



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 2008

Item #8a: **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**
Critical Habitat Ranked List for Fiscal Year 2010

Prepared By: Scott T. Robinson, Conservation and Grant Services
Section Manager

Presented By: Scott T. Robinson, Conservation and Grant Services
Section Manager

**Approved by the
Director:**

Proposed Action: Decision

RCW or Policy Description of Category

“Critical habitat projects provide habitat important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.”¹

Summary

Sixteen Critical Habitat (CH) category projects requesting \$36.6 million were evaluated on July 29–30, 2008 in an open public meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) is being asked to approve Table 1, which shows the ranked list of projects and staff recommendation for projects to be forwarded to the Governor.

¹ Chapter 79A.15.010(3), Acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands



Staff Recommendation

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. In keeping with Board guidelines, this list includes enough projects to use the statutory amount set aside for this category and alternates.

Resolution #2008-035 is provided for Board consideration.

Program Policies

Critical Habitat category projects provide habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species. These habitats include freshwater, salt-water, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, winter range, etc. Acquisitions often provide protection of habitat for both federal and state endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

Other factors related to this program are:

Eligible Applicants	Local and state agencies may apply for funding
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of lesser interests such as conservation easements• Habitat enhancement or creation• Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, wildlife blinds, interpretive signs, parking and restrooms
Funding Limits	No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project
Match Requirements	Local agency applicants must provide a minimum 50% matching share
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities is allowed.• Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible

The Critical Habitat category is eligible to receive 40% of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.²

Evaluation Summary

Sixteen Critical Habitat category projects requesting \$36.6 million were evaluated on July 29–30, 2008 in an open public meeting. A team of eight evaluators used criteria adopted by the Board to review and rank the projects. The evaluation team, composed

² Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(a) RCW

of individuals recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to fish and wildlife habitat conservation, included:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Rich Carlson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Giblin	University of Washington
Frana Milan	King County Natural Resources and Parks
Elizabeth Rodrick	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Carey Smith	Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Ted Smith	WA State Parks
Pene Speaks	WA Department of Natural Resources
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe

The results of the evaluations, provided for Board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Ranked List of Projects, Fiscal Year 2010*.

Attachments

Resolution #2008-035

Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Ranked List of Projects, FY 2010

- A. State Map for Critical Habitat Category projects
- B. Critical Habitat Evaluation Criteria Summary
- C. Critical Habitat Project Evaluation Scoring Summary
- D. Critical Habitat Project Summaries (a synopsis of each proposal)

RESOLUTION #2008-035

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category - Fiscal Year 2010
Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2010 of the 2009-2011 biennium, sixteen Critical Habitat category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and

WHEREAS, these sixteen Critical Habitat category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) members, and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner, and

WHEREAS, all sixteen Critical Habitat category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts: Policies and Project Selection*, including criteria regarding public support and linkages to established plans, and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs, and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in Table 1 – *WWRP, Critical Habitat Ranked List of Projects, FY 2010*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Critical Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

