



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE  
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August 31, 2006

**TO:** IAC Members & Designees  
**FROM:** Laura Eckert Johnson, Director *LEJ*  
**PREPARED BY:** Marguerite Austin, Manager *MA*  
Recreation & Habitat Section, Project Services Division  
**SUBJECT:** Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program  
State Lands Restoration Ranked List for Fiscal Year 2008  
Notebook Item #7c

*"This category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for restoration and enhancement of state habitat lands."*<sup>1</sup>

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**

Thirteen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement (SLR) category projects requesting \$2.3 million were evaluated August 1-15, 2006. Utilizing a written evaluation process and criteria adopted by IAC, a team of seven evaluators reviewed and ranked the SLR projects. The team, comprised of individuals recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement, included:

EVALUATOR	DISCIPLINE
John Konovsky, Squaxin Island Tribe, Shelton	Environmental Manager
Lincoln Bormann, San Juan County Land Bank, Friday Harbor	Natural Resource Mgr
Mike Kuttel Jr., Thurston Co Conservation District, Olympia	Habitat Specialist
Paul Dahmer, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia	Wildlife Area Manager
Priya Shahani, Department of Natural Resources, Olympia	Ecologist
Rich Poelker, Olympia	Wildlife Biologist
Ted Smith, State Parks and Recreation, Burlington	Natural Resource Steward

<sup>1</sup> Chapter 79A.15.040, Acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands



The results of the evaluations, provided for IAC Board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Ranked List of Projects, Fiscal Year 2008*.

#### **STATE LANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT CATEGORY**

SLR category projects allow for restoration and enhancement of habitats on existing state lands. These habitats may include salt or freshwater areas, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, and other native ecosystems or habitats native to Washington state. Restoration brings the site back to its original function through activities that can be reasonably expected to result in a site that is, to the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

Specific factors related to this category are:

- Habitant enhancement or creation is allowed.
- Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species.
- Properties should be managed primarily for resource preservation and protection.
- Eligible applicants are only the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Applicants may request a minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000 per project.

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category of the Habitat Conservation Account is eligible to receive 10% of the WWRP funds in the account through June 30, 2011, at which time the amount will be reduced to five percent.<sup>2</sup>

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

After reviewing the results of the scoring and ranking of projects, and considering comments from evaluators and applicants, staff recommends approval of the ranked list of projects as shown in Table 1. Table 1 also shows staff's recommendation for the list of projects to be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature. This list includes enough projects to use the statutory amount set aside for this category and alternates. Resolution #2006-29 is provided for Board consideration.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution #2006-29
- Table 1 – *WWRP, State Lands Restoration Ranked List of Projects, FY2008*
- State Map for State Lands Restoration Category projects
- State Lands Restoration Evaluation Criteria Summary
- State Lands Restoration Project Evaluation Scoring Summary
- State Lands Restoration Project Summaries (synopsis of each proposal)

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<sup>2</sup> Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(d) RCW

**RESOLUTION #2006-29**  
**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**  
**State Lands Restoration Category - Fiscal Year 2008**  
**Ranked List of Projects**

**WHEREAS**, for fiscal year 2008 of the 2007-2009 biennium, thirteen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and

**WHEREAS**, these thirteen State Lands Restoration category projects were evaluated using evaluation criteria approved by IAC Board Members, and

**WHEREAS**, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the Board, and

**WHEREAS**, all thirteen State Lands Restoration category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in IAC Manual #10, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts: Policies and Project Selection*,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that IAC hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in Table 1 – *WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Ranked List of Projects, FY2008 (2006-29)*, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that IAC hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects for further consideration.

