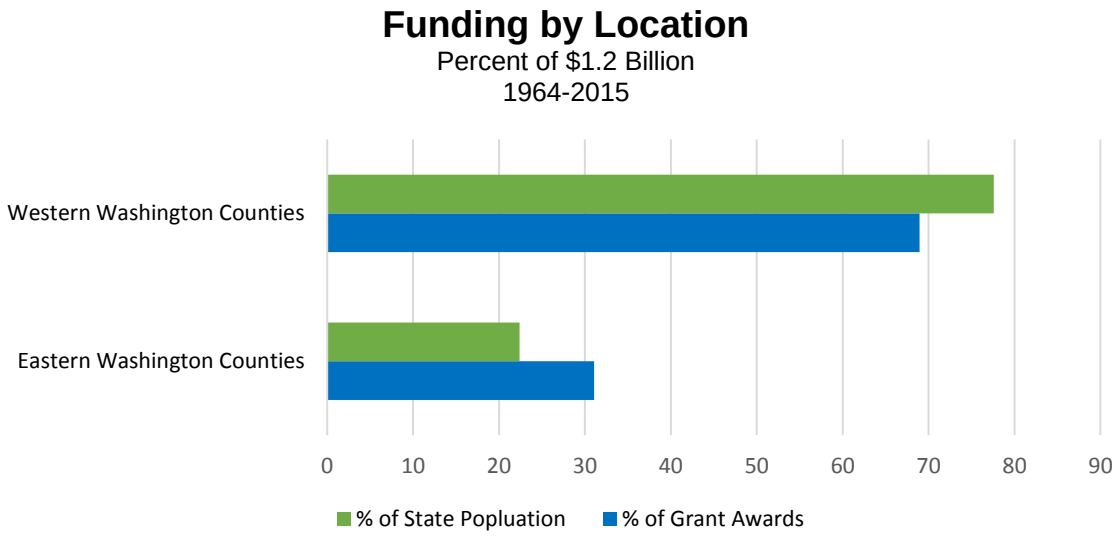
RCFB Strategic Plan Performance Measures

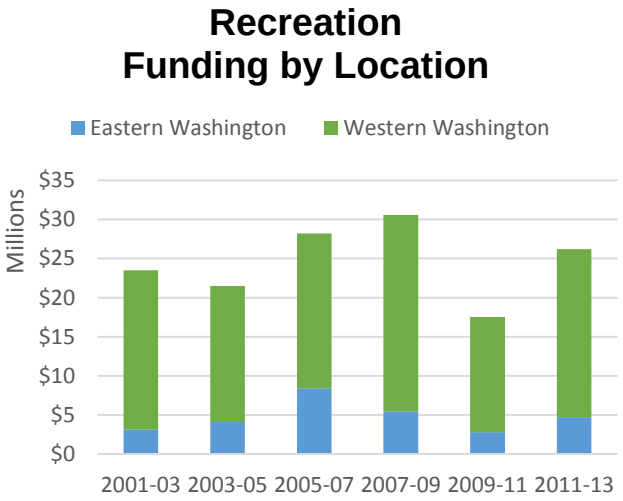
Goal: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation Opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

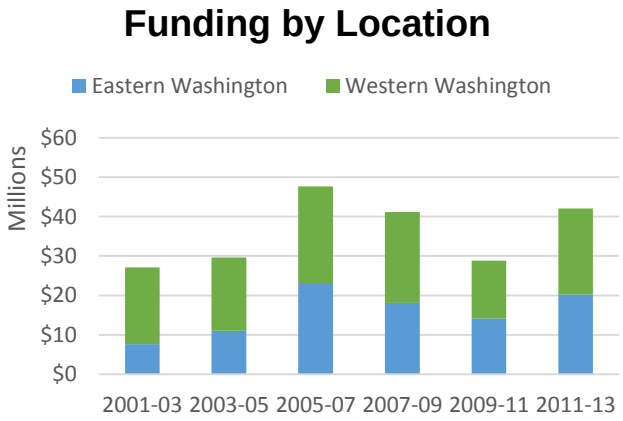
Is the board creating opportunities for recreation?

Measure: Projects Funded by Type and Location

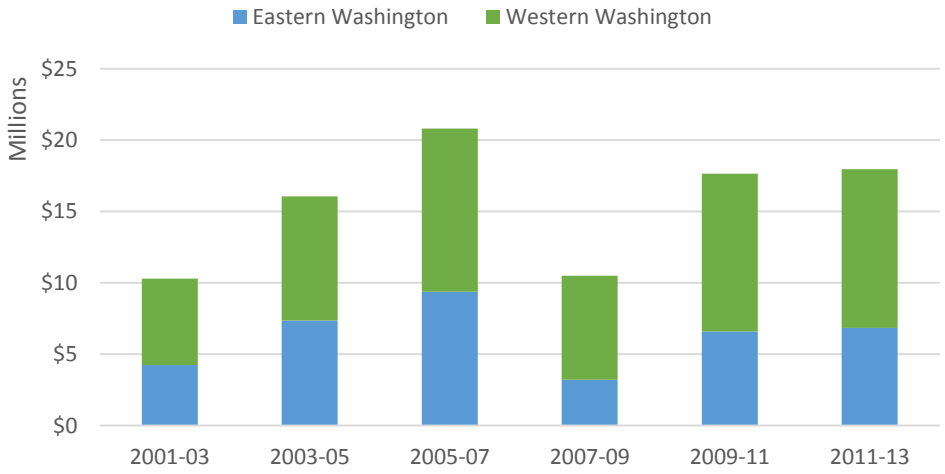
For projects funded by type, see earlier pie chart of "Funding by Theme."



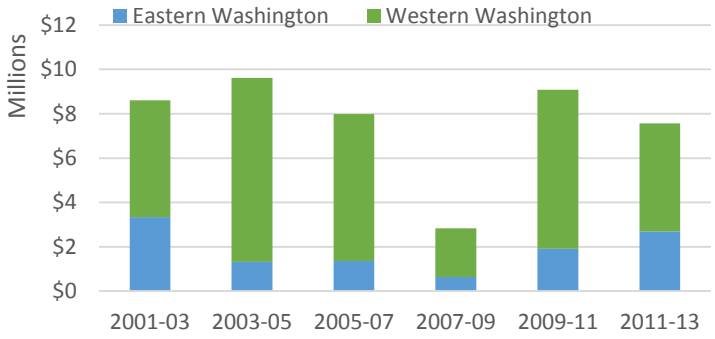




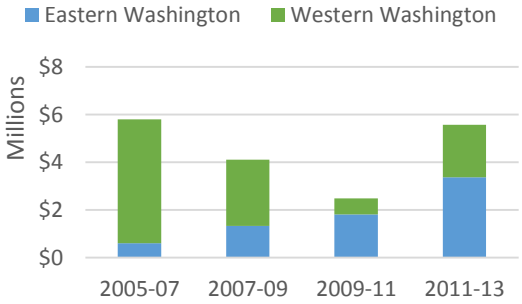
Trail Funding by Location



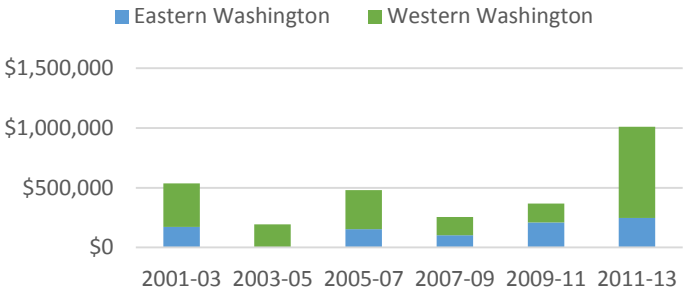
Boating Funding by Location



Farmland Preservation Funding by Location



Shooting Sports Funding by Location

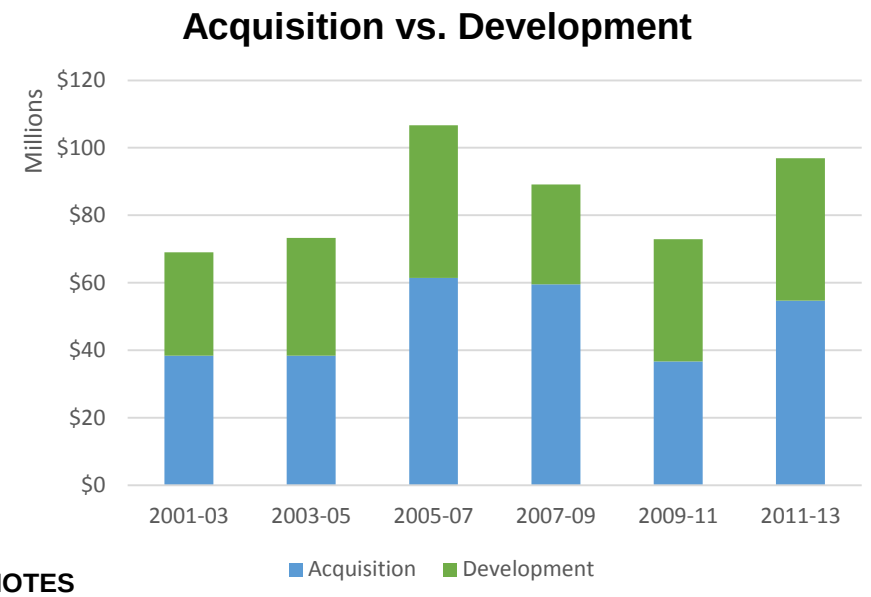


NOTES

- ... Charts do not include statewide projects.
- .... Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.

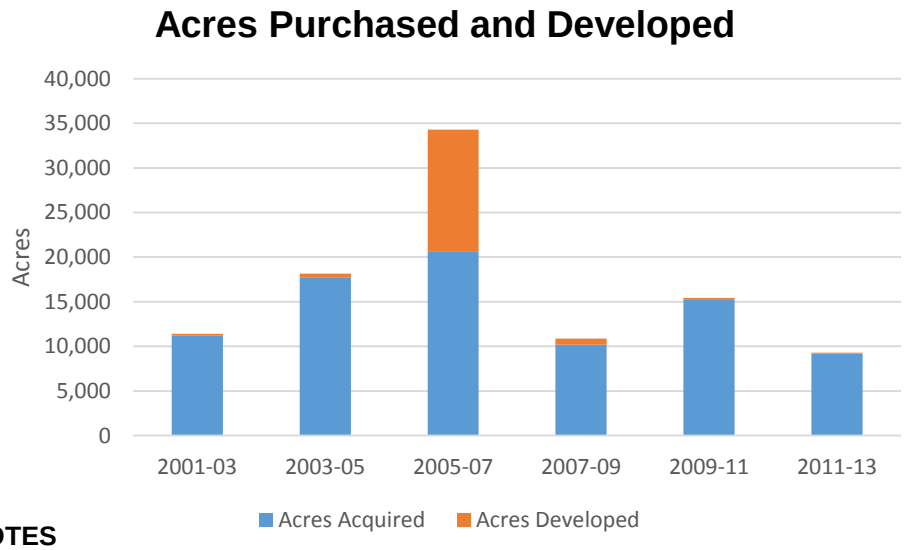
Is the board protecting natural systems and landscapes?

Measure: Areas protected through acquisition or restored.



NOTES

- DEVELOPMENT includes maintenance and restoration projects. These figures do not include planning, education, and operations projects.
- Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.



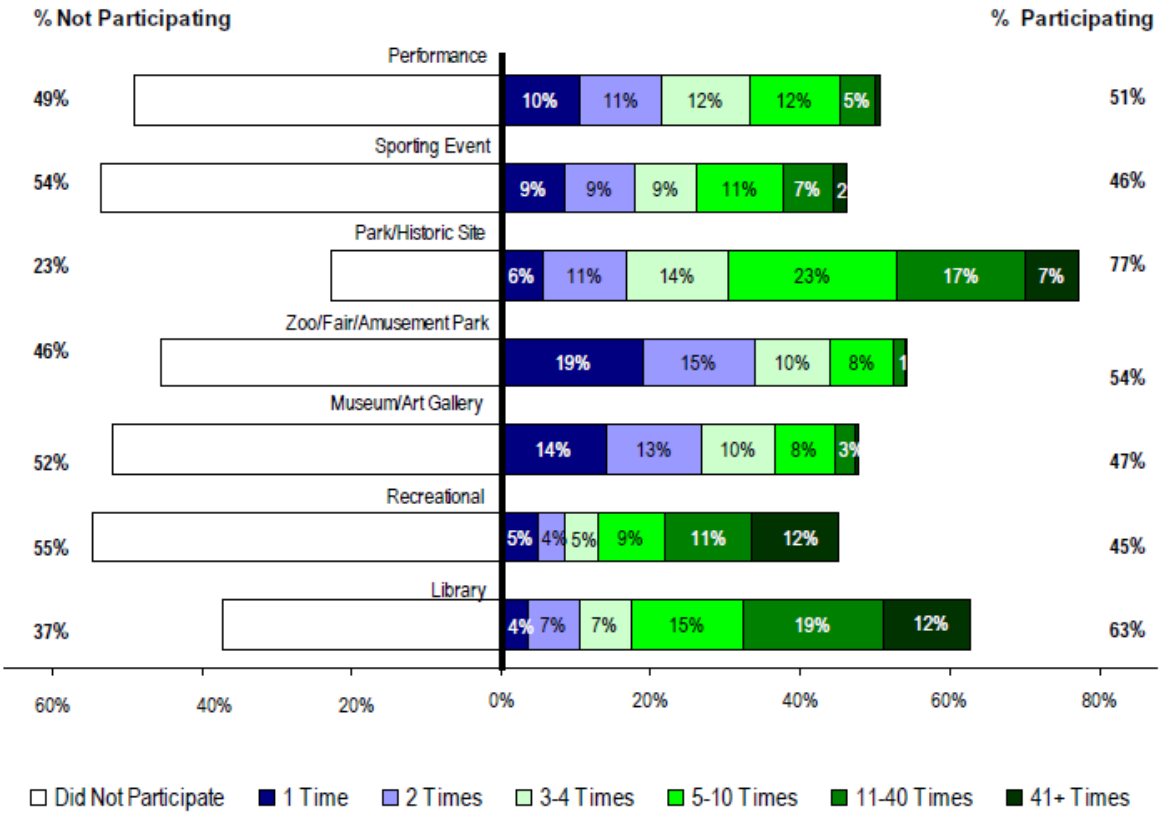
NOTES

- DEVELOPMENT includes maintenance and restoration projects.
- The acres could be duplicated. For example, a sponsor could buy 5 acres and develop them. The 5 acres would show up both as "Acres Acquired" and "Acres Developed."

Are we affecting the health of Washingtonians?

Measure: Percent of respondents to OFM and statewide recreation surveys reporting participation in active recreation.

Figure 1: Frequency of Participation in Various Recreation and Cultural Activities (2008)



NOTE

- *2008 Washington State Population Survey: Participation in Recreation and Culture in Washington State*, Office of Financial Management.

Figure 2: Participation Rates in Recreation and Cultural Activities: 2004-2008

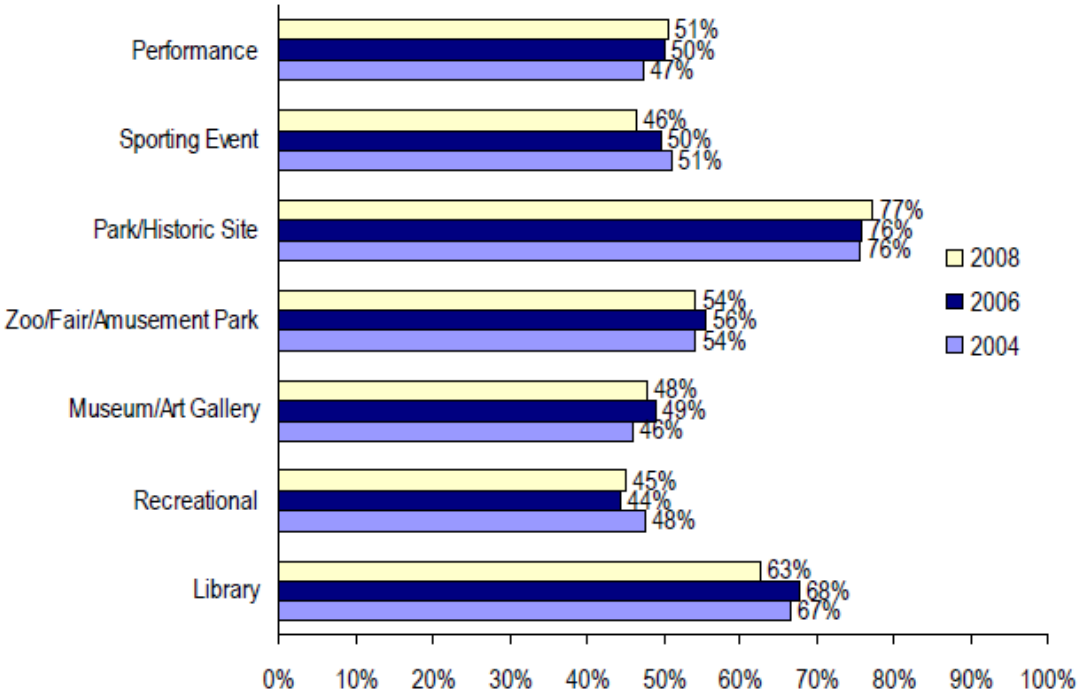


Table 1. Participant Days and Expenditures on All Recreational Land Types (2015)

Land Type	Participant Days ('000s)	Expenditures*** ('000s, 2014 USD)	Per-Person Per-Day Expenditures (2014 USD)
Federal Lands	32,853	$1,323,545	$40
Washington State Lands	49,095	$1,347,192	$27
Public Waters	101,701	$4,630,986	$46
Local Parks	189,915	$1,439,096	$8
Events*	44,516	$1,986,312	$45
Private Lands**	27,946	$1,933,961	$69
Total	***446,027***	***$12,661,092***	

*Events occurring on public lands
**A limited number of private lands were included in this analysis
***Excludes equipment expenditures

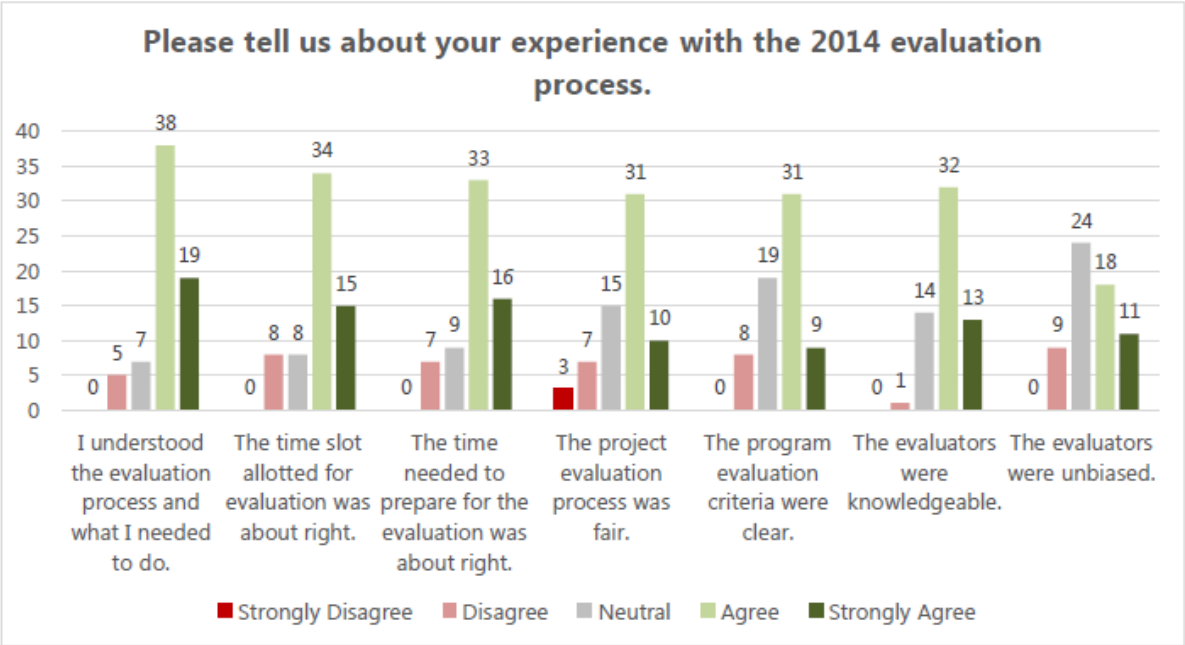
NOTES

- The first chart is from the *2008 Washington State Population Survey: Participation in Recreation and Culture in Washington State*, Office of Financial Management.
- The second chart is from the *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State,* Recreation and Conservation Office, 2015.