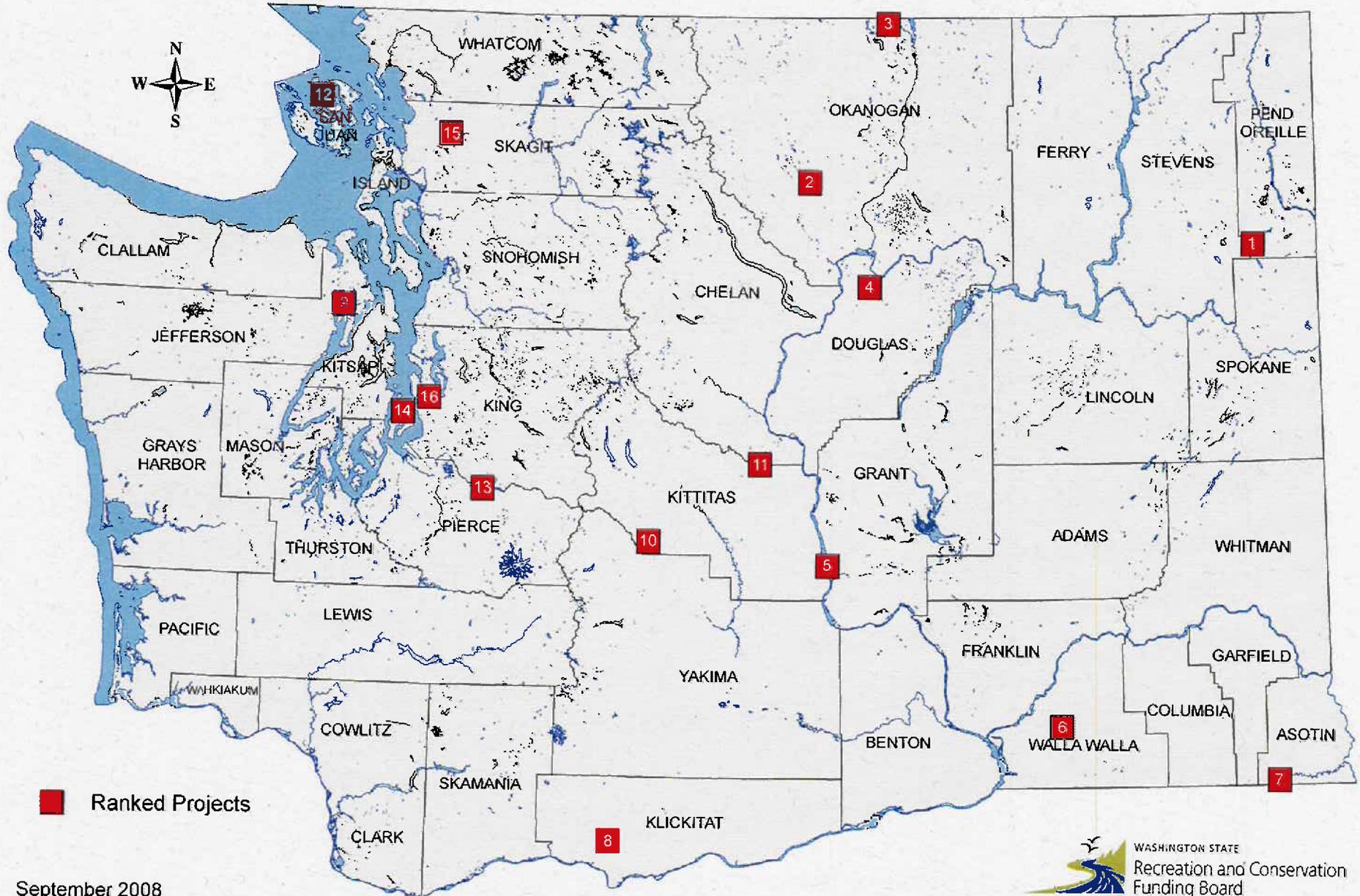
Table 1
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Critical Habitat
State Fiscal Year 2010

Rank	Score Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCO Amount	Sponsor Amount	Total Amount	Cumulative Amount
1 of 16	41.250 08-1504A	West Branch Little Spokane River Phase II	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$6,472,252		\$6,472,252	\$6,472,252
2 of 16	41.125 08-1505A	Methow Watershed Phase 6	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$3,500,000		\$3,500,000	\$9,972,252
3 of 16	40.500 08-1502A	Okanogan Similkameen Phase 2	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$4,600,000		\$4,600,000	\$14,572,252
4 of 16	38.375 08-1509A	Mid Columbia Shrubsteppe Phase 2	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$2,500,000		\$2,500,000	\$17,072,252
5 of 16	37.000 08-1185A	Wanapum NAP 2008	Natural Resources Dept of	\$1,511,685		\$1,511,685	\$18,583,937
6 of 16	36.875 08-1518A	Touchet River and Grasslands 2	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$1,477,600		\$1,477,600	\$20,061,537
7 of 16	35.625 08-1501A	Mountain View Phase 1	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$3,700,000		\$3,700,000	\$23,761,537
8 of 16	35.500 08-1510A	Klickitat White Oak	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$731,950		\$731,950	\$24,493,487
9 of 16	35.375 08-1818A	Tarboo Headwaters to Bay	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$25,993,487
10 of 16	35.125 08-1508A	Heart of the Cascades Phase 1	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$2,400,000		\$2,400,000	\$28,393,487
11 of 16	34.000 08-1503A	Stemilt Basin Phase 1	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$4,800,000		\$4,800,000	\$33,193,487
12 of 16	33.000 08-1261A	Turtleback Mountain	San Juan County Land Bank	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000	\$34,693,487
13 of 16	30.625 08-1341A	White River Acquisition	King County DNR & Parks	\$585,000	\$585,000	\$1,170,000	\$35,278,487
14 of 16	27.750 08-1398A	Pt Heyer Drift Cell Preservation - Phase 1 WWRP	King Co Water & Land Res	\$800,000	\$2,719,525	\$3,519,525	\$36,078,487
15 of 16	25.500 08-1681D	Hansen Creek floodplain restoration	Upper Skagit Tribe	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$36,328,487
16 of 16	22.625 08-1877A	Duwamish Gardens Estuarine Habitat Acquisition	Tukwila City of	\$245,000	\$2,058,521	\$2,303,521	\$36,573,487
				\$36,573,487	\$9,113,046	\$45,686,533	