*Resolution moved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution seconded by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

*Date: September 21, 2006*



**Table 1**  
**Washington Wildlife Recreation Program - State Lands Restoration & Enhancement**  
**State Fiscal Year 2008**

Rank	Score Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	IAC Amt	Sponsor Amt	Total Amt	Cum Amt
1 of 13	44.143	Audubon Lake Grassland Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	95,804		95,804	95,804
2 of 13	44.000	Admiralty Inlet NAP (HR) 2006	Natural Resources Dept of	99,960		99,960	195,764
3 of 13	41.571	Elk River NRCA (HR) 2006	Natural Resources Dept of	299,700		299,700	495,464
4 of 13	41.000	Willapa Bay Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	250,000	47,000	297,000	745,464
5 of 13	40.143	Morse Creek Riverine Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	200,000		200,000	945,464
6 of 13	39.571	Methow Shrub-steppe Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	304,521	10,402	314,923	1,249,985
7 of 13	37.857	Beebe Springs Restoration Phase 2	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	249,410		249,410	1,499,395
8 of 13	34.429	Klickitat Canyon NRCA (HR) 2006	Natural Resources Dept of	86,734	6,500	93,234	1,586,129
9 of 13	34.000	L.T. Murray/Wenas Wildlife Area Rehab	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	119,540	18,258	137,798	1,705,669
10 of 13	32.571	Mt St Helens/Toutle River Enhancement	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	388,387	10,000	398,387	2,094,056
11 of 13	32.429	Wooten Wildlife Area	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	32,415		32,415	2,126,471
12 of 13	30.714	Campbell Field Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	99,536	7,000	106,536	2,226,007
13 of 13	30.429	Pineroft NAP (HR) 2006	Natural Resources Dept of	172,000		172,000	2,398,007
				<b>2,398,007</b>	<b>99,160</b>	<b>2,497,167</b>	

# Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

## Evaluation Criteria

### State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category

(WA Department of Fish and Wildlife & WA Department of Natural Resources)

*“Restoration means bringing a site back to its original function through activities that can be reasonably expected to result in a site that is to the degree possible self sustaining; that is, the site will not require continual intervention to function as a predominately natural ecosystem. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of a site.”*

<b>WWRP – State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Evaluation Summary</b>			
<b>Criteria Number</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Evaluation Elements</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
1	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bigger picture</li> <li>• Uniqueness/significance of the site</li> <li>• Quality of habitat</li> </ul>	15
2	Need for Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated need for restoration/enhancement</li> </ul>	15
3	Long-Term Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat to the site</li> <li>• Long-term viability</li> <li>• Enhancement of existing protected land</li> </ul>	10
4	Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat to species/communities</li> <li>• Importance of restoration/enhancement</li> <li>• Ecological roles</li> <li>• Rarity</li> </ul>	5
5	Plan Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans</li> <li>• Prioritization efforts</li> </ul>	5
6	Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurable benefits</li> <li>• Educational and/or scientific value</li> <li>• Community support</li> </ul>	5
<b>Total Points Possible</b>			<b>55</b>

**Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program**  
**Scoring Criteria**  
**State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category**

1. **Ecological /Biological characteristics.** Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?
2. **Need for Restoration/Enhancement.** What is the need for stewardship activities, whether restoration or enhancement?
3. **Long-Term Manageability and Viability.** Will the project result in restoring or enhancing land that function in a manner that is sustainable and integrates appropriately with bordering communities or habitats? What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to restore or enhance it now? .
4. **Species and/or Communities with Special Status.** What are the habitat communities or species of wildlife that will benefit most from the improvements proposed for this site?
5. **Plan Priority.** How is this project supported by a current plan (i.e. watershed, stewardship, state/regional resource, species management, shoreline, salmon recovery, open space, land use, habitat conservation, agency) or a coordinated prioritization effort?
6. **Public Benefit.** To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the species or community impacted as a result of this restoration or enhancement?



**Evaluation Summary**  
**Washington Wildlife Recreation Program - State Lands Restoration & Enhancement**  
**State Fiscal Year 2008**