Goal: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

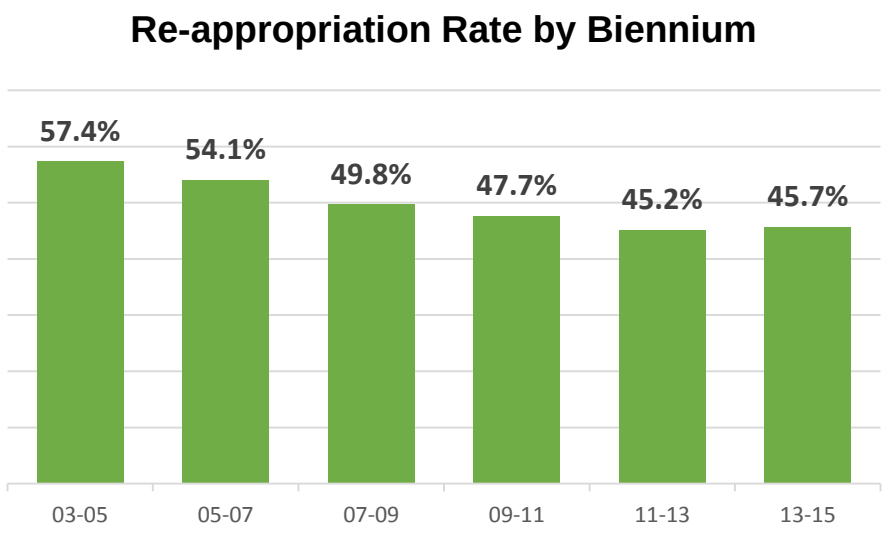
Is the evaluation process objective and fair?

Measure: Percent of applicants reporting that the evaluation is objective and fair



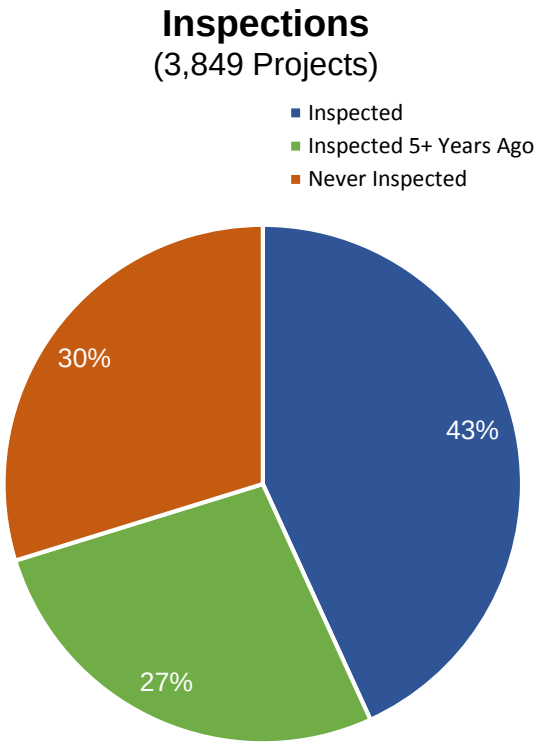
Are we managing grants efficiently and reducing project delays?

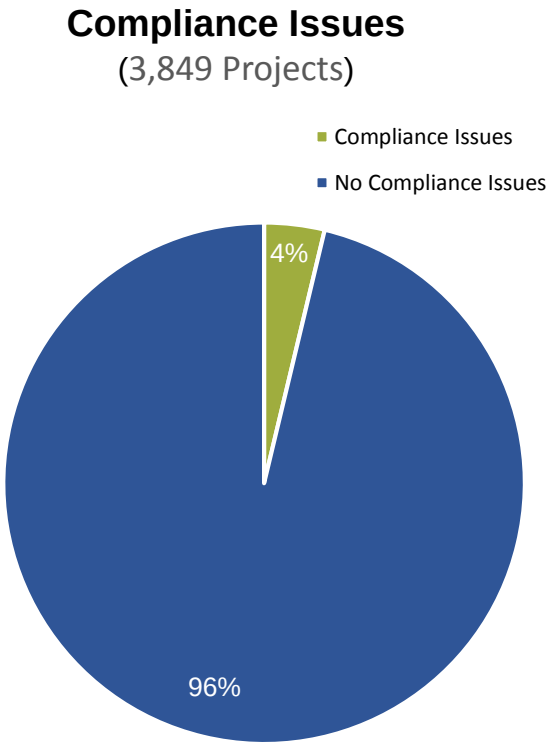
Measure: Agency re-appropriation rate.



How well do we maintain the state's investments?

Measure: Percent of grants in compliance





NOTES

- RCFB managed projects only.
- Acquisition, Development, Restoration, or combination of those projects types only. These are the only projects which we inspect.
- Data includes only completed projects, whether closed or active. Active completed projects are projects that are closed but have been re-opened for a reason, usually a compliance issue.
- Inspections includes interim (done when the projects is being constructed), final (done to ensure the grant recipient purchased what was expected or built what was expected), and compliance inspections (done after a project is closed to ensure it has stayed in recreation or conservation use).

Goal: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Are stakeholders involved in policy development?

Measure: Percent of sponsors agreeing with the survey question that "The Board considers input before making policy decisions."

Board Meeting Date	Topic	Method for Soliciting Public Comment	# of E-mails Sent
January	Washington State Trails Plan	Web site, e-mail	2,400
January	Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Plan	Web site, e-mail	1,200
January	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program Policy changes	Web site, e-mail	3,200
January	Grant programs and criteria policy changes for 2014	Web site, e-mail	3,200
January	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category evaluation process and criteria changes	Web site, e-mail	3,200
April	Recreational Trails Program technical changes to definitions for maintenance and development projects	Board meeting	0
April	NOVA evaluation criteria technical correction for planning grants	Board meeting	0
April	Washington Administrative Code (WAC) rule-making	Web site, e-mail	3,536
April	FARR conversion policies - Follow-up to WAC public hearing	Board meeting	0
July	Technical correction to resolution 2014-06; consent calendar item	Board meeting	0
October	WAC Phase 2 public hearing; notice sent only to WAC notification list	Web site, e-mail	72

Are we achieving statewide participation in our grant programs?

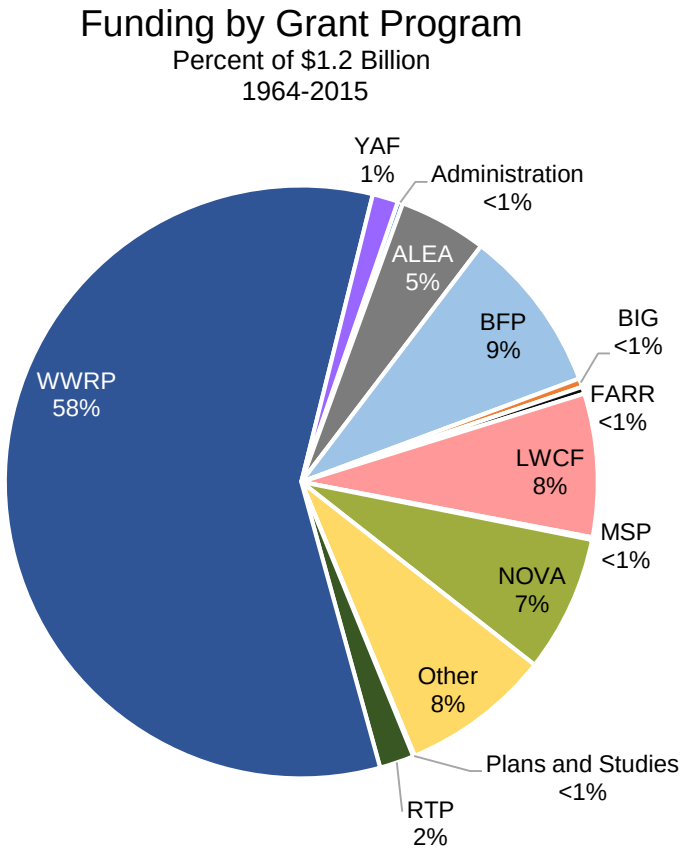
Measurement: Number of funded projects by location.

Please see previous charts on "Funding by Location."

Portfolio and Performance Measures

WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Funding by Grant Program



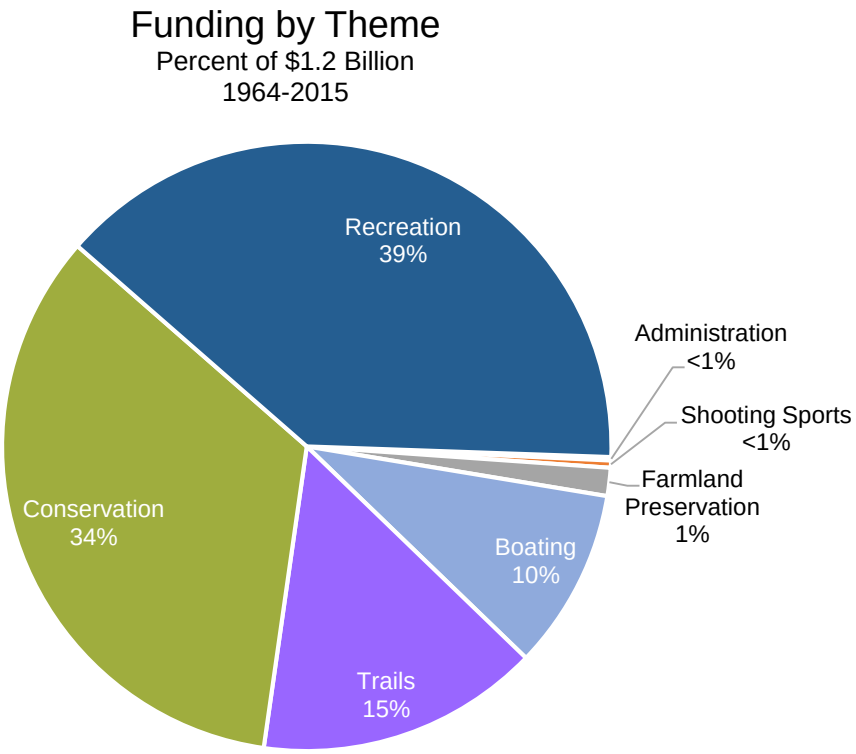
ACRONYMS

ALEA=Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account; **BFP**=Boating Facilities Program; **BIG**=Boating Infrastructure Grant, **FARR**=Firearms and Archery Range Recreation, **LWCF**=Land and Water Conservation Fund, **MSP**=Marine Shoreline Protection, **NOVA**=Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities, **RTP**=Recreational Trails Program, **WWRP**=Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, **YAF**=Youth Athletic Facilities

NOTES

- ADMINISTRATION includes funding for information technology, communications and graphic services, interns, and consultants.
- OTHER includes funding through bonds and federal allocations such as the Housing and Urban Development grants.
- Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.

Funding By Theme

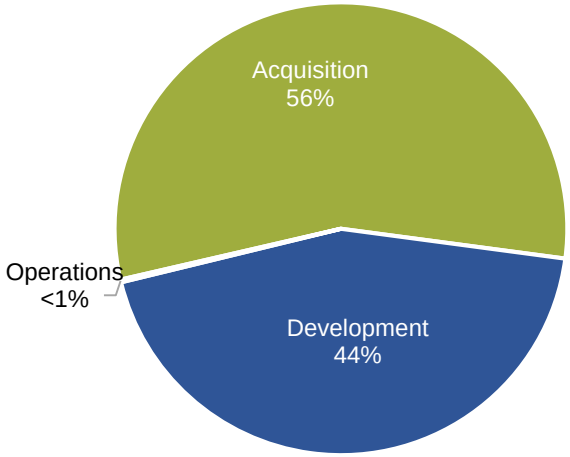


NOTES

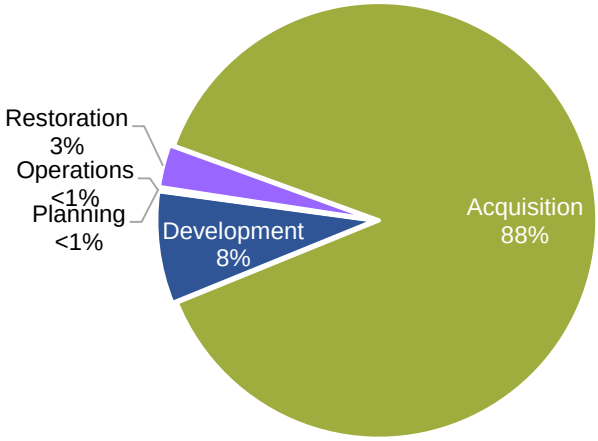
- ADMINISTRATION includes funding for information technology, communications and graphic services, interns, consultants, and agency strategic planning services.
- CONSERVATION includes ALEA.
- Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.

Theme Breakdown

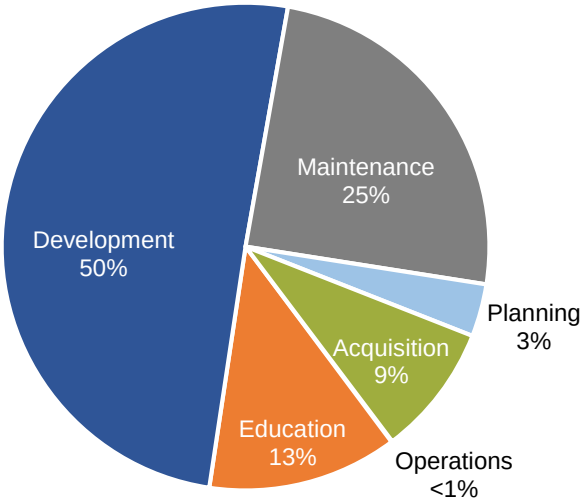
Types of Recreation Projects
Percent of $480 Million
(1964-2015)



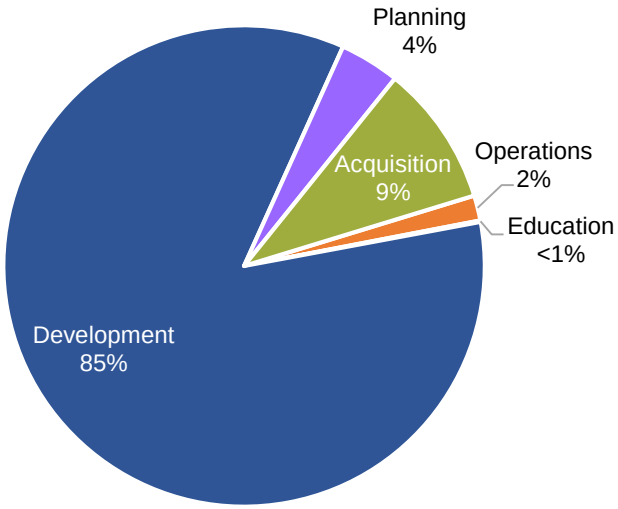
Types of Conservation Projects
Percent of $419 Million
(1964-2015)



Types of Trail Projects
Percent of $184 Million
(1964-2015)



