



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE  
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**TOPIC #3B: ASSIGNMENTS FROM THE 2006 LEGISLATURE**

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**Approved by the Director:** 

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**Proposed Action:** Briefing

**Summary:**

The 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget contained several assignments for IAC to undertake:

- State motorized and nonmotorized trail database feasibility study
- Youth athletic facility donor matching program
- ORV noise study
- Local park level of service study

The three studies have been submitted to the Legislature. The donor matching program is in progress. They are summarized below.

**Trails Database**

The 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget directed the IAC to " ... prepare cost estimates for creating a database of motorized and nonmotorized off-road trails and facilities in Washington state. The cost estimate shall consider the possibility of a database that allows the downloading of maps formatted for the most widely used GPS devices, including the feasibility and cost to make GPS maps readily available for all users of Washington recreational lands and facilities." [C371 L06, Sec. 170(1)],

Due to the complexity of preparing this cost estimate and lack of staff resources, IAC contracted with a private vendor to develop these estimates. The cost estimates were presented for a number of key tasks required to assemble a database, establish a set of Internet links to trail information, and establish a web portal. The costs were presented as a range, from a possible low total cost of just over \$1.7 million to a high total cost of



\$2.3 million. The major costs elements include accurately mapping in GIS format trails on DNR land, combining data from numerous other state and federal sources that use different protocols and levels of accuracy, and designing the database. A copy of the report is included in the meeting notebook.

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

The 2006 Legislature challenged IAC with raising up to \$2.5 million, to be matched by the Legislature, for youth athletic fields. OIAC has hired a consulting firm, Kenneth E. Leonard Co., of Auburn, for the task. The consultant began work shortly before the holidays and is in the research phase. He is looking at the current fundraising climate in Washington, and specifically for youth athletic fields. He's interviewing potential donors to gauge perceptions of the need and willingness to donate, and testing campaign messages. He also is assessing the gifts to sports related causes by individuals and organizations in Washington. A fundraising plan is due in February, with a case statement ("sales pitch") and campaign materials due in early March.

### **ORV Noise Study**

The 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget directed IAC to "...recommend a program for enhanced education and enforcement regarding excessive noise from off-road vehicles. The study shall include a review of relevant existing laws and regulations. The recommendations shall address the appropriate equipment needed for enforcement, model ordinances, enhanced educational strategies, and a proposed grant program to assist local governments to more effectively reduce the impact of excessive ORV noise in rural residential neighborhoods and nonresidential areas, including consideration of grant programs for planning departments, code enforcement departments, health departments, or other entities of local government." [C371 L06, Sec. 170(2)]

To carry out this project, IAC contracted with ESA Adolfson, an environmental consulting firm, and Geomatrix Consultants, Inc., a firm specializing in environmental noise measurement. As the consultants gathered information and proposed recommendations, IAC staff and the consultants implemented a broad public outreach program that included:

- Recommendations Establishing the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Noise Solutions Advisory Committee
- Emailing project updates to a list of interested individuals and organizations
- Conducting two public workshops, one in Lacey and one in Ellensburg
- Developing a Web site with information on the project and copies of proposed
- Soliciting participants in a web-based questionnaire that ultimately received more than 2,000 responses
- Circulating the final report for additional comment.

The final report contains 13 principal recommendations divided into four categories:

- Statewide sound limits—to be addressed by legislative changes or agency rule-making (see pages 8-9 of the report);
- Model sound ordinances—for consideration by local governments (see pages 10-11);
- Grant program changes—for consideration by the IAC in the NOVA (Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities) Program (see pages 13-14);
- Enhancing data collection to better understand noise complaints—to improve future policy discussions about the issue (see page 14).

A copy of the Adolphson/Geomatrix report is included in the meeting notebook along with a compilation of public comments on the final report.

### **Park Level of Service Project**

In 2006, the Legislature expressed interested in having an objective tool to help determine appropriate investment of state capital dollars in local and regional active park and recreation sites and facilities. As a result, the Supplemental Capital Budget directed IAC to develop “ ... recommendations for a statewide approach to a recreation level of service for active local and regional active recreation facilities, including indicators with which to measure progress in achieving level of service objectives.” [C371 L06, Sec.228]

IAC contracted with the Seattle office of EDAW, an international consulting firm, to assist in the development of options. In all, seven options were tested with available data from 6 communities around Washington State (Snohomish and Spokane Counties, Aberdeen, Tacoma, Wenatchee and Winthrop). Options and test results were reviewed in a series of public workshops in the test communities. Test results, public comment, and other guidance resulted in a level of service proposal based on demand, with options for flexible implementation in local agencies of different sizes and with varying resources. The recommendation is similar to other infrastructure level of service grading systems, using a table of suggested criteria with which a community can self-asses and determine whether its active parks are at an "A" (outstanding) or "F" (failing) level. There will be a detailed presentation of the results of the project under Item #11, with copies of the final report presented at that time.