Rank	Name/Sponsor	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
		Biological Charact.	Restoration or Enhancement	Manageability & Viability	Species & Communities	Plan Priority	Public Benefit	
1	Audubon Lake Gr/Fish & W	12.857	12.000	6.857	4.143	4.143	4.143	44.143
2	Admiralty Inlet/Natural	11.143	13.286	8.286	3.714	4.286	3.286	44.000
3	Elk River NRCA /Natural	12.429	12.000	7.429	3.286	3.429	3.000	41.571
4	Willapa Bay Res/Fish & W	12.429	11.571	7.714	3.286	3.000	3.000	41.000
5	Morse Creek Riv/Fish & W	12.000	11.571	6.000	3.714	3.286	3.571	40.143
6	Methow Shrub-st/Fish & W	10.286	10.714	7.429	3.857	4.286	3.000	39.571
7	Beebe Springs R/Fish & W	9.000	10.714	6.857	3.714	3.571	4.000	37.857
8	Klickitat Canyo/Natural	9.857	10.286	6.000	3.571	2.571	2.143	34.429
9	L.T. Murray/Wen/Fish & W	9.429	9.000	7.143	2.857	2.857	2.714	34.000
10	Mt St Helens/To/Fish & W	9.000	8.571	5.714	2.714	3.000	3.571	32.571
11	Wooten Wildlife/Fish & W	9.429	7.714	6.000	3.143	2.857	3.286	32.429
12	Campbell Field /Fish & W	7.286	9.429	6.571	2.429	2.429	2.571	30.714
13	Pineroft NAP (/Natural	7.286	8.571	5.143	3.286	2.429	3.714	30.429

Evaluators Score Questions: 1-6

Prepared: 09/05/2006

***WWRP***  
***HABITAT CONSERVATION ACCOUNT***

***STATE LANDS***  
***RESTORATION AND***  
***ENHANCEMENT***

**FISCAL YEAR 2008**

***PROJECT SYNOPSES***



other rare and declining prairie dependent species. Restoration will include repeated mowings, removing/controlling invasive species, propagation and outplanting native prairie species grown from on-site collected seed, reducing herbivory, experimental burn, etc.

(06-1908R-FY08)

<b>Natural Resources Dept of Elk River NRCA (HR) 2006</b>	<b>\$299,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$299,700</b>
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This project will restore hydrologic function and fish passage where freshwater streams enter the estuary of Andrew's Creek, within the Elk River Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA). This estuary is a nationally recognized wetland system with large, high quality salt marshes, WA Natural Heritage Plan Priority 1 transition zone wetlands, and large freshwater streams and associated wetlands that support water quality in the estuary.

The project will remove significant areas of fill from bridge approaches, old road fills and old railroad grades in the tidally influenced areas of Andrews Creek and the Elk River Estuary. Ecological restoration of marshes and wetlands will increase the wetland area of the estuary, and barrier removal will increase habitat available to anadromous fish. After these critical needs are resolved, public use planning can help develop appropriate uses and a trail plan that doesn't impact sensitive resources. The roads to be abandoned in this project dead end on the NRCA and will not affect nearby landowners. The "dike" is a railroad causeway that only affects the NRCA. (06-1910R-FY08)

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Dept of Willapa Bay Restoration</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>	<b>\$297,000</b>
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Willapa Bay, an estuary approximately 60,000 acres in size, is home to a diversity of native plant, animal, and fish species and is an important stop-over site for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Since its accidental introduction in the early 1900's as packing material from imported oysters, the invasive cordgrass *Spartina alterniflora* had colonized 7,400 solid acres spread over 20,000 acres by 2004. *Spartina* poses a threat to the ecology of the bay by out-competing native plants and creating monotypic meadows that raise the elevation of the mudflat through accreting sediment. A multi-agency *Spartina* control program was implemented in 1995 and has significantly reduced the infestation to approximately 4,300 solid acres as of 2006.

This proposal seeks funding to restore 500 acres of habitat that have been impacted by *Spartina* on five sites owned and managed by WDFW and DNR in Willapa Bay for the benefit of nearshore dependent plant and animal species. In addition, the restoration will compliment other *Spartina* management work occurring on federal, tribal, state and private lands in the bay. (06-2048R-FY08)

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Dept of Morse Creek Riverine Restoration</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
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Morse Creek is inhabited by multiple stocks of imperiled salmonids: Strait of Juan De Fuca summer chum, bull trout, pink salmon, coho salmon and winter steelhead. Puget Sound Chinook were recently extirpated in Morse Creek. Much of the stream reach

within the recently purchased WDFW property (river mile 1.2 to 1.7) is severely degraded by human impacts. It is channelized, confined, over-steepened, diked and depleted of large wood, resulting in severe channel simplification. The channel is extremely energetic, paved with large cobbles and boulders, and lacks complexity. Fish habitat conditions are extremely poor.