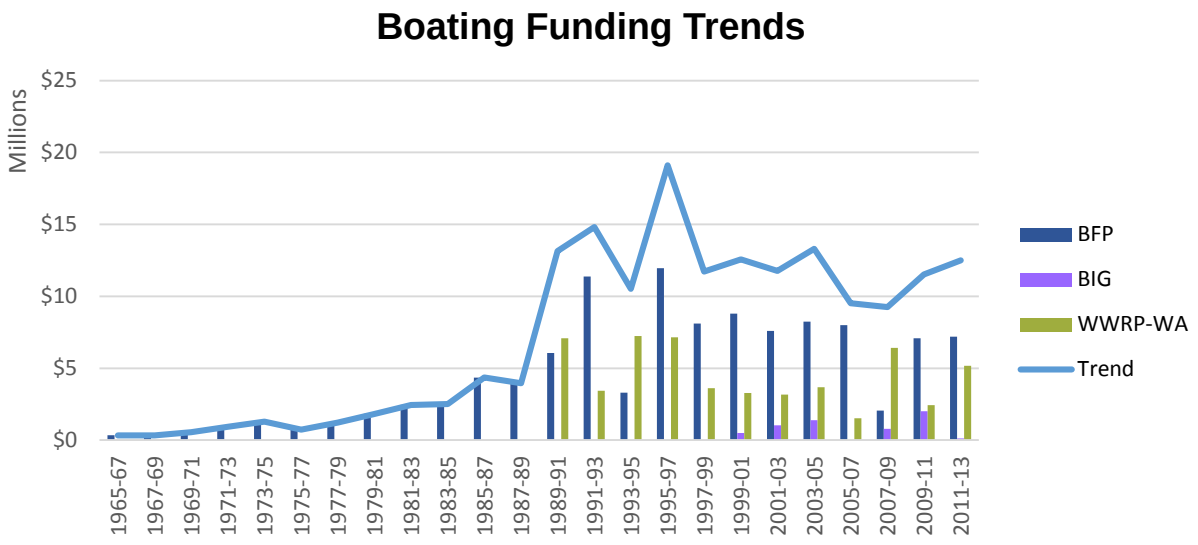
Types of Boating Projects
Percent of $117 Million
(1964-2015)

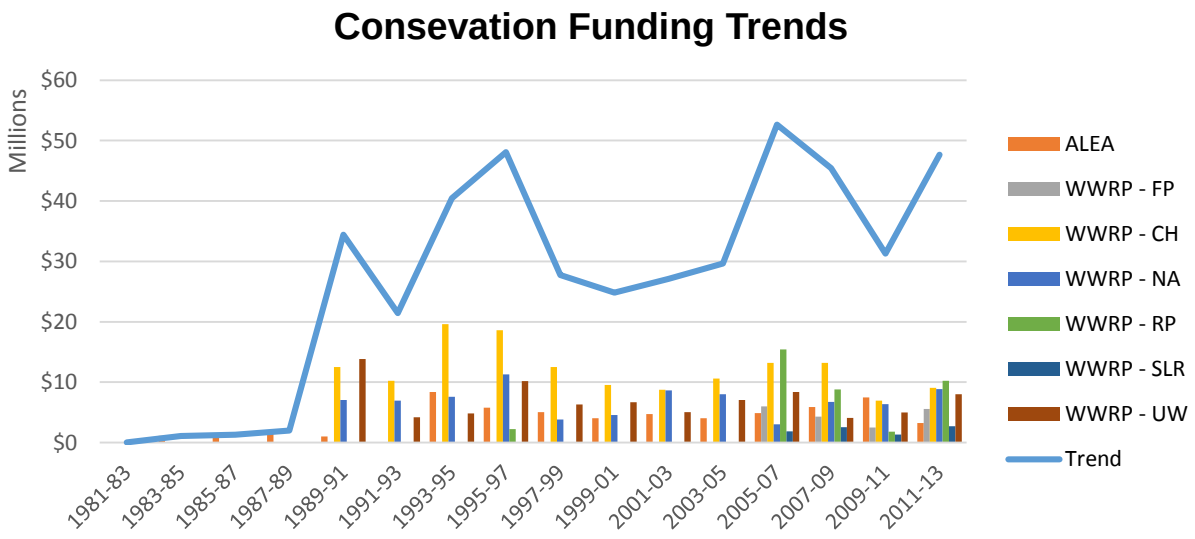


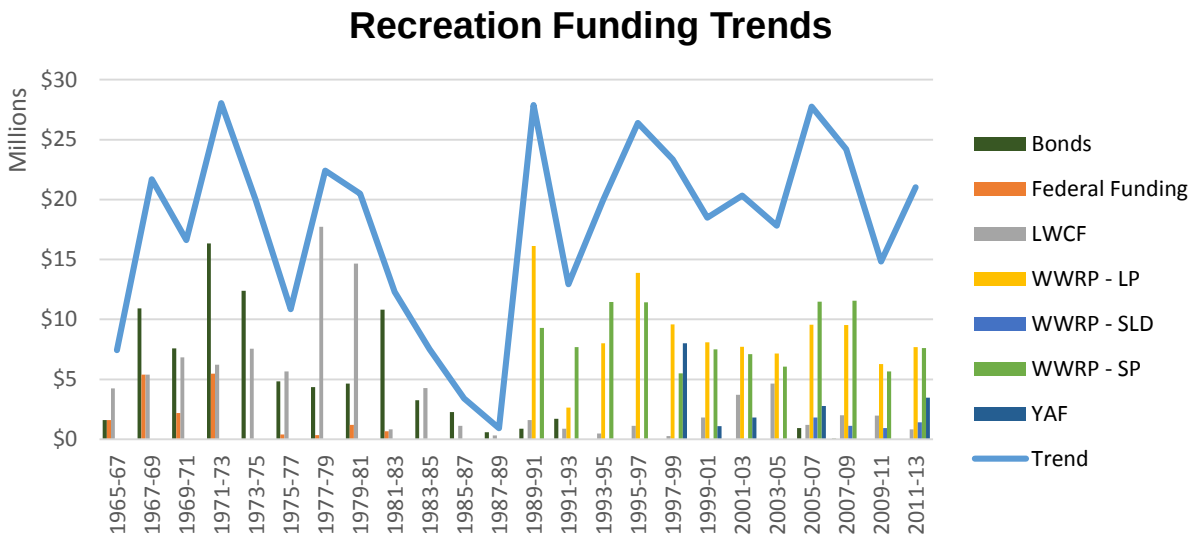
NOTE

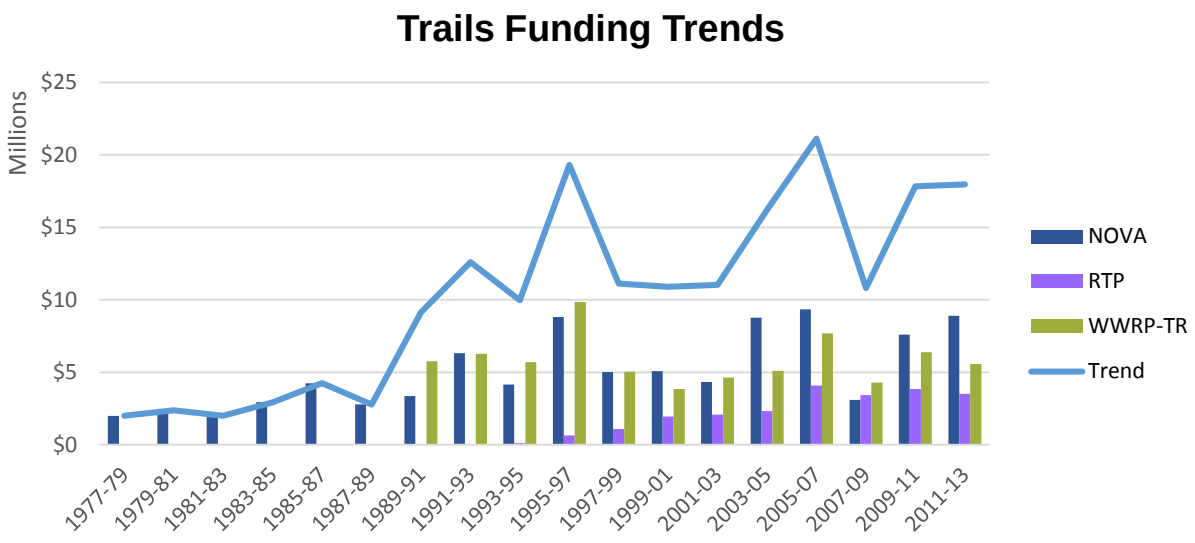
- Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.

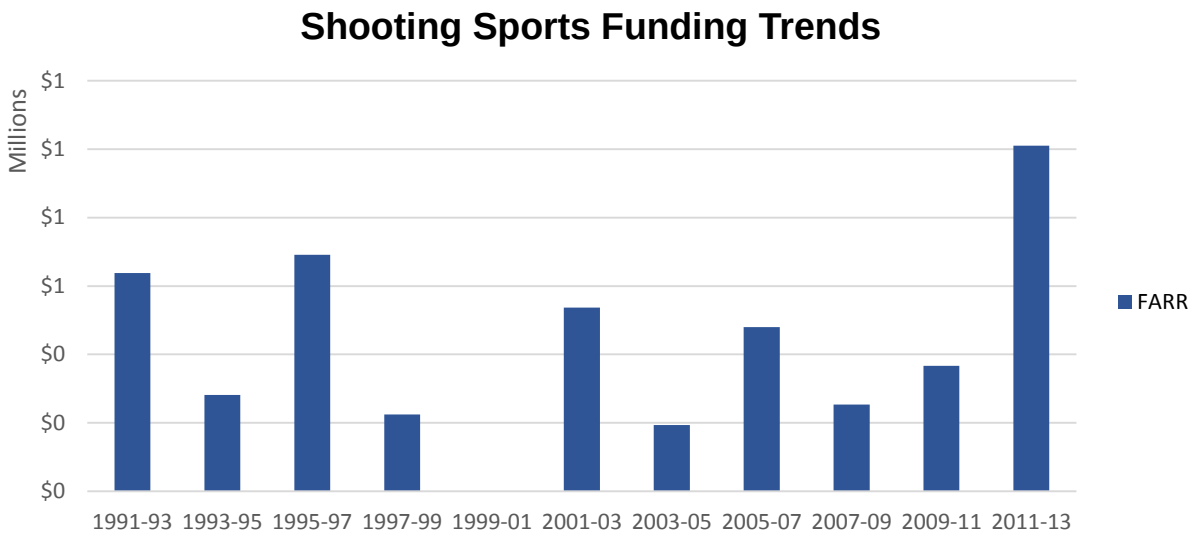
Funding Trends






Recreation Funding Trends
Millions
$30
$25
$20
$15
$10
$5
$0
1965-67
1967-69
1969-71
1971-73
1973-75
1975-77
1977-79
1979-81
1981-83
1983-85
1985-87
1987-89
1989-91
1991-93
1993-95
1995-97
1997-99
1999-01
2001-03
2003-05
2005-07
2007-09
2009-11
2011-13
Bonds
Federal Funding
LWCF
WWRP - LP
WWRP - SLD
WWRP - SP
YAF
Trend


Trails Funding Trends
Millions
$25
$20
$15
$10
$5
$0
1977-79
1979-81
1981-83
1983-85
1985-87
1987-89
1989-91
1991-93
1993-95
1995-97
1997-99
1999-01
2001-03
2003-05
2005-07
2007-09
2009-11
2011-13
NOVA
RTP
WWRP-TR
Trend



ACRONYMS

In WWRP, CH=Critical Habitat, FP=Farmland Preservation, LP-Local Parks, NA=Natural Areas, RP=Riparian Protection, SLD=State Lands Development and Renovation, SLR=State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, SP=State Parks, TR=Trails, WA=Water Access, UW=Urban Wildlife

NOTE

- Funding does not include grant recipient match or RCO's administrative fee.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **15**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Recreation and Conservation Planning Next Steps

Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo presents a proposed work plan and budget for a unifying strategy on recreation needs and the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The strategic plan is due to the National Park Service in December 2017.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

In September, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff briefed the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) about its federal and state planning requirements. See Item 10 of the September board materials for details. At the meeting, the board directed staff to prepare a proposed work plan and budget for a unifying strategy that meets all of the board and RCO planning requirements together. The strategy should include a:

- Unified statewide strategy for meeting the recreational needs of Washington's citizens,[1]
- Strategic plan for the acquisition, renovation, and development of recreational resources and the preservation and conservation of open space,[2]
- Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) as required by the National Park Service in order to be eligible to administer funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund,[3]
- Plan to administer funds from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP),[4]
- State trails plan,[5]
- Nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities (NOVA) plan,[6]
- Priorities for the board's boating grant programs, and
- Strategic plan for community outdoor athletic fields.[7]

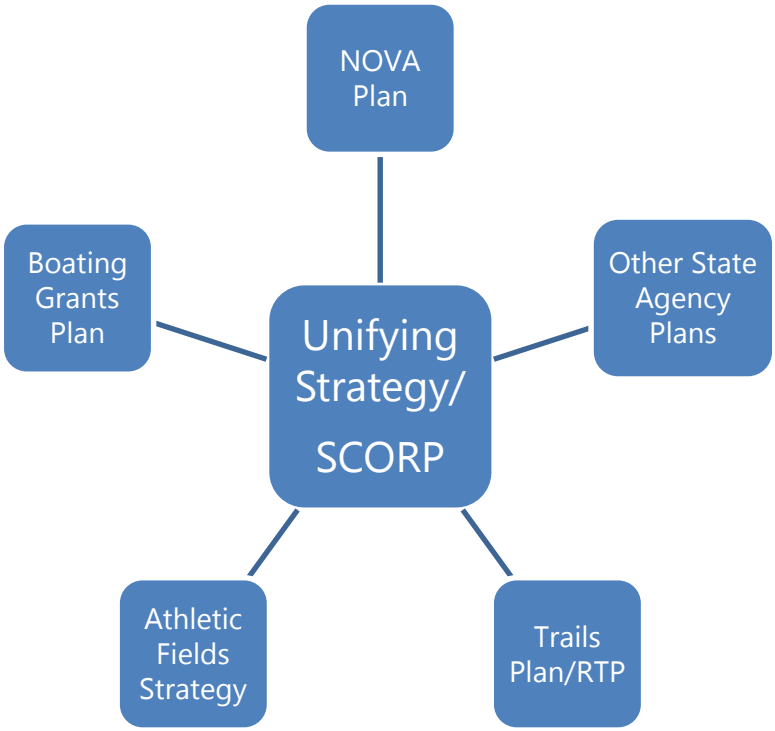
Following is a description of staff's proposal for accomplishing a plan and strategy that includes all of the above elements.

[1] RCW 79A.25.005(1)
[2] RCW 79A.25.020(3)
[3] 16 U.S.C. 460l-4
[4] 23 U.S.C. 206
[5] RCW 79A.35.040
[6] RCW 46.09.370
[7] RCW 79A.25.820

Project Charter

As a first step, staff proposes to create a project charter to explain why the state needs a unifying strategy. It will explain how the planning requirements for SCORP, RTP, NOVA, trails, boating, and athletics fields inform the strategy. Below is a chart of what this might look like.

Conceptual Diagram of a Unifying Strategy



The charter will include the basic elements required in the strategy and the practical sideboards for accomplishing the strategy. It will also include key milestones, the process for approval, and a deadline. The charter will explain the role and responsibilities of RCO and a planning advisory committee in guiding and preparing the strategy and the board's role in providing oversight and approving the strategy.

Planning Advisory Committee

Staff recommends creation of an advisory committee to guide the unifying strategy. The committee would guide scoping, development, review, and implementation. Members may also be in a position to endorse the unifying strategy and help implement it.

The committee should include members with skills and background in:

- Survey methodology, research, and analysis;
- Academics in outdoor recreation and conservation;
- Planning in outdoor recreation and conservation; and
- Providing recreation and conservation ecosystem services from the public and private sectors.

Staff proposes that the RCO director have authority to appoint committee members. The committee should include one citizen member from the board to provide a direct link. Members would have terms

with limits. The committee could convene subcommittees, as appropriate, to focus on specific aspects of the plan such as the resident survey or plan implementation. Staff proposes regular quarterly phone or video conferencing. In-person meetings may be convened once or twice a year to facilitate key discussions. The committee may choose to take a break during the hiatus until the next unifying plan starts up.

Scope of the Unifying Strategy

The scope of the unifying strategy must have key elements of the required plans. At a minimum, state law[8] requires the following elements:

1. An inventory of current resources (an indicator of supply of recreation facilities);
2. A forecast of recreational resource demand;
3. Identification and analysis of actual and potential funding sources;
4. A process for broad scale information gathering;
5. An assessment of the capabilities and constraints, both internal and external to state government, that affect the ability of the state to achieve the goals of the plan;
6. An analysis of strategic options and decisions available to the state;
7. An implementation strategy that is coordinated with executive policy and budget priorities; and
8. Elements necessary to qualify for participation in or the receipt of aid from any federal program for outdoor recreation.

The unifying strategy can also include other resources and data that are important to the state. Staff would consult with the advisory committee on further refining of the unifying strategy's scope.

Data Needs

Key data that would inform the unifying strategy should address supply and demand at a minimum. Potential data sources include:

- Resident survey on participation rates in outdoor recreation activities.
- Provider survey as a qualitative assessment of supply and demand.
- Economic analysis of outdoor recreation activities.
- Public lands inventory.
- Trails inventory.
- Boating facilities inventory.

Other data may be of interest in developing the unifying strategy. The advisory committee would provide guidance on the data needs and the appropriate methodology for collecting it.

Staff proposes soliciting a request for proposals from state colleges and universities to conduct any survey work, summarize key research findings, and prepare a report on the data.

[8] RCW 79A.25.020(3)

The Document

Staff proposes to involve the advisory committee in developing strategies for implementation based on the survey report and findings. The advisory committee would make recommendations to the board and other key implementers. The board and other key implementers would make the final decision on which recommendations to include in the final unifying strategy.

The document should be written by RCO staff. External persons could be asked to conduct a peer review. It should be concise and presented in a simple way with graphics and storyboards. Staff would like to produce the unifying strategy in a Web-based format.

Public Review

A key factor for any public involvement is to identify key points in the process where public involvement can be effective and informative. Staff would consult with the advisory committee on appropriate public involvement opportunities at different stages in the process.

RCO's grant program advisory committee members could also be a resource. The draft unifying strategy and supporting documentation must be available for a minimum 30-day public comment period.

Budget

Staff proposes the following budget to prepare the unifying strategy.

