

Item # 11

**WWRP
State Parks Category
Evaluation Process**

June 2007

Background

- Issue arose following the 2006 evaluations
- Request from State Parks Commission
 - Adopt State Parks Commission' prioritized list without IAC staff or evaluation team review
 - No project specific justification provided for re-ranked list

State Parks: Current Rules

- RCW: 79A.15.050(1)(a):
"Not less than 30% to the state parks and recreation commission for acquisition and development of state parks...."
- No specific evaluation criteria in statute

State Parks: Current Rules

- IAC Manual 10a, WWRP: Outdoor Recreation
- Evaluation is addressed in collaboration with State Parks (See attachment)
 - a. IAC staff facilitates the evaluation process
 - b. IAC convenes the evaluation team
 - c. Evaluators use Board adopted criteria
 - d. SP Capital Committee may re-order the list
 - e. SP Commission may approve different list if changes are supported
 - f. SP Commission adoption after public comment
 - g. Final adoption by IAC

State Parks: Options

- No change
- Modify the evaluation criteria to better reflect State Parks' priorities.
- Modify to have SP Capital Committee submit project ranking with justification to IAC evaluation team.
- Modify the process by removing one or more steps in the evaluation process.
- Provide a block grant to State Parks without an IAC evaluation process.
- Other?

Pros & Cons

Make Changes

- Eliminates a duplicative step – IAC ranking and SP Capital Committee ranking
- Places more emphasis on SP Commission's priorities
- Streamlines the application and evaluation process
- State Parks approval occurs in an open public meeting with opportunity for public comment

Do Not Change

- Preserves the collaborative adopted process
- Could establish undesirable precedence for ranking of projects by agencies

State Parks: Next Steps

- June – IAC/SP staff review and analyze options
- July – Draft options for State Parks Commission and public review
- August – Public comment on proposed options
- September – Report to Board and finalize option
- October – Final draft out for review
- November – Board action on recommendation
- January 2008 – Application Workshops

**Evaluation
Process**

Evaluations of all other ORA category projects involve an in-person oral and graphic presentation to the evaluation team by the applicant.

While IAC's evaluation meetings are open to anyone, they are not public hearings. As such, only applicant employees or designated spokespersons may address the evaluation team. At these meetings, an IAC staff member serves as nonvoting moderator. Scoring is by secret ballot. Scoring instructions are contained in the individual evaluation instruments. Following the meeting, *all* scores are tabulated and compiled to establish a ranked list of projects. The ranked list is the basis for funding recommendations to the IAC Board.

Evaluation Team

When recruiting individuals to evaluate projects, IAC staff shall attempt to select evaluators that possess a statewide perspective and are recognized for their experience and knowledge related to outdoor recreation in Washington state.

State Parks Category

Because State Parks can be the only recipient of this category's funds, project evaluation is addressed among IAC and State Parks in a collaborative way according to the following policies:

- a. IAC staff facilitates the meeting.
- b. State Parks staff and other interested parties comprise the evaluation team.
- c. IAC adopted WWRP State Parks Category evaluation criteria are used to evaluate projects.
- d. The evaluation meeting is open to the public.
- e. After evaluation, State Parks' Capital Committee may re-order the project list if changes are identified and supported by defined strategic needs when presented to the Parks Commission for approval.
- f. The Parks Commission may approve a project listing different from that established by the evaluation team if the changes are identified and supported with clear reasoning.
- g. Before submission to IAC's Board for approval, the Parks Commission must adopt the ranked project listing at one of its regularly scheduled meetings during which interested members of the public are given an opportunity to comment.
- h. Final adoption of the ranked listing, before submittal to the Governor, continues to reside with IAC, including the prerogative to re-order the list.