This project will restore high quality mainstem, side channel, and off-channel habitat historically used by all the imperiled Morse Creek salmonids and also by coastal cutthroat trout. Work will include 1) removal of 1,100 feet of dike, 2) restoration of the 1939 stream channel, reconnection of the stream with 9.3 acres of flood plain, and 3) construction of two substantial engineered log jams. (06-2059R-FY08)

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Dept of</b>	<b>\$304,521</b>	<b>\$10,402</b>	<b>\$314,923</b>
<b>Methow Shrub-steppe Restoration</b>			

This Methow Shrub-Steppe Restoration Project proposes to restore 600 acres of historic dryland agricultural fields on the Methow Wildlife Area to native shrub-steppe vegetation. The primary catalyst to implement this project is the proliferation of non-native, invasive weeds in historic abandoned agricultural fields. This is part of an ongoing effort to protect and preserve the ecological integrity of low elevation shrub-steppe habitat on the Methow Wildlife Area. Restoration will help protect and enhance critical habitat, conserve biodiversity, and enhance connectivity and habitat of the Methow Valley's shrub-steppe landscape.

The restoration work-plan utilizes a 4-step approach:

- 1) Evaluate each site for soil conditions, vegetation and habitat potential, and wildlife use before and after treatment;
- 2) Use integrated vegetation management techniques to control invasive weeds;
- 3) Seed each site with native vegetation;
- 4) Several years of follow-up weed control and vegetation monitoring. Significant volunteer contributions include native seed collection, monitoring, educational tours, and consultation.

This project complements the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the Methow Wildlife Area Management Plan, is consistent with Okanogan County's Noxious Weed Control Plan, has been identified as high priority among members of the WDFW Methow Citizen's Advisory Group, and will provide a model for other private, state, and federal lands to restore shrub-steppe habitat in the Methow Valley. (06-1646R-FY08)

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Dept of</b>	<b>\$249,410</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$249,410</b>
<b>Beebe Springs Restoration Phase 2</b>			

In 2003 WDFW acquired 227 acres surrounding the Chelan Hatchery. The acquisition provided the opportunity to preserve riparian and shrubsteppe habitat and restore habitats on the portion of the property formerly in orchard. A stakeholder group with active participation from sixteen organizations focused on 60 acres located between Highway 97 and the Columbia River to create the Beebe Springs Natural Area. The group's vision for this area is to restore habitats destroyed or degraded by past orchard operation, enhance and create anadromous fish habitat in Beebe Creek and along the Columbia River shoreline, and build a trail system with interpretive and educational

elements. Phase 1 of the project, the restoration of Beebe Creek, will be completed in 2006.

Phase 2 of the project, to be completed in 2007-2008, will include riparian and shrubsteppe vegetation establishment adjacent to the restored Beebe Creek. Anadromous fish rearing habitat enhancements will be completed along the Columbia River shoreline (side channels and islands) that will also benefit wildlife using the area. A parking lot, interpretive signing, and initial trail loop around the creek with viewpoints will be completed to allow public enjoyment of the area. Future phases will concentrate on extending the trail system and completing additional riparian habitat and anadromous fish rearing enhancements on the Columbia River shoreline. (06-1789R-FY08)

**Natural Resources Dept of** **\$86,734** **\$6,500** **\$93,234**  
**Klickitat Canyon NRCA (HR) 2006**

This project proposes to restore approximately 50 acres of habitat for the State Endangered Sandhill crane located within the existing Klickitat Canyon NRCA. The project will stabilize water levels in the existing wetland, restore disturbed areas with native plants, and thin encroaching lodgepole pine stands.

The project includes removal of derelict fences, completion of existing new fences to control access by cattle to the site and protect riparian and wetland areas. Lodgepole pine stands will be thinned to remove trees that are encroaching on the wetland and taking over foraging areas, and installation of water level data loggers to ensure long term success. The lodgepole stands will be thinned by hand at an 8 - 10' spacing and trees that are encroaching on the area historically occupied by the wetland will be either chipped or piled and burned on-site. The water level in the wetland will be raised by approximately 1' overall by blocking the opening in the road bed created by removal of a culvert some years ago. A new outlet will be created restoring a more natural outflow.