Expense	Cost
Survey, report and findings	$125,000
GIS update of the public lands inventory	$50,000
GIS inventory of recreation facilities	$75,000
0.5 Full-time equivalent staff support	$100,000
Total Expense	$350,000

Funding Source	Amount
National Park Service grant	$125,000
Recreation Resource Account	$50,000
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	$25,000
Youth Athletic Facilities	$30,000
RCO Administration	$120,000
Total Funding	$350,000

Timeline

A rough timeline for meeting the December 2017 deadline is below.

Key Milestone	Deadline
Project charter complete	January 2016
Advisory committee charter complete	February 2016
Advisory committee formed	April 2016
Interlocal agreement with a university or college signed	June 2016
Survey underway	August 2016
Survey, report and findings complete	February 2017
Recommendations and strategies for implementation identified	April 2017
Public review of draft strategic plan	June 2017
Unifying strategy approved by advisory committee and key implementers	August 2017
Unifying strategy approved by board	September 2017
Unifying strategy submitted to Governor's office	November 2017
Unifying strategy submitted to NPS	December 2017

Request for Direction

Staff requests direction from the board on whether to proceed with the proposal as described in this memo or it would like to make changes to this approach. Based on board direction, staff is prepared to begin the process this winter.

Link to Strategic Plan

Producing a unifying strategy addresses Goal 2 in the board's *Strategic Plan*.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Goals:

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. *We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.*
3. We deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **16**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Scoping of Climate Change Policy

Prepared By: Meg O'Leary, Policy Administrator

Summary

This memo summarizes results of the climate change criteria scoping effort requested by board members. It includes examples of different approaches taken by other state and federal agencies, and outlines four scenarios from which the board can choose a path forward.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

Why are we considering this now?

During the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) April 2015 retreat, members reaffirmed their interest in explicitly addressing climate change through the possibility of adding criteria to relevant grant programs. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) included this direction as part of the 2015 agency work plan. The following approach is the agency's first step in understanding how grant program criteria might be modified to mitigate and facilitate adaptive response to the impacts of climate change.

What We're Learning from Our Agency Colleagues

The good news is that there are plenty of examples and data available to support our efforts. Below are examples of how climate change policy and criteria are implemented at the national and state levels.

National Park Service | Climate Change Action Plan 2012-2014

"The National Park Service (NPS) Climate Change Coordinating Group identified the following criteria to select high-priority no-regrets actions from the many potential actions that could be taken. The term no regrets signifies actions that can be initiated now and are beneficial regardless of how future conditions unfold; their benefits generally equal or exceed their costs. High priority climate change actions:

- Embed knowledge about climate change and how to address it within all parts of the organization such that we come to understand it as a routine part of doing business.
- Work within the limits of existing staff and funding to achieve results.
- Result in multiplier effects that create momentum to benefit parks and society beyond the initial action and investment.
- Deliver a unique contribution to the climate change arena.
- Leverage selective partnerships and collaborations."

University of Washington Climate Impacts Group | Time of Emergence Tool

The University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (UW CIG) is refining an online tool that helps planners calculate risk tolerance and vulnerability in their response to climate change. The tool is designed to answer the basic questions of: when and where could climate change matter across the Pacific Northwest? For details, see: www.eopugetsound.org/articles/online-resource-identifies-time-emergence-puget-sound-climate-impacts

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP)

- **California 2008 SCORP:** California's 2015 SCORP does not explicitly address climate change, though the 2008 plan states, "Californians think park and recreation agencies should address climate change by education, reducing greenhouse gases, and management actions to mitigate the impacts. They agree that doing nothing is not an option. Therefore, agencies providing park resources and recreation should play a proactive role in education and mitigating the impacts of global climate change." For details, see: www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/2009-2014%20corp.pdf
- **Colorado 2014 SCORP:** "*Objective 4*: Continue efforts to prepare for and mitigate the impacts on Colorado's natural resources from natural and anthropogenic causes. *Supporting Action 1*: Incorporate mitigation of and adaptation to climate change into agency strategic and operational planning processes. Design standards should anticipate expected future conditions, such as recurring natural disasters." For details, see: http://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Trails/SCORP/SCORPOnlineReport.pdf
- **Washington 2013 SCORP:** Recommends applicants use NPS' *Green Parks Plan* and RCO's *Planning for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space* to guide sustainability efforts, including climate change. For details, see: www.nps.gov/articles/green-parks-plan.htm www.commerce.wa.gov/Documents/GMS-Planning-for-Parks-Recreation-Open-Space.pdf

Washington State Department of Ecology | Integrated Climate Response Strategy

Preparing for a Changing Climate—Washington State's Integrated Climate Response Strategy, 2012 includes state-specific climate change trends, projections, risks, and recommended adaptation strategies and actions that board members could apply to RCFB grant programs. Examples include: enhancing opportunities for habitat connectivity and migration; defining priorities for land management in areas important to biodiversity to emphasize resilience to fire; and developing criteria and guidance to consider impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

- **State Wildlife Action Plan:** Chapter 5, *"Climate Change Vulnerability of Species and Habitats in Washington"* and appendix material could help the RCFB explore what grant related decisions are sensitive to climate. For details, see: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/cwcs/
- **Lands 20/20** is WDFW's internal process for developing and screening applications for acquisition projects. In 2014, the agency began integrating climate change by requiring climate assessments in the applications. The criteria are still being refined.

Staff Recommendation

Scenarios to Consider

To address climate change in RCO grant programs, staff proposes four approaches for board consideration:

A. **RCFB+SRFB Subcommittee:** Consists of two representatives from each board who report back to their full membership at each quarterly meeting. Subcommittee selects at least one grant program for a pilot project. The joint board representation could greatly increase the scope and scale of the policy changes, effectively amplifying impact and setting a precedent for similar efforts statewide. (Note: this is not currently on the SRFB's work plan for the biennium, although they are currently in the process of revising their strategic plan and work plan).

B. **RCFB Subcommittee:** Consists of three to four members who report back to the full board at each quarterly meeting. Subcommittee selects at least one grant program for a pilot project.

C. **RCFB Full Board Work Sessions:** Sessions held quarterly, prior to each board meeting. Members select at least one grant program for a pilot project.

D. **RCO Staff Lead:** Staff develop proposed climate change criteria and an implementation plan for board review and approval. This would likely be the most efficient approach.

Sample Rollout Schedule

2016	
Winter	• Work Session / Subcommittee: Redefine goals and establish timeline • RCFB meeting: Approve goals, approach and timeline
Spring	• Work Session / Subcommittee: Identify possible criteria and grant program(s) for pilot • RCFB meeting: Discuss possible criteria and proposed pilot project(s)
Summer	• Work Session / Subcommittee: Refine criteria, pilot candidates, strategy and timeline • RCFB meeting: Refine criteria and discuss pilot project candidates
Fall	• Work Session / Subcommittee: Refine pilot project strategy and timeline • RCFB meeting: Approve criteria and pilot project(s)

2017 to 2019	
2017	• Prep pilot project(s) for launch
2018	• Run pilot project(s)
2019	• Update grant manuals, implement new criteria, evaluate and refine

Request for Direction

Staff seeks direction on the following actions:

- Redefine the problem statement and goals for incorporating climate change into the board's grant programs.
- Choose an approach and discuss the timeline.
- Consider how best to structure public comment.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **17B**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Conversion Request: Vancouver Water Works Park (RCO #84-9015D)

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary

The City of Vancouver is requesting that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approve the conversion of 7.5 acres at Waterworks Park. The park is located within the city's drinking water facility, Water Station #1. This partial conversion of the park is being caused by infrastructure and security upgrades to the drinking water facility.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2015-25

Purpose of Resolution: Approve or deny the conversion.

Board's Role in Conversions

The role of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) is to approve or deny a conversion, if the site was funded with state funds. The role of the board for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conversion is to decide whether to recommend approval of a conversion to the National Park Service (NPS). The board approves or recommends approval of a conversion if it is satisfied with the following:

- the alternatives considered for the converted property, including avoidance;
- the alternatives considered for the replacement property;
- the reasonable equivalency of the replacement property in terms of utility and location; and
- the opportunity for public participation.

For a LWCF conversion, the NPS has the legal responsibility to make the final decision of whether or not to approve the conversion.

Under current policy, the board does not have the ability to accept other types of mitigation, levy additional penalties, or dictate the future use of the property being converted.

Project Summary and Background Information

At the board's June 25, 2015 meeting, staff provided a briefing on the proposed conversion and replacement.

In 1984, the City of Vancouver used a combination of state bonds and LWCF funding totaling $141,760.86 to develop the first phase of the Waterworks Park, located east of I-5 and northeast of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (Attachment A). Park development included a play area, playground, an amphitheater, and a restroom.

The park occupies 13.5 acres within the city's 25-acre water utility site, Water Station #1 (Attachment B). Water Station #1 was purchased in 1937 and is the city's main water production facility. The utility site was opened to recreational use in the 1980s and since that time Waterworks Park has served as a community park.

In 2005-2006, the city prepared a master plan for Water Station #1 that identified necessary expansion and improvements to the utility. The city has a multi-year plan to replace aging equipment and infrastructure and has begun underground upgrades. Utility improvements that will impact the park are planned for later this year. The improvements include construction of a new reservoir and installation of permanent security fencing that will close public access to part of the park. The security upgrades are a result of vulnerability assessments conducted by the city in order to comply with the 2002 Bioterrorism Preparedness bill that amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring water systems to assess risks.

Proposed Conversion

A portion of the park totaling 7.5 acres will be converted as a result of the planned improvements to Water Station #1 (Attachment B). The conversion area includes the amphitheater and a section of pathways. The remainder of the park, which includes pathways, lawn/play area, a skate park, and parking will remain open to the public.

Alternatives Considered for Conversion

Not to Convert

Improvements to Water Station #1 were determined to be necessary to ensure water system reliability and compliance with federal security and seismic standards. Avoidance was not considered a reasonable alternative due to the deterioration of the utility infrastructure and required compliance with federal standards for municipal water sources.

The city determined that moving or replacing the water production facilities to another site would be prohibitively expensive.

Convert

Purchased with dedicated utility funding, Water Station #1 is the city's largest well-field and most important water supply. Its primary purpose is, and remains as, serving as part of the city's public water supply. The area identified for the new reservoir is located near the current location of the amphitheater. The site was chosen to include in the conversion area because Vancouver's water system is gravity-based and that is the last location within the boundary of Water Station #1 that meets the elevation requirements for a new reservoir.

Alternatives Considered for Replacement Property

The city considered several sites as potential replacement property with the Shaffer property selected as the preferred replacement.

Proposed Replacement Property

The proposed replacement is a 10.08 acre property, known as Shaffer Park. The city acquired the property under a Waiver of Retroactivity to retain its eligibility as future replacement for a conversion. The replacement property is located four miles from Waterworks Park in the northeastern part of the city's urban growth area (Attachment C). The property is in a service area (park district) identified as deficit in community parks in the city's 2014 adopted comprehensive park and recreation plan.

The replacement property includes mature trees and open grassy areas in an area characterized with medium to high-density residential development (Attachment D). Although undeveloped, the city installed boundary fencing and a gate and future plans include development for passive recreation. Improvements will include soft surface trails and benches.

Equivalent Value

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

	Conversion Property	**Replacement Property**	**Difference**
Market Value	$1,316,667	$1,886,000	+$569,333
Acres	7.5 Acres	10.08 Acres	+2.58 Acres

Equivalent Utility

Much of the conversion area offers passive recreation, such as walking. The park facilities that support active recreation, such as the playfield, remain open and available for public use. The amphitheater was programmed for events until 2002 when newer venues became available at Marshall Park, located 0.4 miles away, and at Esther Short Park, located 1.4 miles away in downtown Vancouver.

The proposed replacement property will provide opportunities for passive recreation, including soft surface trails and benches. Full site development, e.g., pathways and a picnic and play area, would occur following annexation (as the property is currently 400 feet outside the city limits) and as funding becomes available.

Opportunity for Public Participation

The city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was briefed in December 2014 on the proposed conversion and replacement and are supportive of the proposal. City staff conducted neighborhood association meetings in 2014 in the Waterworks Park area and the Shaffer replacement area on the proposed conversion and replacement.

The public had an opportunity to comment on the proposed replacement as mitigation for the conversion at Waterworks Park at meetings of the Vancouver City Council and the Clark County Board of County Councilors in November 2014.

The city published a public notice on October 15, 2015 in the local newspaper, the Columbian. The public notice included a link to the environmental assessment and determination of non-significance. The public comment period ends on November 16, 2015.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will update the board on the public comments received at the November meeting.

Conversion Policy Requirements Met

RCO staff review the sponsor's conversion documentation and verify that all requirements are met. At the time of this memorandum preparation, the public comment period was underway and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act was nearly complete. The remaining requirements have been met.

Complete:

- √ Replacement at equivalent value
- √ Administered by same project sponsor
- √ Fulfill a need in SCORP and the project sponsor's adopted plan
- √ Eligible as a project in the respective grant programs

In-progress:

- Public opportunity to comment
- Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act

Next Steps

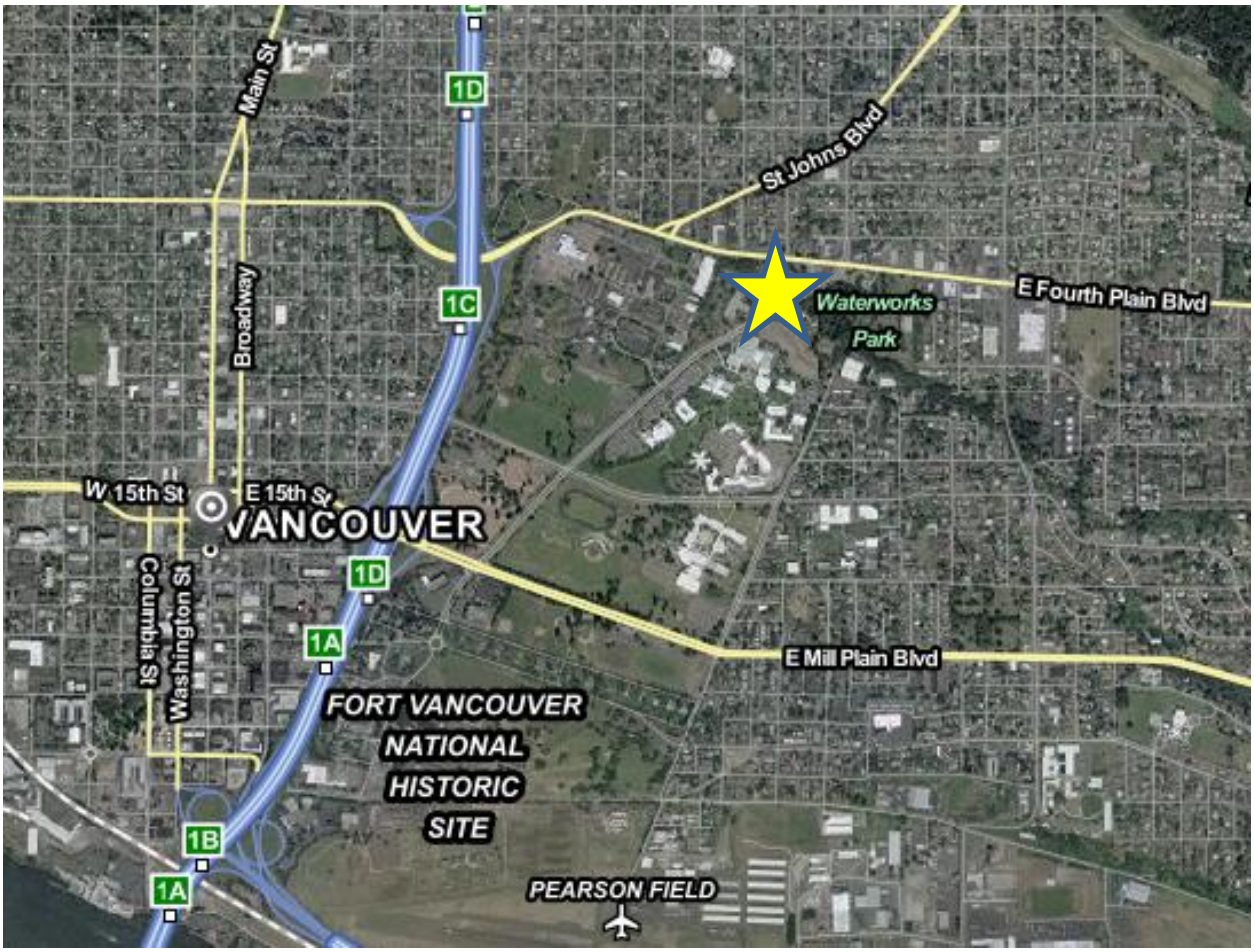
If the board chooses to recommend approval of the conversion, RCO staff will prepare the required federal documentation and transmit that recommendation to the National Park Service (NPS). Pending NPS approval, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the project agreement, as directed.

