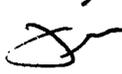




STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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March 24, 2006

TO: IAC Committee Members
FROM: Laura Johnson, Director 
PREPARED BY: Jim Fox, Special Assistant to the Director 
SUBJECT: Item #6b. Legislative Issues and Future Tasks

The 2006 Legislature gave IAC the following assignments:

- Administration of the Invasive Species Council
- Administration of Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program grant funds
- Preparation of cost estimates for creation of a database of motorized and nonmotorized off-road trails and facilities in Washington State.
- Recommendations for an ORV noise education and enforcement program and a possible grant program to assist local governments in reducing ORV noise impacts.
- Administration of a Youth Athletic Facility donor matching program.
- Development of approaches to local and regional park level-of-service standards.

For each of these assignments, IAC staff is gathering additional information on legislative expectations, consulting with other state agencies and constituent groups that should be involved, and discussing staff assignments and possible need for consulting contracts. We anticipate that most of these assignments will result in reports to the 2007 Legislature. In April, we welcome any comments or suggestions you have as we develop implementation plans.

In addition to the above tasks, other issues arose during the 2006 session that may warrant IAC attention:

- Coordinating state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition and land acquisition strategies



- Addressing the perceived need for boat sewage disposal facilities and funding for those facilities.

It is also time to begin thinking about IAC's 2007 legislative agenda, including the IAC name change.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IAC ACTION:

Coordinating State Agency Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisition

In the 2006 Legislative Session, SB6625 would have implemented the recommendations in *Toward a Coordination Strategy for Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisitions in Washing State* written and adopted by the IAC and submitted to the Legislature in 2005 (the "6242" report). SB6625 would have established the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to address coordinating WDFW, State Parks and DNR habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal; centralizing acquisition of state land data; and monitoring the success of land acquisitions. The Coordinating Group was to have included representatives from the IAC, the State Parks, DNR and WDFW.

Although SSB6625 did not pass, probably due to unknown fiscal impacts rather than the policy content of the bill, there are a number of objectives in the bill that could be addressed by IAC and its member state agencies without the need for legislation or special funding.

Staff recommendation. Staff recommends that the IAC consider directing staff to establish a Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to begin implementing the recommendations found in the *Coordination Strategy*. The group would meet regularly, within resource constraints of the agencies, to address:

- Coordination of State Parks, WDFW, and DNR land acquisitions, trades, and disposals;
- Coordination of land acquisition priorities and strategies;
- Coordination with the Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Governor's Monitoring Forum;
- Development of monitoring strategies and performance measures for recreation and habitat land preserved through acquisition;
- Improved reporting of agency land and land acquisition information, including monitoring, and performance measures; and
- Implementation of other recommendations in the *Coordinated Strategy for Habitat and Recreation Land Acquisition* and the need for resources or legislation in order to do so.

Addressing the Need for Boat Sewage Disposal Facilities

In the recent session of the Legislature, the House version of the Capital Budget contained language restricting this biennium's second-year local Boating Facilities Program (BFP) funds to grants for boat sewage disposal facilities (BSDFs). During discussion of this proposal, there was indication that there is a need for these types of facilities. However, State Parks staff stated that they have had not had enough demand to utilize all of their Federal Clean Vessel Act funds available for this purpose. State Parks staff suggested that local agencies might not be applying for BSDF grants due to the matching requirement (25%) and the lack of maintenance and operating funds.

Staff recommendation. Staff recommends that IAC staff meet with State Parks and Puget Sound Action Team staff and private and public boating representatives to:

- Discuss the need for BSDFs
- Assess barriers to developing BSDFs
- Assess barriers to these facilities being utilized by boaters
- Assess barriers to these facilities being maintained adequately
- Recommend, if warranted, a combined State Parks / IAC effort to address the identified problems

Name Change

Assuming we get the go-ahead from the Governor's office, IAC staff has started work with the Code Reviser's Office to draft agency-request legislation to codify the change. In addition, staff will develop a plan, including a communication plan, to implement the change.

Other IAC Possible Request Legislation

At this time, staff is not aware of the need for any other IAC request legislation for the 2007 session.