This project is being undertaken in partnership with WDFW, USF&WS, private landowners and volunteers. Because of these partnerships, the potential for long term viability of the project is high. Restoration of natural processes will maintain improved habitat condition into the future. (06-1911R-FY08)

**Fish & Wildlife Dept of** **\$119,540** **\$18,258** **\$137,798**  
**L.T. Murray/Wenas Wildlife Area Rehab**

This project will involve the restoration of shrub-steppe habitat at four locations on the L.T. Murray/Wenas Wildlife Area Complex that share a very distinct common denominator. They were once used for the production of crops or pasture, and are now highly degraded in terms of quality wildlife habitat. All are treated for noxious weeds on an annual basis.

Approximately 130 acres of once irrigated alfalfa fields at Mountain Vale Ranch west of Selah require treatment with pre and post-emergent herbicides, and inter-seeding with native grass and shrub species to return the area to a more natural shrub-steppe vegetative community.



riparian buffer in three existing campgrounds (one bordering a wetland). This project will restore ecological function in the three closed campgrounds and three new buffer strips, and improve habitat quality for federally listed fish species and riparian-dependent wildlife species. Project areas will be planted with native grass, shrubs, and trees. Plantings will stabilize stream banks, increase plant diversity, enhance fish and wildlife habitat requisites, control noxious weeds, reduce erosion, and establish overstory shade structure. In addition to floral and faunal benefits, the project will improve soil hydrology by decompacting old campground roads and aerating hardened campsites. (06-2069R-FY08)

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Dept of Campbell Field Restoration</b>	<b>\$99,536</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$106,536</b>
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Abandoned agricultural fields are often a component of WDFW wildlife areas. The history of a typical agricultural field is a cycle of disturbance and cultivation and once abandoned they provide the perfect conditions for weedy, low-value vegetation to become established. Campbell Field on the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area is an example with its 260 acres occupied by the introduced species smooth brome. Smooth brome is a drought tolerant, rhizomatous species that is strongly competitive and difficult to eradicate once established. This smooth brome dominated field has low plant diversity and provides little habitat value to most wildlife species.

Fortunately, a WDFW sharp-tail grouse habitat restoration project has developed a methodology that has successfully restored over 2,000 acres of weed dominated agricultural fields to mixed native habitat. The method combines the appropriate agricultural equipment, integrated vegetation management techniques, local native seed mixes, and monitoring over several years to develop a weed-resistant native plant community. The Campbell Field project will use these methods to:

- Create 260 acres of habitat by planting locally adapted native grasses and forbs.
- Increase wildlife carrying capacity and diversity on existing WDFW lands.
- Quantify local vegetation utilization by grazers to improve maintenance/management activities.
- Educate and train new WDFW staff in restoration techniques. (06-1731R-FY08)

<b>Natural Resources Dept of Pinecroft NAP (HR) 2006</b>	<b>\$172,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$172,000</b>
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Pinecroft Natural Area Preserve (NAP) is the largest remaining ponderosa pine/grassland ecosystem that once was prevalent throughout the Spokane Valley, and it serves as a wildlife refuge in an urban setting. A 15 acre open area in the SE portion of the NAP was historically a bunchgrass grassland and retains a small amount of intact grassland. It is now dominated by non-native grasses and other invasive weeds, mixed with native bunchgrasses and forbs in varying concentrations.

The restoration objective is to further reduce the weed infestation and promote native grasses and forbs. This project would re-establish the native vegetation in priority portions of the 15-acre area, expanding the bunchgrass grassland on the site, reducing the risk of re-invasion by noxious weed species, and reducing the threat of this area as a propagule source of invasive species. The NAP is an ecosystem that historically had

periodic low-intensity fires that burned every 5-15 years, resulting in an open pine stand with the grass and shrub understory types listed above. Fire has been suppressed for about 100 years. Overstocking of the ponderosa pine has occurred which increased the competition for limited water and nutrients. The second objective of this restoration project is to remove the heaviest concentrations of downed trees and significantly reduce the stocking level in the sapling stands (approximately 25 acres) that need thinning. This will be accomplished with contractors. Downed trees will be cut up, loaded on a truck and then disposed of off-site. (06-1907R-FY08)



# Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program - State Lands Restoration (WWRP - SLR) FY 2008 Ranked Projects