Supporting Documentation

A. Waterworks Park Location Map
B. Waterworks Park Boundary and Conversion Area: Map and Site Photos
C. Proposed Replacement Property: Location Map and Aerial
D. Proposed Replacement Property: Site Photos
E. Resolution 2015-25

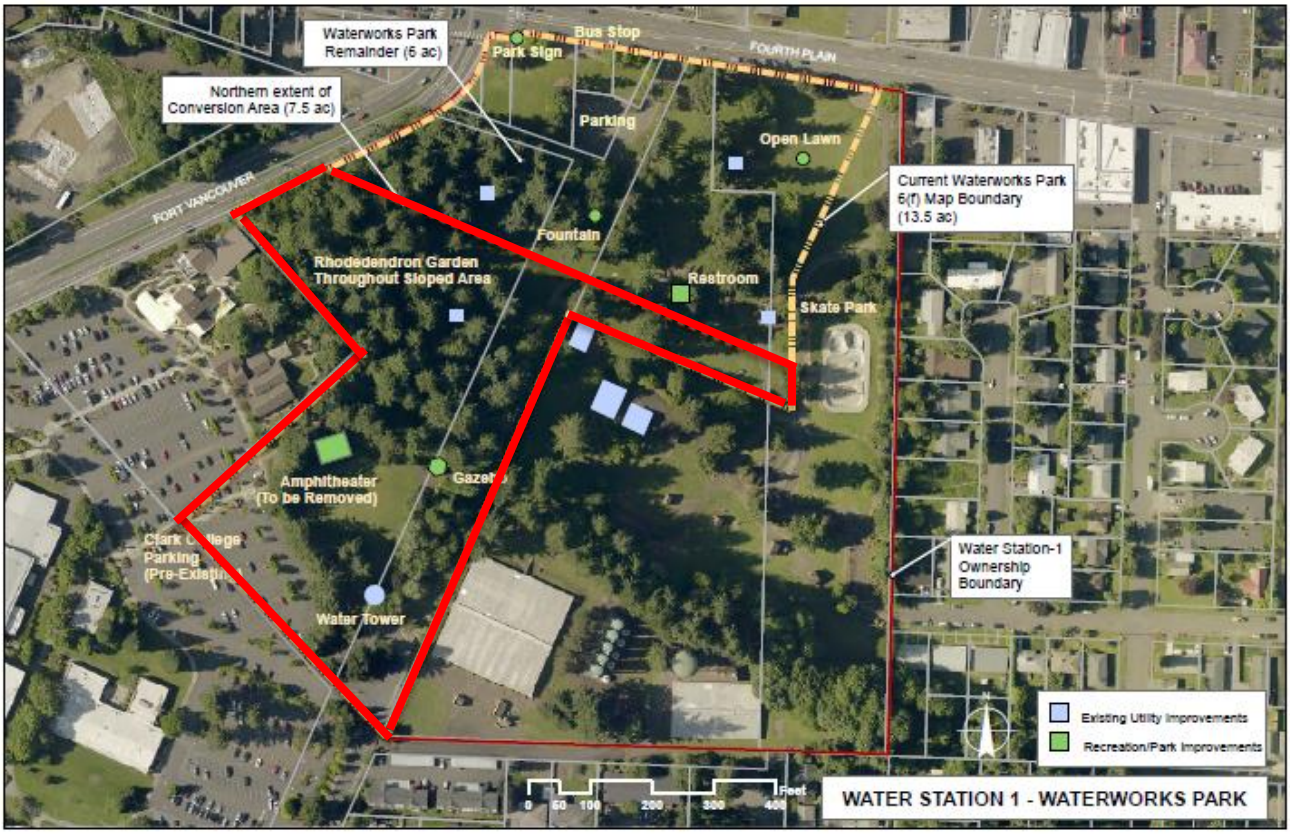
Waterworks Park Location Map

City of Vancouver, Waterworks Park, RCO #84-9015D

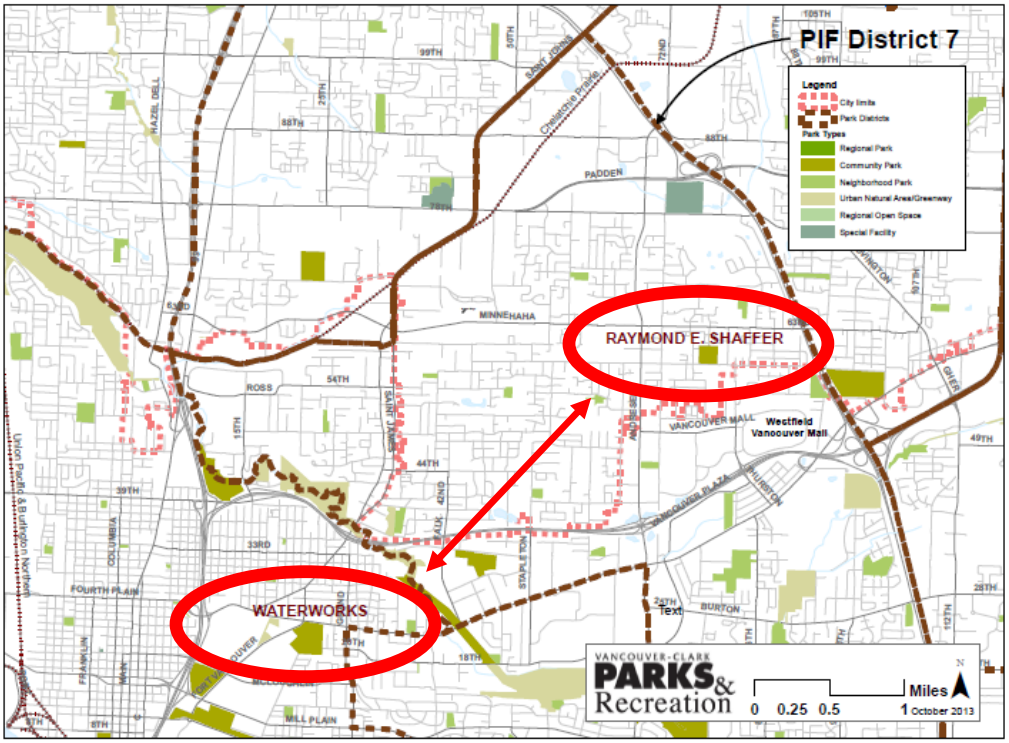


Waterworks Park Boundary and Conversion Area: Map and Site Photos

(Conversion Area outlined in red)



Proposed Replacement Property: Location Map and Aerial Photo



Proposed Replacement Property: Site Photos

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2015-25
Conversion Request: Vancouver Waterworks Park (RCO #84-9015D)

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver used a grant from state bonds and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to develop the Waterworks Park; and

WHEREAS, the water utility and security improvements to Water Station #1 will convert of a portion of the property; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conversion, a portion of the property no longer satisfies the conditions of the RCO grant; and

WHEREAS, the city is asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval to replace the converted property with property purchased under a waiver of retroactivity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement property is in close proximity to the conversion site, has an appraised value that is greater than the conversion site, and has greater acreage than the conversion sites; and

WHEREAS, the site will provide opportunities that closely match those displaced by the conversion and will expand the city's park system in an area that had been identified in its comprehensive plan as needing additional recreation opportunities, thereby supporting the board's goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the conversion request and the proposed replacement site for RCO Project #84-9015D as presented to the board, contingent upon completion of conversion policy requirements for complying with the National Historic Preservation Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board hereby authorizes the RCO director to give interim approval for the property acquired with LWCF funds and forward the conversion to the National Park Service (NPS) for final approval.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **17C**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Conversion Request: Mountlake Terrace Jack Long Park (RCO #68-096A, #68-099D)

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary

The City of Mountlake Terrace is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the conversion of 0.54 acres at Jack Long Park. The conversion is due to the installation of wireless equipment platforms and a radio tower.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2015-26

Purpose of Resolution: Approve or deny the conversion.

Board's Role in Conversions

The role of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) is to approve or deny a conversion, if the site was funded with state funds. The role of the board for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conversion is to decide whether to recommend approval of a conversion to the National Park Service (NPS). The board approves or recommends approval of a conversion if it is satisfied with the following:

- the alternatives considered for the converted property, including avoidance;
- the alternatives considered for the replacement property;
- the reasonable equivalency of the replacement property in terms of utility and location; and
- the opportunity for public participation.

For a LWCF conversion, the NPS has the legal responsibility to make the final decision of whether or not to approve the conversion.

Under current policy the board does not have the ability to accept other types of mitigation, levy additional penalties, or dictate the future use of the property being converted.

Project Summary and Background Information

Staff provided a briefing on the proposed conversion and replacement at the board's April 16, 2014, meeting.

Jack Long Park is located east of I-5 in the northern section of the City of Mountlake Terrace (Attachment A). A portion of the site serves as the city's water supply storage area since it was deeded to the city from the Alderwood Water District in 1959. There are three water towers located onsite. The park is bordered by residential housing and an elementary school.

In 1968, the city used $6,000 from a state bonds grant to acquire 1.19 acres adjacent to city-owned property and a $4,500 LWCF grant to develop the site into a new neighborhood park (Attachment B).

Development included installation of a play structure, a fountain, benches, and a trail. The play structure and fountain were amended out due to obsolescence. The park currently offers a climbing rock, horseshoe pits, picnic tables, benches, and a pathway.

The city's existing (and planned) water towers were identified in the grant materials and as such do not trigger a conversion.

Proposed Conversion

The conversion at Jack Long Park is caused by the installation of wireless equipment platforms and installation of a county radio tower and equipment building.

In 1998, the city installed the wireless equipment platforms within a fenced area that encompasses the water towers. While siting cell phone equipment on the ground triggers a conversion, the placement of antennas on the water towers does not.

In 2002, the city constructed an emergency radio system communications facility that serves as the county's emergency radio system. The conversion displaces a portion of open space/play area at the park (Attachment C).

Alternatives Considered for Conversion

Not to Convert

The alternatives to conversion were to remove and relocate the wireless equipment platforms and radio tower infrastructure from its existing location or take no action. Neither alternative was considered feasible.

The "no action" option would lead to an unresolved conversion.

Convert

The conversion has occurred and the city is seeking to resolve and mitigate it at this time.

Alternatives Considered for Replacement Property

The city considered other sites as potential replacement property with the Harms property selected as the preferred replacement.

Proposed Replacement Property

The proposed replacement is a 3.02 acre property. The city acquired the property under a Waiver of Retroactivity to retain its eligibility as future replacement for a conversion. The replacement property is located approximately one half-mile from Jack Long Park; it lies adjacent to Terrace Creek Park and the city's Recreation Pavilion. Terrace Creek Park is the city's largest park and offers hiking trails, playground, gazebo, picnic areas, and an 18-hole disc golf course. The park provides the southern access point into the Lyon Creek Greenway.

The replacement property is accessed from 228th Street SW and is irregular-shaped with portions adjacent to Lyon Creek. The property is sloped and is covered with second and third-growth trees and understory.

Equivalent Value

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

	Conversion Property	**Replacement Property**	**Difference**
Market Value	$205,000	$205,000	0
Acres	0.54 Acre	3.02 Acres	+2.48 Acres

Equivalent Utility

The Jack Long Park serves as a neighborhood park and will continue to function as such. The replacement property will expand Terrace Creek Park, the city's largest park at 60 acres.

The replacement property will be developed as an access point and trail into the central portion of Terrace Creek Park and will serve as open space and habitat.

Opportunity for Public Participation

The city's Recreation Parks Advisory Commission and the City Council were briefed on the proposed conversion and replacement at their respective meetings on October 13 and October 19, 2015; both expressed support for the proposal.

The city published a public notice on October 12, 2015 in the local newspaper, the Everett Daily Herald. The public notice included information on where to obtain the environmental assessment for review. Public notices were posted at the Mountlake Police Station, City Hall, the Recreation Pavilion, the city's Operations Facility, and the Mountlake Terrace Library. The public comment period ends on November 12, 2015.

Staff will update the board on the public comments received at the November meeting.

Conversion Policy Requirements Met

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff review the sponsor's conversion documentation and verify that all requirements are met. At the time of this memorandum preparation, the public comment period is underway, as is completing compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act. The requirements include:

Complete:

- √ Replacement at equivalent value
- √ Administered by same project sponsor
- √ Fulfill a need in SCORP and the project sponsor's adopted plan
- √ Eligible as a project in the respective grant programs

In-progress:

- Public opportunity to comment
- Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act

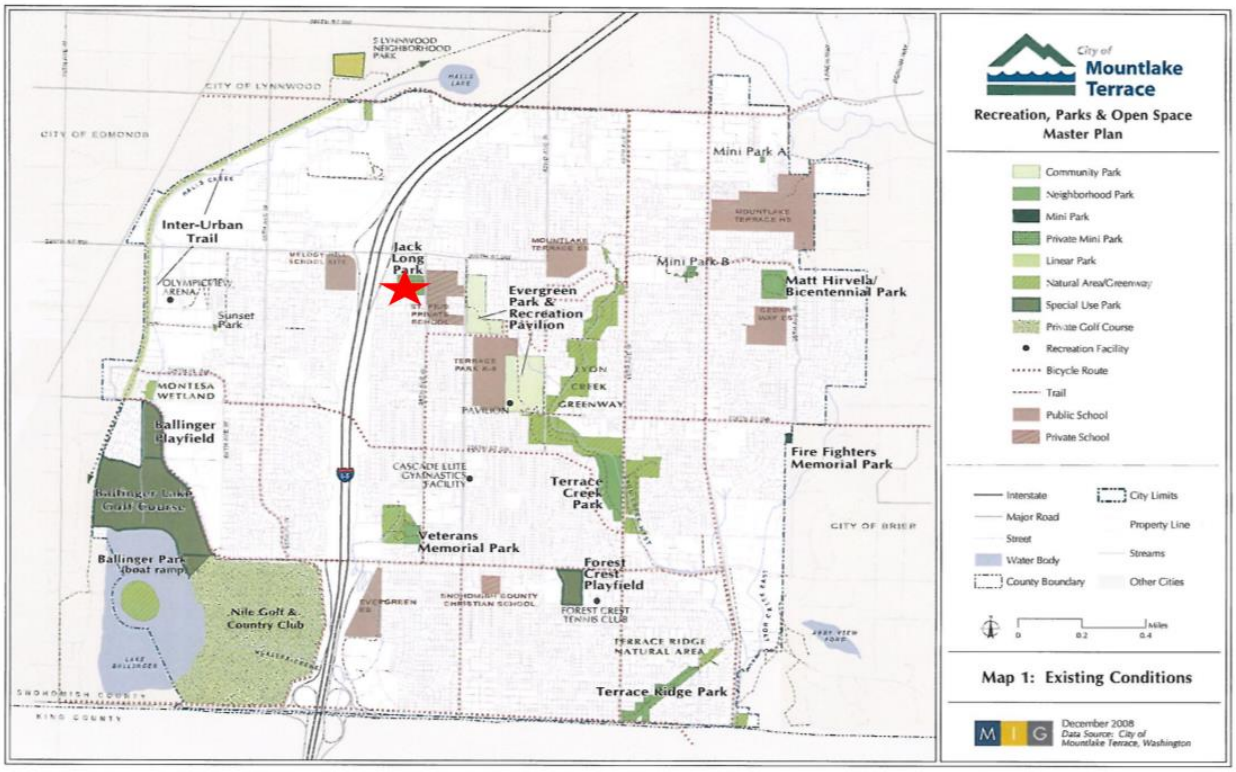
Next Steps

If the board chooses to recommend approval of the conversion, RCO staff will prepare the required federal documentation and transmit that recommendation to the National Park Service. Pending NPS approval, staff will execute all necessary amendments to the project agreement, as directed.

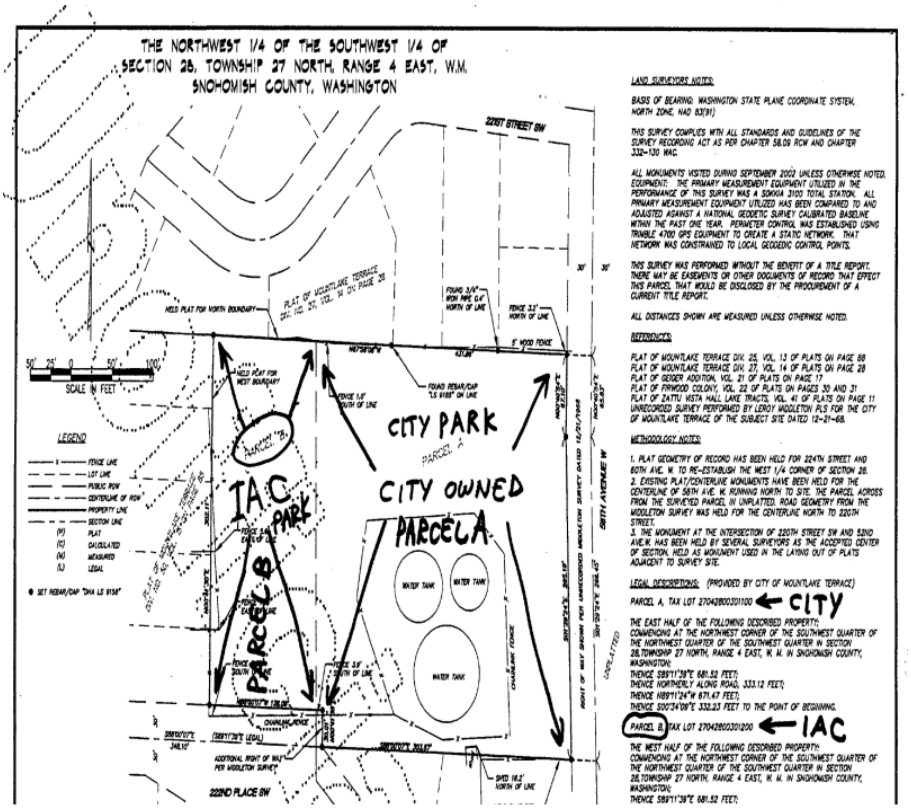
Supporting Documentation

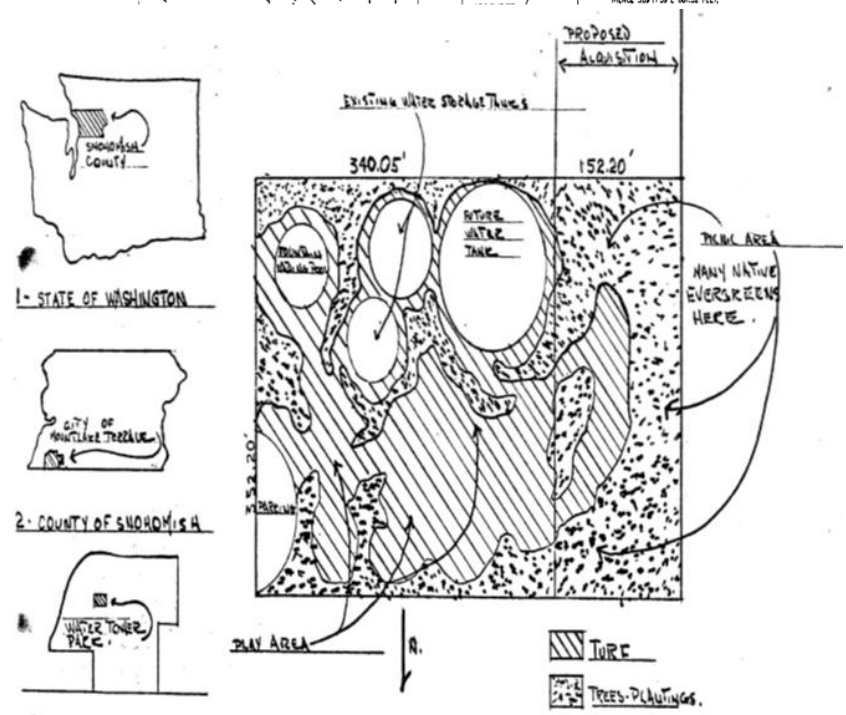
A. Location Map
B. Project Maps
C. Conversion and Replacement Maps
D. Aerial Map and Site Photos of Replacement
E. Resolution 2015-26