NOTE: Funds available, to be determined.

Prepared: 08/27/2008

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Critical Habitat (WWRP - CH) FY 2010 Ranked Projects



Attachment B: Critical Habitat Category (Local & State Agencies), Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

“Critical habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.” RCW 79A.15.010

WWRP - Critical Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement] 	Not scored
Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bigger picture • Uniqueness/significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and/or communities • Quality of habitat 	20
Species and Communities with Special Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat to species/communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity 	10
Manageability and Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • On-going stewardship 	15
Public Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support • Educational and/or scientific value 	5
Total Points Possible		50

Scoring Criteria, Critical Habitat Category

1. **Ecological/Biological Characteristics.** Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation?
RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iii, v - vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)

2. **Species and/or Communities with Special Status.** What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table?
RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(iv, ix, xiii,)

3. **Manageability and Viability.** What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long term and why is it important to secure it now?
RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(ii, iv, viii, x)

4. **Public Benefit.** To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project?
RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a)(i, xii)

**Attachment C: Evaluation Summary
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Critical Habitat
State Fiscal Year 2010**

Question #	1	2	3	4	
Name/Sponsor	Ecological Biological Characteristics	Species with Special Status	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	Total
1 West Branch Lit/Fish & Wildlife	17.250	7.500	12.500	4.000	41.250
2 Methow Watershe/Fish & Wildlife	17.625	8.000	11.250	4.250	41.125
3 Okanogan Similk/Fish & Wildlife	17.250	8.250	11.375	3.625	40.500
4 Mid Columbia Sh/Fish & Wildlife	16.125	7.500	11.375	3.375	38.375
5 Resources	15.750	8.000	10.375	2.875	37.000
6 Touchet River a/Fish & Wildlife	15.500	6.875	11.250	3.250	36.875
7 Mountain View P/Fish & Wildlife	15.500	7.875	9.500	2.750	35.625
8 Klickitat White/Fish & Wildlife	14.625	7.000	10.250	3.625	35.500
9 Tarboo Headwate/Port Gamble Tribe	14.625	6.750	10.625	3.375	35.375
10 Heart of the Ca/Fish & Wildlife	13.875	6.750	10.875	3.625	35.125
11 Stemilt Basin P/Fish & Wildlife	13.875	6.500	9.875	3.750	34.000
12 Bank	13.750	6.375	9.375	3.500	33.000
13 White River Acq/King County	13.125	6.250	8.625	2.625	30.625
14 Pt Heyer Drift /King County	12.250	5.500	7.375	2.625	27.750
15 Hansen Creek fl/Upper Skagit Tribe	10.250	4.875	7.750	2.625	25.500
16 Duwamish Garden/Tukwila	8.625	4.375	6.250	3.375	22.625

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Critical Habitat Category**

Fiscal Year 2010

Project Synopses

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$6,472,252	\$0	\$6,472,252

08-1504A West Branch Little Spokane River Phase II

The West Branch Little Spokane Phase 2 property is located 30 miles north of Spokane in Pend Oreille County. WDFW holds a signed option agreement for the purchase of the remaining property, which expires in September 2009. Phase 2 is for the remaining 1,700 acres of 2,800 acres of highly diverse habitats including streams, riparian, emergent wetlands, lakes, beaver ponds, cottonwood galleries, and unfragmented uplands composed of aspen groves, and mixed coniferous forests. The area is relatively unique to Eastern Washington and Pend Oreille County as it provides such a large contiguous area of healthy riparian and wetlands at low elevation. The habitats support a high level of mammal, bird, and herp diversity. Species include moose, white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, cougar, grouse, turkey, golden and bald eagles (ST,FT), Townsend's big-eared bat (SC, FSC), northern goshawk (SC, FSC), western toad (SC, FSC), Columbia spotted frog (SC, FSC), and pygmy whitefish (SS).

