



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE  
1111 Washington Street SE  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

August 31, 2006

**TO:** IAC Members and Designees  
**FROM:** Laura Johnson, Director   
**SUBJECT:** Director and Agency Report, Summer 2006

Since the June meeting, your staff was engaged in:

### **Grants**

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This has been an intensive and challenging period for the recreation and habitat grants team. In May, over 400 applications were received, a record. This summer, staff did an excellent job coordinating large numbers of project review and evaluation sessions, multiple evaluation team members, and a dozen post-evaluation reviews.

For your September meeting, the grant programs include all 11+ categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, and three federal grant programs – Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Recreational Trails, and Boating Infrastructure Grants. Almost 300 applications were evaluated<sup>1</sup> in these programs.

Generally, the recommended grant lists should be straightforward. There are a few individual projects or issues that may attract testimony or controversy. I plan to call each board member with updates sometime in the two weeks before the IAC meeting.

At the meeting, as a reminder about the IAC's overall two-year grant making cycle, I will spend a few moments reviewing the 2006 and 2007 grants, and the related IAC meeting schedule.

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<sup>1</sup> The results of evaluations in the boating facilities and NOVA programs will be presented to you in November. Dates of the public evaluation sessions are Sept. 27-28 for Boating, and October 2-5 for NOVA, all in Olympia.



## **Legislation**

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### **Changing our Name**

We're pursuing the name change to the "Recreation and Conservation Funding Board." Public outreach efforts began with contacts of key partners and updating staff on the communications plan. So far, reactions are as predicted – low-key but supportive. The outreach will culminate in request legislation for the 2007 session.

### **Fundraising for Youth Athletic Fields**

The 2006 Legislature tasked IAC with raising \$500,000 to be matched by the Legislature for youth athletic fields. Planning the campaign is underway. The Communications staff has interviewed a half dozen consultants and legislators and prepared several options for how we might begin the fundraising process.

**ORV Noise Education-Enforcement.** The 2006 Legislature assigned IAC to provide recommendations for an ORV noise education and enforcement program, and a possible grant program to assist local governments in reducing ORV noise impacts. To prepare these recommendations, staff has signed a contract with the Seattle environmental consulting firm of Adolfsen Associates, Inc. and formed an advisory committee.

### **Other Legislative Assignments**

The rest of the six specific and two implicit assignments received in the 2006 session are being implemented.

## **Communications**

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### **Publications**

The Communications staff has nearly completed an accomplishments report for 2005's work. The full-color, 21-page report highlights the work of the IAC around the Strategic Plan's five goals. The *Report* is an important and impressive new presentation for the agency. When finished, you will receive a copy and it will also be distributed to key partners and legislators.

## **Budget**

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- **Biennial Budget:** The 2007-09 budget request was submitted September 1. We are starting the Priorities of Government process to help the governor's decisions on her final December request budgets. As a reminder, the IAC is requesting \$100 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP).
- **Accounting:** Revenues are matching projections, and grant expenditures are about normal. See Attachment 1.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** Federal Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations remain unlikely. And, the National Park Service's program staff may be let go, likely a final blow to this program. We'll know more after the congressional elections.

## **People**

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- Bruce Crawford, our Associate Director for Monitoring, Measurement, and Technology, will be retiring in October. This is a huge loss to the agency and to the state. Bruce has been a terrific leader for salmon and watershed health monitoring issues, and a great supervisor for the agency's technology staff. He'll be hard to replace. I will be reorganizing the management team functions over the next few months, likely including hiring a deputy.
- With the Governor's policy office, we are interviewing candidates for the position of Executive Coordinator for the new Invasive Species Council.
- All-Hands Staff Meeting – On August 31, the entire office went to a Lacey park site and a Thurston County salmon site for a day of training, management updates, and staff recognition. This lets all staff have a better appreciation of the work their busy co-workers do.

## **Partnerships and Other Boards**

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- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) work: Supported the SRFB's September meeting, which will take the final actions needed to launch the 2006 grant cycle.
- Legislative tours: Several legislative staff members from the budget and natural resource committees attended project evaluation meetings and a tour of five projects submitted for funding in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. This was an excellent opportunity for staff to see firsthand how the process works and the quality of some of the grant applications.

## **Events**

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- National Recreation and Park Association Conference: Seattle is host city for the upcoming National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Conference, October 10-14 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. More than 6000 thousand park and recreation professionals are expected to attend. Marguerite Austin will co-present with National Park Service a workshop session that features the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.
- Trails Conference, November 3-4, 2006: The Clarion Inn of Yakima has been selected as the site of the annual state trails conference. Currently, a committee of 20 people, representing 15 agencies and organizations (including IAC) is preparing for the event. This year's conference is organized around three tracks: urban trails, constituency, and funding, each with several breakout sessions. Contact Greg Lovelady for program and registration materials.

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I look forward to seeing IAC members in September. If you have questions, please contact me at 360-902-3003.

**Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation**  
 For the Period of July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2007, actuals through 07/31/2006 (fm13)  
 Percentage of biennium reported: 54.2%

	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	new and reapp. 2005-2007	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% Expended of committed
<b>Grant Programs</b>							
WA Wildlife & Rec. Program (WWRP)	\$90,958,038	\$90,437,329	99%	\$1,492,105	1.640%	\$16,846,775	19%
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	18,073,817	16,059,991	89%	2,013,826	11.1%	5,800,361	36%
Nonhighway & Off-Road Vehicle (NOVA)	15,312,257	11,817,593	77%	3,494,664	23%	2,601,961	22%
Land & Water Conserv. Fund (LWCF)	7,860,063	7,857,148	100%	2,915	0.04%	882,148	11%
Aquatic Lands Enhan. Account (ALEA)	9,392,123	9,390,172	100%	1,951	0.02%	1,829,690	19%
National Recreational Trails (NRTP)	2,904,939	2,839,700	98%	65,239	2.2%	781,012	28%
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	1,122,756	862,480	77%	260,276	23%	454,567	53%
Firearms & Archery Range Rec (FARR)	557,403	470,179	84%	87,224	16%	47,754	10%
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	2,307,712	2,307,712	100%	0	0%	88,394	3.83%
<b>Sub Total Grant Programs</b>	<b>148,489,108</b>	<b>142,042,305</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>7,418,199</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>29,332,662</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Administration</b>							
General Operating Funds	4,863,950	4,863,950	100%	0	0%	2,069,686	43%
<b>Grant and Administration Total</b>	<b>\$153,353,058</b>	<b>\$146,906,255</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>\$7,418,199</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$31,402,348</b>	<b>21%</b>

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