Jack Long Park Location Map



Maps of Projects at Jack Long Park

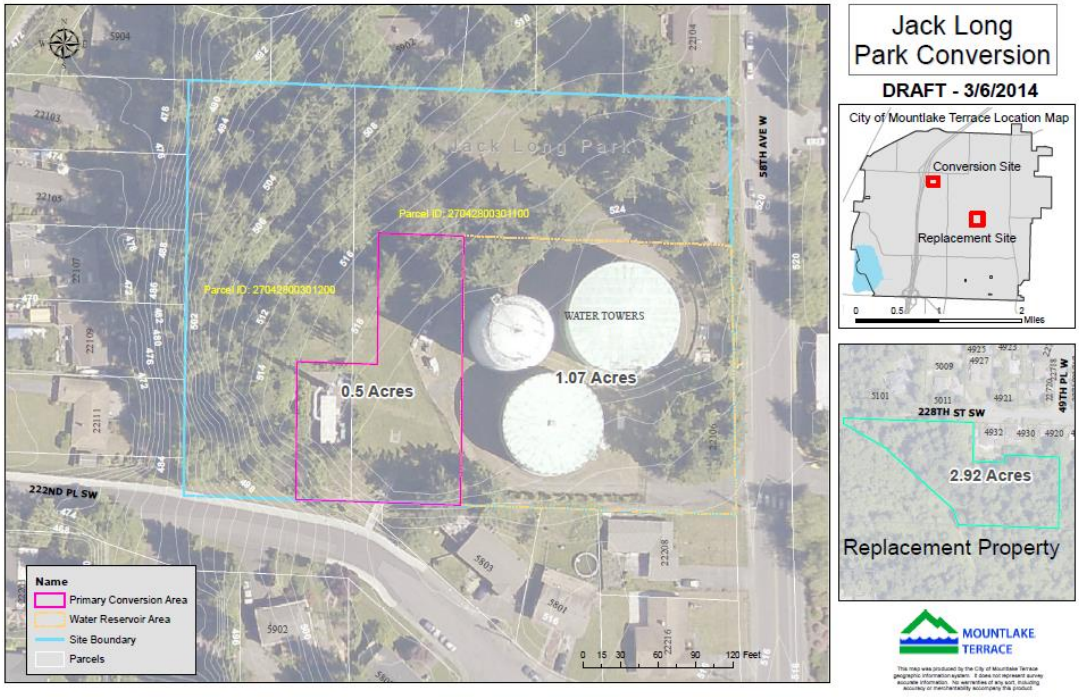


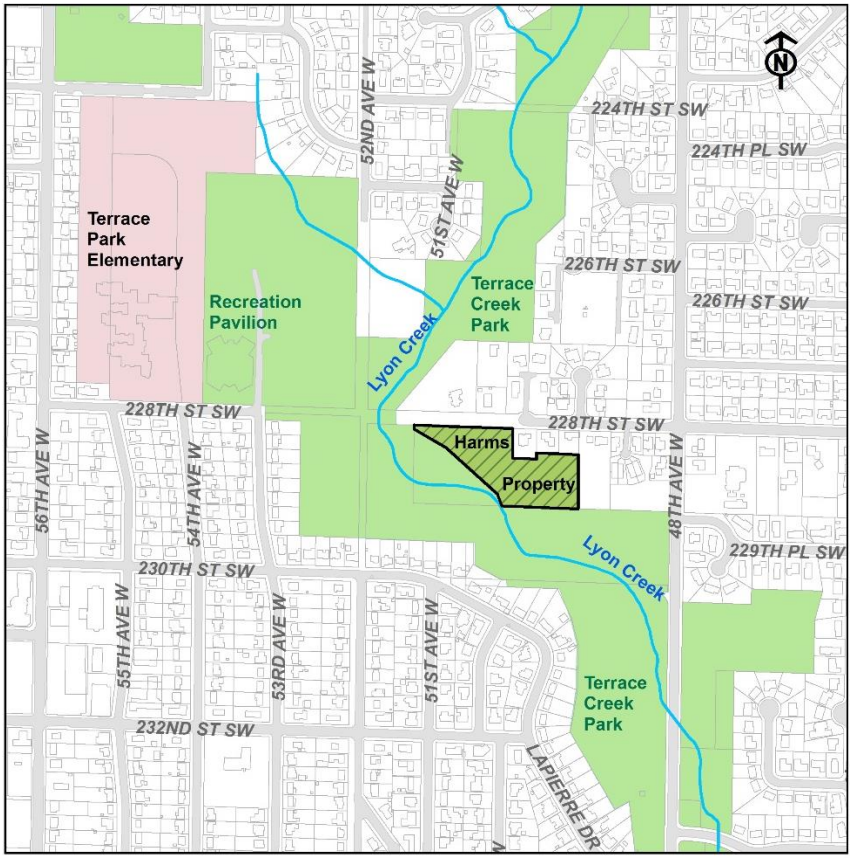


EXISTING - WATER TANKS-2- TREES, ALL OF TREE AREA SHOWN IN PROPOSED ACQUISITION, PART IN REMAINDER
PROPOSED-PLANTINGS AROUND TANKS AND PERIPHERAL PLANTINGS, PARKING, FOUNTAIN, IRRIGATION, TURF, PICNIC TABLES, BENCHES, PLAY EQUIPMENT.

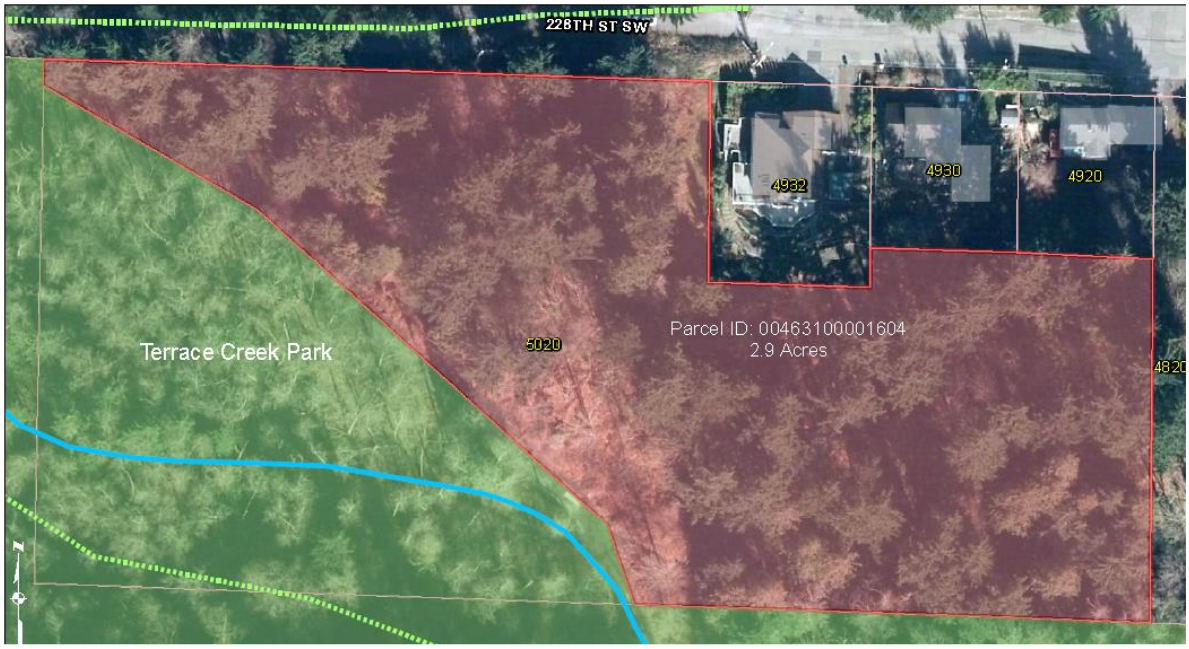
THE AREA IS PRESENTLY USED AS OPEN SPACE PLAY AREA BY CHILDREN.

Map of the Conversion and Replacement Properties





Aerial and Photos of Replacement Property



Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution 2015-26
Conversion Request: Mountlake Terrace Jack Long Park (RCO #68-096A, #68-099D)

WHEREAS, the City of Mountlake Terrace used grants from state bonds and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire a portion of and develop the Jack Long Park; and

WHEREAS, the city installed wireless equipment and an emergency radio system that converted of a portion of the property; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this conversion, a portion of the property no longer satisfies the conditions of the RCO grant; and

WHEREAS, the city is asking for Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approval to replace the converted property with property purchased under a waiver of retroactivity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement property is in close proximity to the conversion site, has an appraised value that is equivalent to the conversion site, and has greater acreage than the conversion sites; and

WHEREAS, the site will provide opportunities that closely match those displaced by the conversion and will expand one the city's parks that had been identified in its comprehensive plan recommendations on acquiring additional land for parks, thereby supporting the board's goals to provide funding for projects that result in public outdoor recreation purposes; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves the conversion request and the proposed replacement site for RCO Project #68-096A and #68-099D as presented to the board, contingent upon completion of conversion policy requirements for complying with the National Historic Preservation Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, hat the board hereby authorizes the RCO director to give interim approval for the property developed with LWCF funds and forward the conversion to the National Park Service (NPS) for final approval.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **17D**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Conversion Request: Clark County Lewis River Greenway (RCO #96-074A)

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary

Clark County is requesting approval from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to convert 20 acres within the Lewis River Greenway. The greenway is located near Paradise Point State Park and the City of LaCenter. The partial conversion would allow the county to sell two parcels; the revenue generated will support the acquisition of property to close gaps in the Lower East Fork Lewis River Greenway for a regional trail. Staff requests board comments and questions at the November meeting and will present a final decision at the February 2016 meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Board's Role in Conversions

The role of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) is to approve or deny a conversion, if the site was funded with state funds. The board approves or recommends approval of a conversion if it is satisfied with the following:

- the alternatives considered for the converted property, including avoidance;
- the alternatives considered for the replacement property;
- the reasonable equivalency of the replacement property in terms of utility and location; and
- the opportunity for public participation.

Under current policy the board does not have the ability to accept other types of mitigation, levy additional penalties, or dictate the future use of the property being converted.

Project Summary and Background Information

In 1995, Clark County used a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Water Access category grant totaling $893,790 to acquire approximately 200 acres along south side of the East Fork of the Lewis River. The acquired properties span from Paradise Point State Park to near the City of LaCenter, expanding the Lower East Fork Lewis River Greenway and providing opportunities for picnicking, hiking, swimming, and fishing on the river.

From 1991 through 1999, the county used grants funded through the WWRP Water Access, Trails, and Urban Wildlife categories totaling $4,417,445 to further acquire 1,227 acres within the Lewis River

Greenway from its westernmost edge near Paradise Point State Park to the easternmost edge at the county's Lewisville Park.

Proposed Conversion

Clark County proposes to sell 20 acres of the acquired property. Located on a hilltop, the property acreage is sloped and does not provide river frontage. It is adjacent to riverfront properties and provides views of the river. One of the parcels contains a residence that has been leased since the initial acquisition. It is unclear why the residence was not removed after acquisition, which is required by the grant funding.

Alternatives Considered for Conversion

Staff will provide the county's alternatives analysis at the February 2016 meeting.

Alternatives Considered for Replacement Property

The county is considering various potential replacement properties along the greenway that would provide river frontage, support future trail development, and would offer connections to existing trails and publicly-owned land.

Proposed Replacement Property

Replacement property has not yet been identified.

Equivalent Value

The conversion area appraisals are underway. Staff will review of the appraisal documentation to insure compliance with board policy prior to the February 2016 meeting when the board will be asked to make a final decision on the conversion.

Opportunity for Public Participation

The Board of County Councilors were briefed on the proposed conversion in August 11, 2015, and directed county staff to proceed with the conversion process. The public had an opportunity to comment at that meeting. The Clark County Parks Advisory Board was briefed on October 9, 2015.

The county will provide the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed conversion and replacement as required by board policy.

Conversion Policy Requirements Met

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will review the sponsor's conversion documentation and verify all requirements are met prior to the board's final decision. The requirements include:

- Replacement at equivalent value
- Administered by same project sponsor

- Fulfill a need in the project sponsor's adopted plan
- Eligible as a project in the respective grant programs
- Public opportunity to comment

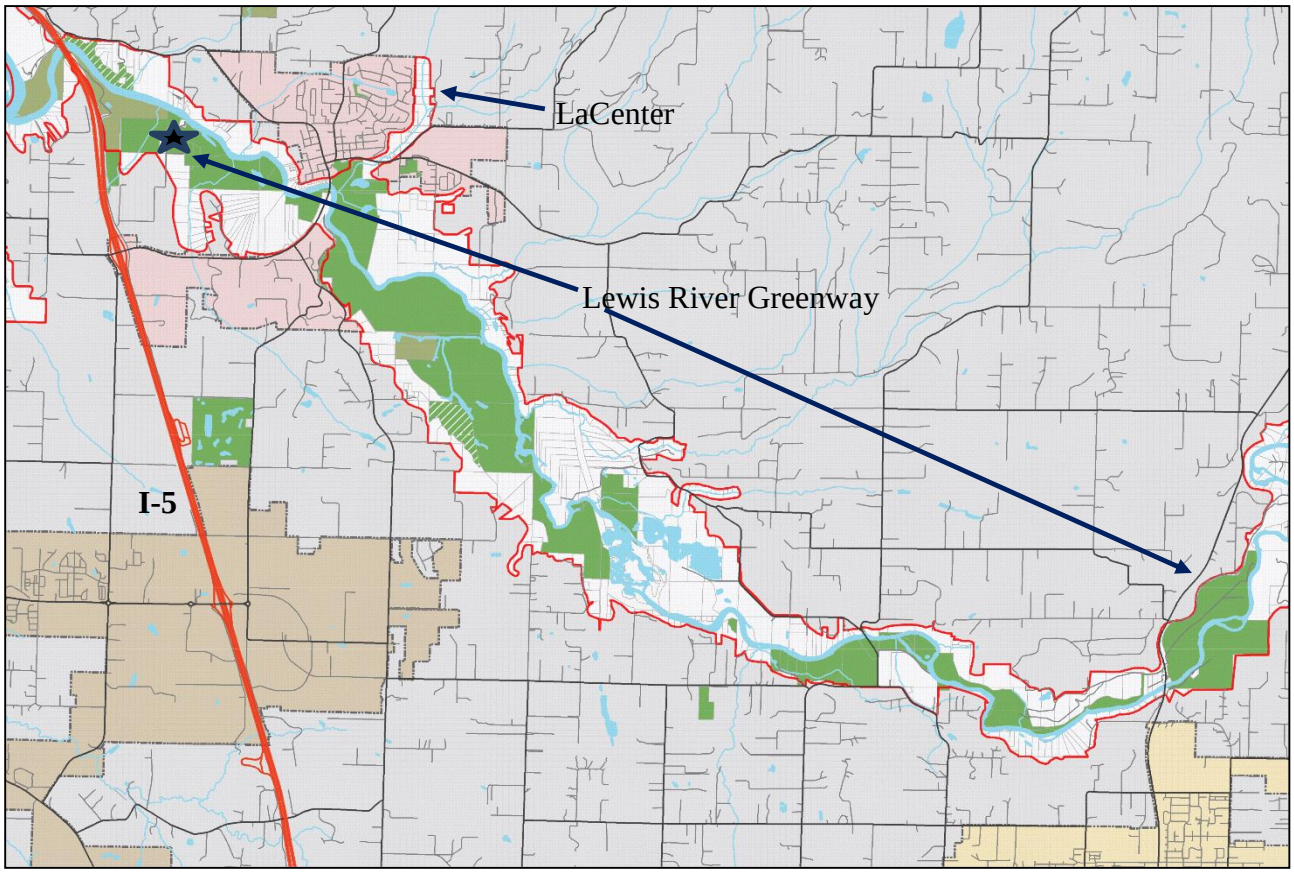
Next Steps

RCO staff will work with Clark County to comply with the conversion requirements and finalize the conversion request for board decision at its meeting in February 2016. These preparations will take into account any questions the board raises at its November meeting.

Supporting Documentation

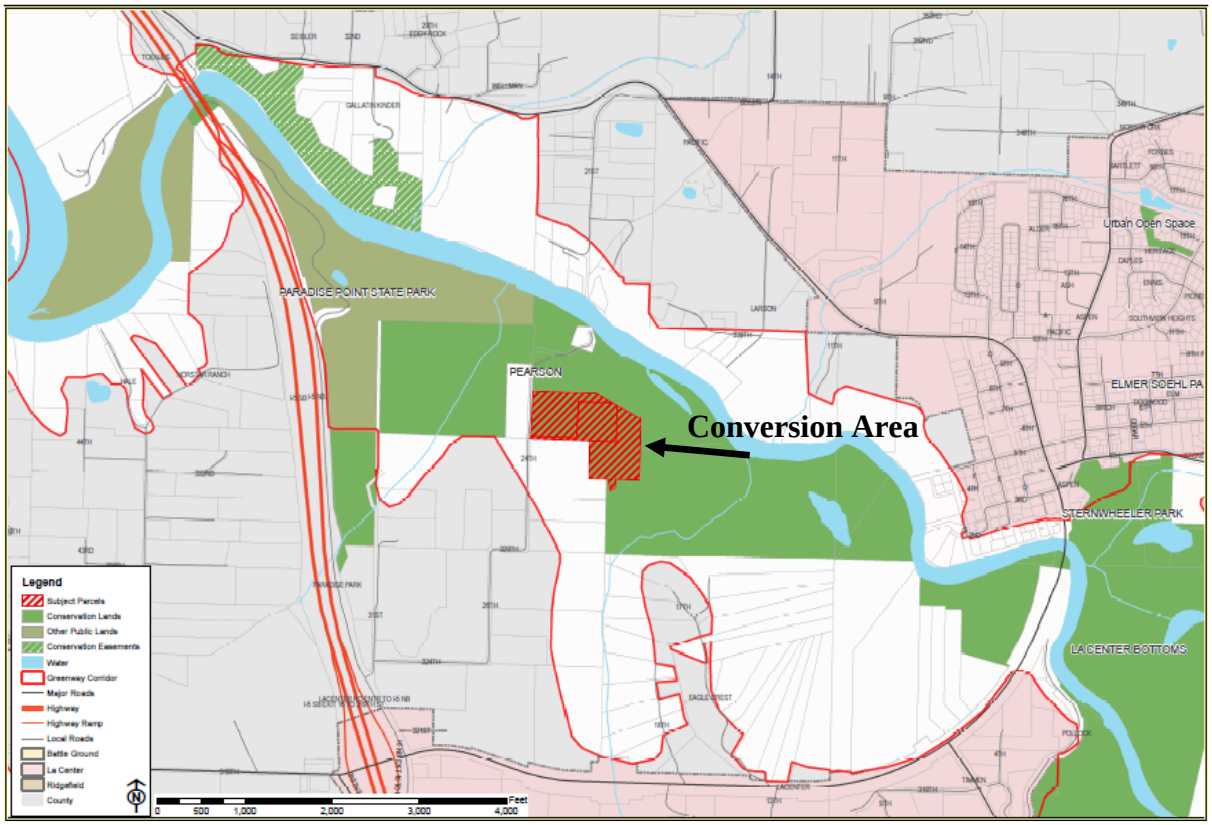
A. Property Location Map
B. Conversion Area Parcel and Aerial Maps
C. Conversion Area Site Photos

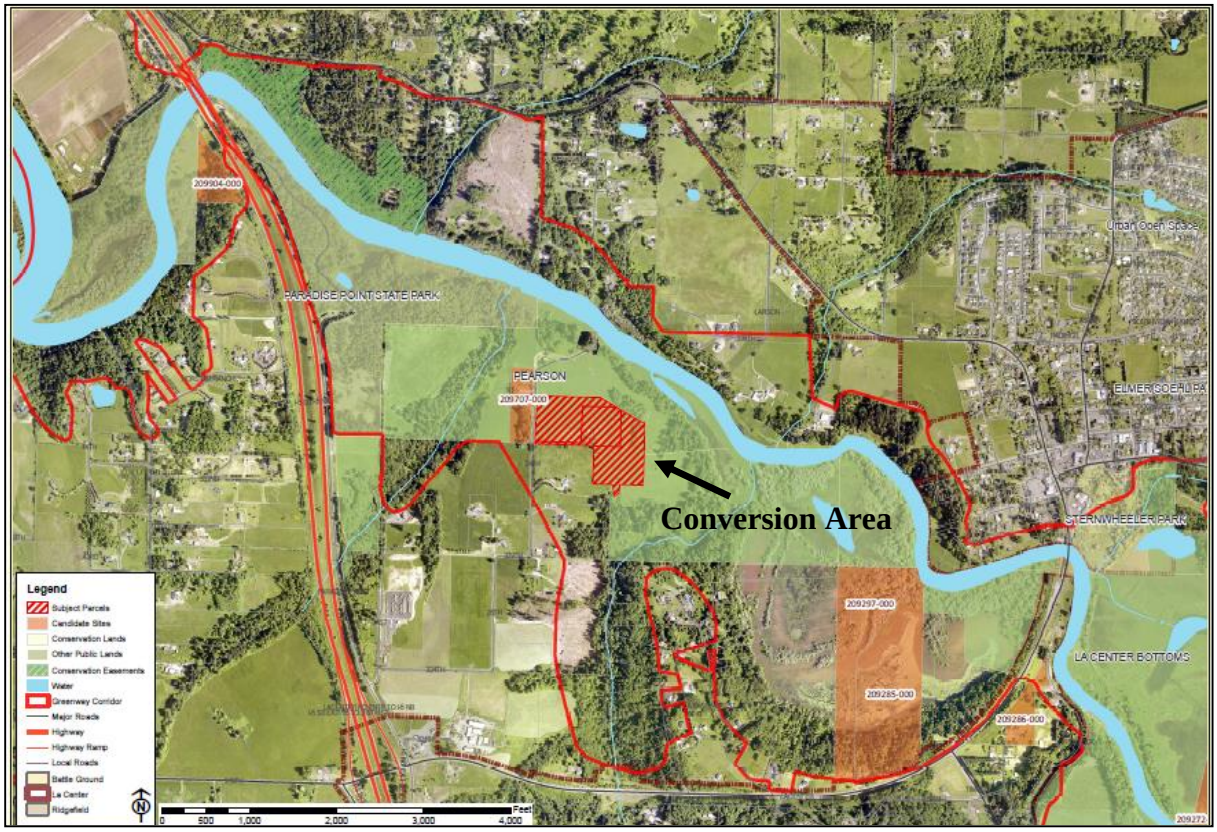
Property Location Map



Property Proposed for Conversion

Conversion Area Parcel and Aerial Maps





Greenway Corridor

Conversion Area Site Photos

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **17E**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 18-19, 2015

Title: Allowable Use: City of Spokane Riverfront Park Combined Sewer Overflow (RCO #72-040)

Prepared By: Kyle Guzlas, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

The City of Spokane is requesting that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director approve an allowable use request for the installation of a Combined Sewer Overflow tank (CSO) located under a parcel that was acquired with project #72-040, Central City Waterfront. This particular property has been utilized as a parking facility for access to Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

This allowable use request is under consideration by the RCO director. The director will review the information presented in the allowable use package and ask for further analysis or take action to approve the request, approve the request subject to conditions, or deny the request. Additionally, the director may choose to move the request to the board for a decision. The board is being briefed on this request at this time because this action, if approved, will result in a temporary recreational closure that exceeds the 180-day maximum limit as defined in policy. A board decision would be necessary to extend the temporary recreational closure beyond the 180-day threshold.

Allowable Use Process

In 2012, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted the allowable use policy. A sponsor may submit an allowable use request under two circumstances: 1) when a proposed use of a funded site does not trigger a conversion, or 2) when the use is not clearly eligible and consistent with the grant funding program.

When an allowable use request is submitted, the agency's internal Compliance Team (compliance team) conducts an initial review. Composed of outdoor grants managers, policy staff, and the compliance specialist, the compliance team considers many factors, including how the use will affect the project area and the benefits the use may provide. The compliance team then makes a recommendation to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director.

The director considers the following criteria in making a determination. If a use is to be approved as allowable:

- The use must be consistent with the essential purposes of the grant (i.e., consistent with the grant agreement and grant program).

- All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, must have been considered and rejected on a sound basis.
- The use must achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource.
- If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it also must provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource so there is no overall impairment.

An approved allowable use of a project site must continue in the way it was approved to remain in compliance with the grant.

Project Summary and Background Information

The City of Spokane's Central City Riverfront project (RCO #72-040), included the acquisition of approximately five acres of uplands along the Spokane River for public recreation purposes. The total project cost was $1,258,500 of which $314,625 was derived from bonds in the Outdoor Recreation Account (ORA) in 1973. Matching funds were provided from a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant.

The project was the second phase of the larger acquisition strategy for developing a downtown park located at the Spokane River falls. Project #72-040 did not include any development actions, only the acquisition and donation of 12 parcels (Exhibit A – Map of Acquired Properties). These parcels are predominantly located on the north side of the Spokane River and were acquired in preparation of the 1974 World Exposition. Exhibit B shows all of the acquisitions that have occurred since 1967 at Riverfront Park.

The City of Spokane is proposing to install a Combined Sewer Overflow tank below one of the parcels that was acquired with project #72-040. This parcel is referred to as the "Bosch Lot" and has been utilized as a parking lot for access to Riverfront Park and the Centennial Trail since it was acquired in 1974 (Exhibit C). Parking is limited in the downtown sector of Spokane and this lot provided close-in parking for the recreational access at Riverfront Park. Since parking is limited, it is Spokane's intention to continue to manage this lot specifically for parking for Riverfront Park. Additionally, this parking area is located in a perfect location for serving the Centennial Trail as a trailhead for the newly constructed Kendall Yards section of the trail.

Proposed Allowable Use

The City of Spokane is planning to install a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) tank underneath the Bosch Lot. This project is a partnership between Spokane Parks and Recreation Department and Spokane Public Works.

What is a Combined Sewer?

In some older parts of Spokane, stormwater runoff from roofs, parking lots, and streets empty into the same system that carries sanitary wastes to the Water Reclamation Facility. During heavy rainstorms and rapid snowmelt, extra flow from stormwater runoff into these combined sewers is greater than the interceptor pipes and treatment plant can accommodate. At these times, the combined wastewater surpasses the capacity of the pipes, resulting in an overflow to the Spokane River. The city's strategy to address the untreated overflow that is discharged into the river includes building underground concrete

tanks to hold the combined wastewater during a storm and then meter it back to the wastewater treatment plant when the storm surge subsides.

Bosch Lot CSO

The proposed allowable use consists of installing an underground combined sewer overflow tank on the Bosch property. The tank will be constructed approximately 30 feet below ground and will cover approximately 35% of the property (Exhibit D). The above ground features of the CSO tank include manholes and hatches to access maintenance chambers. After the tank is installed, the site will be redeveloped as a parking facility. This will include paving, landscaping, creation of common areas and signage.

Alternatives Considered

Spokane Parks and Recreation

The City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department conducted a thorough evaluation of the proposed CSO tank and its impact on the current and planned use of the Bosch Lot. The Riverfront Park Master Plan was completed in 2014 and a bond package was approved shortly thereafter for a $64.3 million dollar project to renovate Riverfront Park. Through an extensive planning process, it was determined that the Bosch Lot would continue to serve Riverfront Park primarily as a parking facility (Exhibit E). The Park and Recreation Department has worked with Public Works to ensure that the installation of the CSO tank on the Bosch lot would not inhibit or prevent the planned redevelopment of the Bosch property.

Spokane Public Works

Spokane Public Works has been analyzing the CSO issue for several decades. A total of 17 CSO tanks will be installed by 2018 to be in compliance with Department of Ecology's CSO's standards. The location of each tank is predetermined by a list of criteria, but hinges primarily on the location to the existing mainline pipelines and the subsurface materials. The Bosch Lot sits in an ideal location for this type of installation as was determined by the 2013 CSO Plan. That plan specifically calls for the need of two storage tanks in the I04 basin. The Bosch Lot CSO will be able to contain all the "storm" water flow from the entire I04 basin to adequately manage this remaining combined sewer location.

Proposed Redevelopment

The Bosch Lot Redevelopment Project includes the construction of a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Tank underneath the Bosch Lot and the development of a new parking facility on the surface. Proposed benefits to the funded site will enhance this section of Riverfront Park by providing a fully developed parking facility which will improve and expand access to Riverfront Park and the Centennial Trail (Exhibit F). This redevelopment is supported by the Riverfront Park Master Plan and is being funded by citizen approved bond package and Public Works CSO tank funding.

Surface improvements for trailhead and Riverfront Park access:

- Paved parking that meets current downtown parking codes
- Expansion of parking to accommodate 125 parking spots (Current capacity 120 on gravel)
- Landscaping and street trees
- Lighting upgrades
- Riverfront Park gateway improvements along Monroe Street
- Wayfinding Signage for Riverfront Park and the Centennial Trail
- Restroom facility

- Provide future flexible space for City of Spokane Parks and Recreation outdoor programming

Connectivity and pedestrian circulation improvements to Riverfront Park and the Centennial Trail:

- Convert Summit Blvd. into a festival street that enhances pedestrian flow to the Centennial trail and Veterans Court Park and provides spaces for future recreation programming opportunities and event space
- Vehicular circulation improvements to trailhead parking
- Enhance the Centennial Trail access by providing safe connections and transitions from Riverfront Park to Bosch Lot and the Centennial Trail through Kendall Yards

Allowable Use Policy Requirements Met

- ***Is the requested use consistent with the project agreement?***

  The Project Agreement was for acquisition of specific parcels for public recreation. Property rights will not be transferred as a result of this use. The City of Spokane will continue to own and manage the property for public recreation. The Riverfront Park Master Plan clearly addresses the parking needs for Riverfront Park and identifies the Bosch Lot to be enhanced as a critical component to the function and access of Riverfront Park.

- ***Is the requested use consistent with the grant program?***

  The proposed use will not prohibit or preclude the site from meeting the purposes of the Outdoor Recreation Account that provided funding for acquisition and development of outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

- ***Have all practical alternatives to the use been considered and rejected on a sound basis?***

  Spokane Parks and Recreation has worked in a partnership with Public Works to ensure that the CSO tank does not interfere with the planned improvements for the redeveloped Bosch Lot Parking Facility. Additionally, Spokane Public Works did a thorough study in the combined sewer line basin to determine the most appropriate location for the CSO tank. The Bosch Lot was the only location that met all of the required criteria.

- ***Does the use achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the resource?***

  The site has been and will continue to be managed for Riverfront Park parking. The functionality of parking facility and amenities will be enhanced from its current state. The City of Spokane will continue to own and manage the property. The CSO could limit some future development if the recreational use of the site were to change, however it is unlikely that the use will be anything but parking in the future as supported by Riverfront Park Master Plan.

- ***If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect, it also provides at least equivalent benefits so there is no overall impairment.***

  The redeveloped parking facility will be a park enhancement not an impairment.

Request for Direction

Temporary Closure for CSO and Post St. Bridge Staging

The City of Spokane is requesting that the board extend the allowable recreational closure timeline for this project. The Long Term Obligations Manual limits public recreational access site closures to 180 days or less. The installation of the tank and the subsequent redevelopment of the parking area will take approximately 12 months to complete. Additionally, the City of Spokane is in the process of replacing all main downtown bridges that span the Spokane River. The Post Street Bridge is immediately adjacent to the "Bosch Lot" and is planned for replacement in 2017-2018. The Post Street Bridge is utilized for vehicular traffic and also accommodates the Centennial Trail as it crosses the Spokane River. Exhibit G shows a close up of this bridge span and the trail that will be replaced. Because space is limited in the downtown corridor, the city will need staging areas for completion of the Post Street Bridge and Centennial Trail replacement project. The city is requesting to utilize the Bosch lot for staging of the Post Street Bridge replacement. If approved, the city will wait to redevelop the Bosch lot until all work is completed with the CSO tank installation and the bridge replacement.

The city has proposed to relocate parking and a half-mile stretch of the Centennial Trail to another site during the temporary closure of the Bosch Lot and the replacement of the Post Street Bridge. The location of the temporary parking and Centennial Trail realignment is displayed on Exhibit H. The parking capacity in the new temporary lot will exceed the amount of spaces that are currently at the "Bosch Lot". The planned re-route of the Centennial Trail will be incorporated with widespread way-finding signage and will pass immediately adjacent to the temporary parking facility.

Next Steps

The allowable use request was presented to the agency's internal compliance team for review. The team in return has sent a recommendation suggesting the RCO director approve the request. Next, the director will review the information and ask for further analysis or take action to approve the request, approve the request subject to conditions, or deny the request. The director may choose to move the request to the board for a decision.

If the allowable use request is approved by the director, the board will be presented with a detailed schedule for the actions associated with the CSO tank installation, the Post Street Bridge staging and redevelopment of the Bosch Lot. The board will be asked to approve or deny the request to extend the temporary closure timeline at a board meeting in 2016.

Supporting Documentation

- Exhibit A – Map of Acquired Parcels
- Exhibit B – Map of Acquired Parcels
- Exhibit C – Bosch Lot Location
- Exhibit D – CSO Tank Preliminary Design
- Exhibit E – Riverfront Park Conceptual Master Plan
- Exhibit F – Alternate Parking and Centennial Trail Routes
- Exhibit G – Post Street Bridge and Centennial Trail
- Exhibit H – Post Street Bridge

Exhibit A – Map of Acquired Parcels

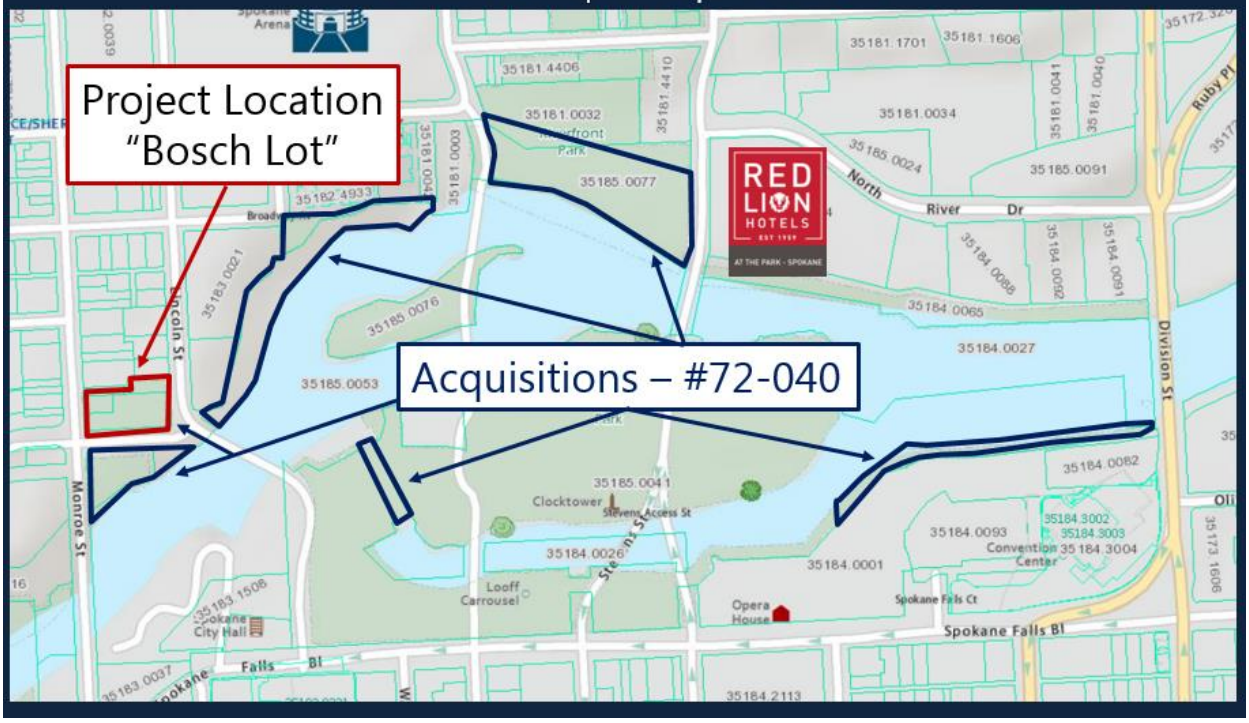
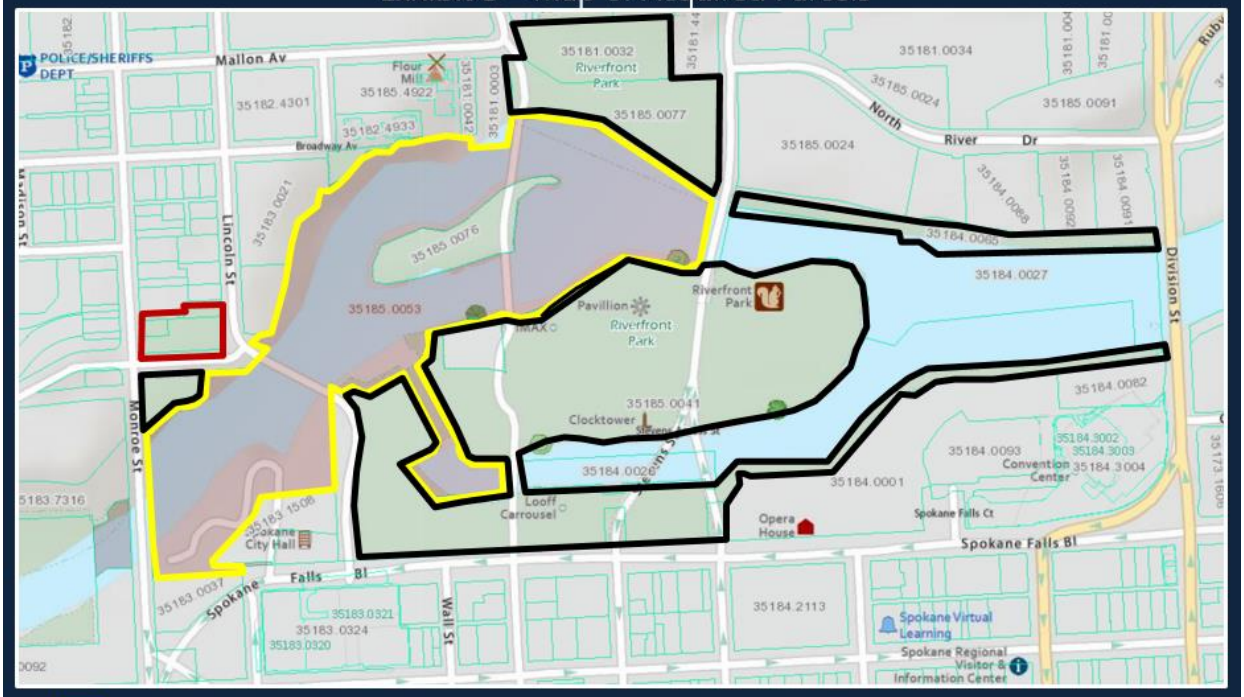


Exhibit B – Map of Acquired Parcels



City of Spokane Perpetual Easements (right to develop for rec) in 6f boundary

City of Spokane Property in 6f boundary

City of Spokane Bosch Parcels not in 6f boundary

Exhibit C – Bosch Lot Location

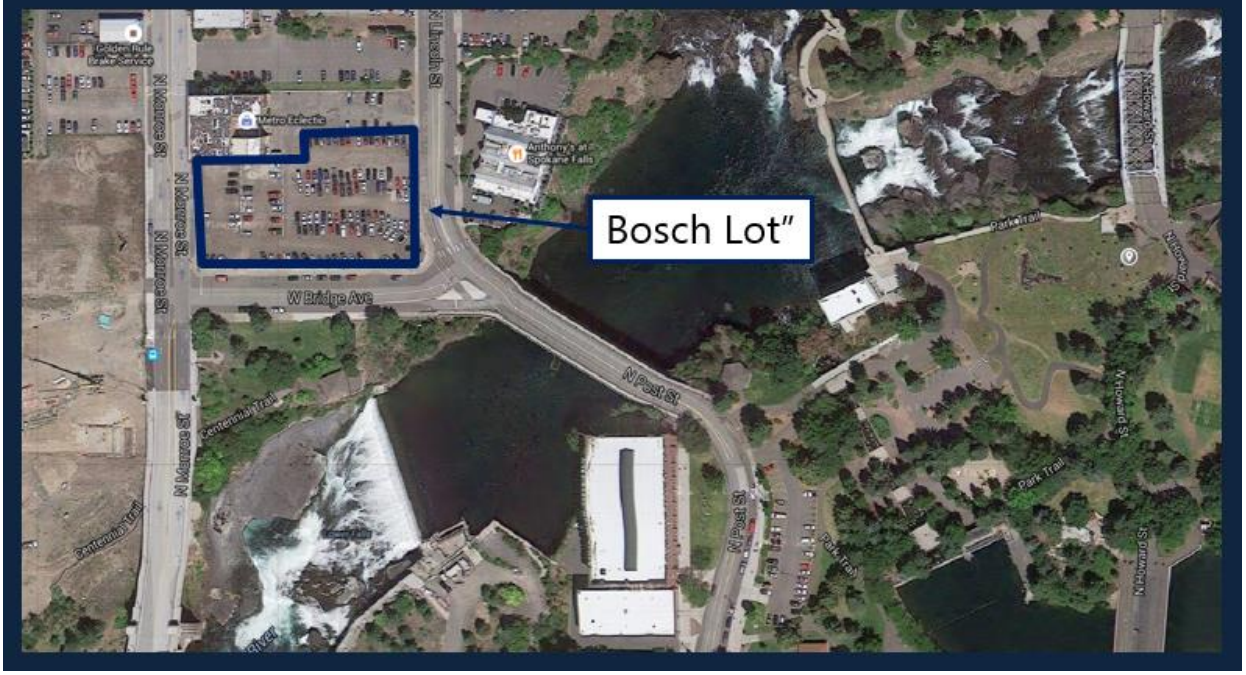


Exhibit D – CSO Tank Preliminary Design

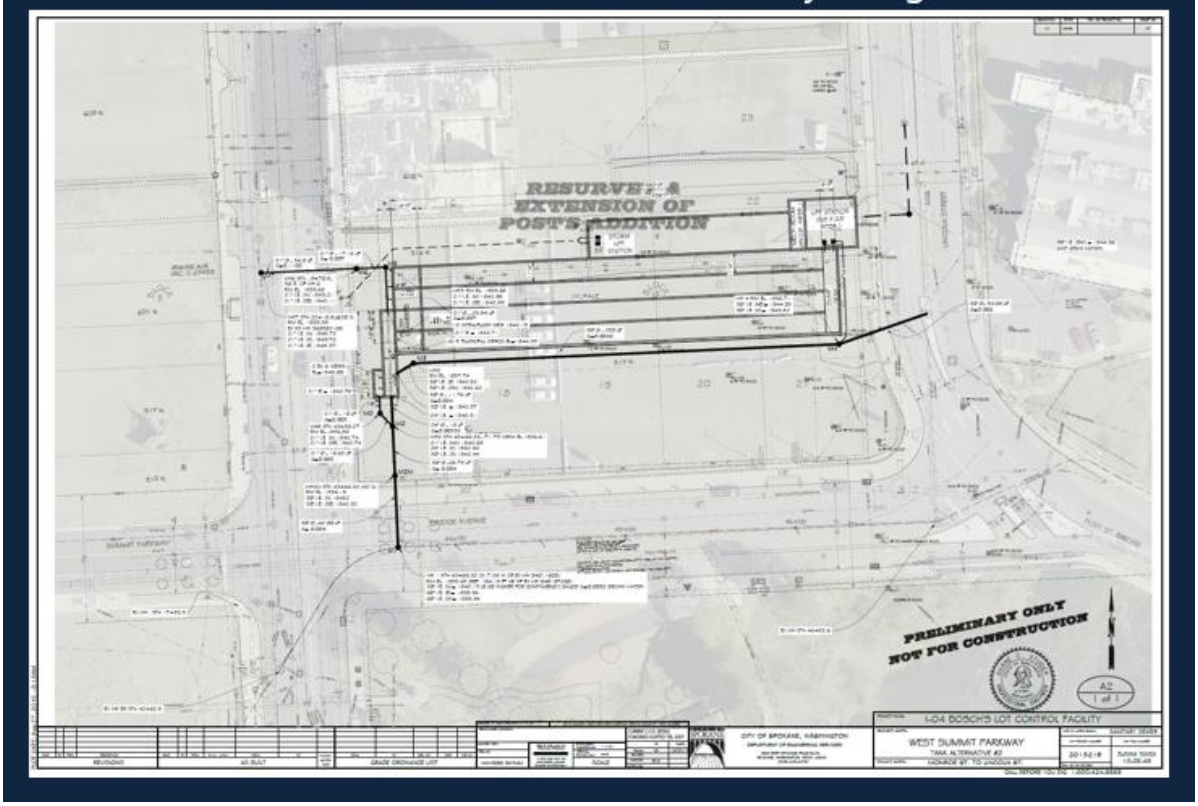


Exhibit E – Riverfront Park Conceptual Master Plan

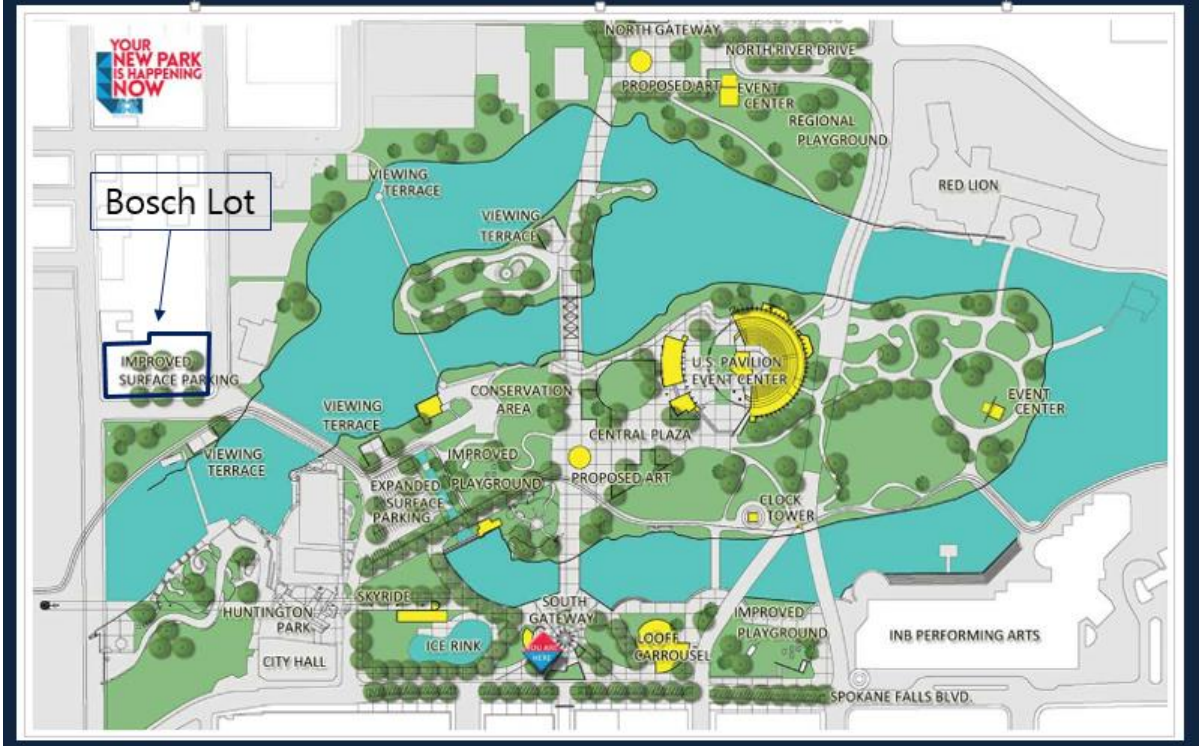


Exhibit F – Alternate Parking and Centennial Trail Routes

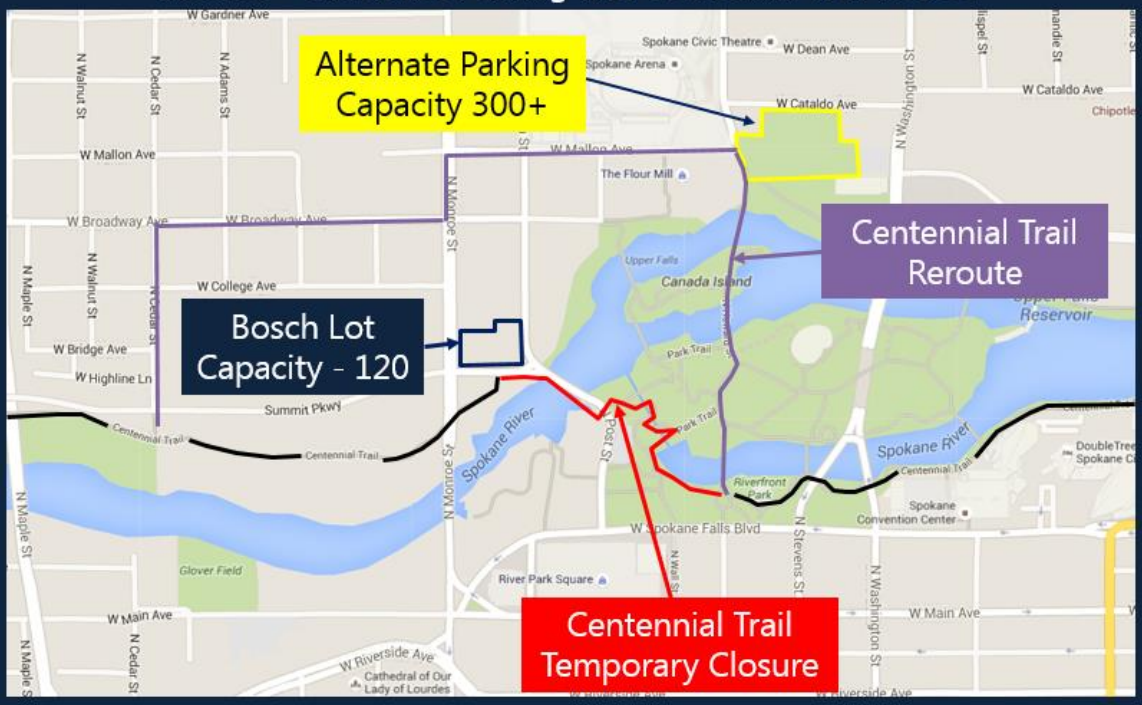


Exhibit G – Post Street Bridge and Centennial Trail

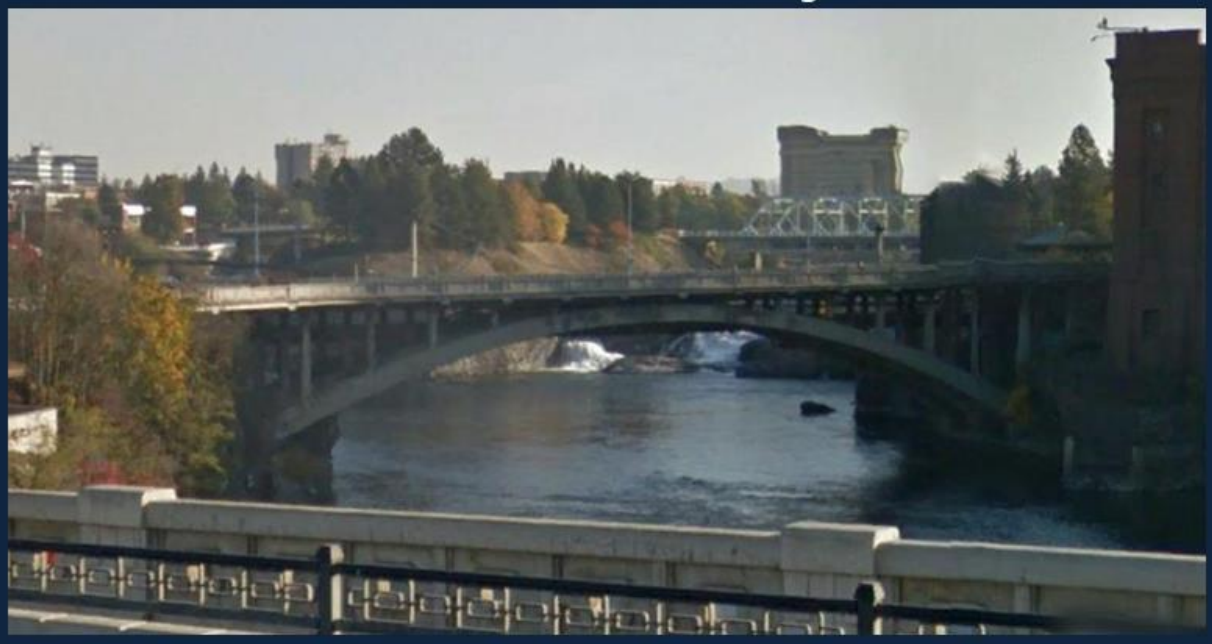



Exhibit H – Post Street Bridge