The property provides Spokane area residents with sustainable recreational opportunities including: watchable wildlife and photography, environmental education, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and boating. The property also provides access to the West Branch Little Spokane River, Horseshoe and Fan Lakes. Acquisition of this property will help ensure the protection of fish and wildlife populations for future generations, while providing economic benefit for the local communities.

Rank (1 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$3,500,000

08-1505A Methow Watershed Phase 6

Goal: Conserve the ecological integrity and extraordinary biological diversity of the Methow Watershed. Objectives: 1. Protect parcels containing critical habitats (shrub-steppe, riparian) under-represented in the protected land base, and link these parcels to existing public lands. 2. Maintain cross-valley corridors to facilitate animal movements. Activities: Secure approximately 1070 acres of critical riparian and shrub-steppe, including over 3000 feet of stream frontage, through fee title and conservation easement (CE) purchases. Benefits: 1. Conserve the upper valley's largest privately held block of shrub-steppe habitat, which is critical for sharp-tailed grouse recovery in the watershed. 2. Protect migratory corridors for deer and the rare carnivores that depend on them. 3. Protect habitat for over 40 priority habitats and species, including sharp-tail grouse, spring Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and rare carnivores. 4. Secure an important reach of Beaver Creek that contains critical habitat for listed anadromous fish. 5. Improve management efficiencies by linking large blocks of existing public ownership. 6. Enhance public fishing, hunting, and watchable wildlife opportunities. 7. Support the valley's recreational community trail system. 8. Support local economies through ecologically sustainable land use and the maintenance of working landscapes. 9. Match for USFWS funding. 10. Addresses the objectives of state and regional planning efforts.

Rank (2 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$4,600,000	\$0	\$4,600,000
08-1502A Okanogan Similkameen Phase 2			

Objectives: 1. Protect the most viable wildlife movement corridor linking the North Cascades and Kettle/Selkirk ecosystems. 2. Maintain the only low-elevation, biological corridor linking the Columbia Basin with the remaining endangered shrub-steppe/grassland habitats in Canada. Activities: Secure approximately 4,130 acres of critical riparian, shrub-steppe, and dry forest wildlife habitat, including over 10 miles of river/lake/stream frontage, through fee title and conservation easement (CE) purchases. Benefits: 1. Maintain linkage between the Cascades and Rockies populations of rare, wide-ranging carnivores and their ungulate prey (grizzly bear, gray wolf, lynx, wolverine, deer, moose, bighorn sheep). 2. Protect habitat for almost 80 internationally recognized at risk species, including 4 Federal, 8 State, and 35 Canadian listed species. 3. Improve management efficiencies by linking large blocks of existing public ownership. 5. Enhance public fishing, hunting, and watchable wildlife opportunities. 6. Help secure several stretches of the County's planned regional trail network. 7. Support local economies through ecologically sustainable land use and the maintenance of working landscapes. 8. Compliments \$10.4 million in partner funding already secured and will match future federal funding. 9. Part of a larger (80,000+ acre), multi-phase land conservation effort. 10. Addresses the objectives of local, state, regional and international planning efforts.

Rank (3 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
08-1509A Mid-Columbia Shrubsteppe Phase 2			

This project will secure protection for 4,999 acres of habitat in northern Douglas County critical to the survival of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and other state priority species dependant on shrubsteppe habitats. The target property is home to two active sharp-tailed grouse leks, plus critical nesting, brood rearing and winter habitats. These sites are adjacent to WDFW wildlife areas that have active sharp-tailed grouse leks. Acquisition will build and maintain important connectivity between these wildlife areas as well as sharp-tailed grouse populations on the Colville Indian Reservation and in Okanogan County. The loss of connectivity between these areas will jeopardize WDFW's efforts to fully recover sharp-tailed grouse populations in the state. More than 60% of the state's shrubsteppe habitat has been eliminated. Douglas County still retains shrubsteppe habitat to the extent that it supports several shrubsteppe species that have been extirpated from much of Washington. Besides the sharp-tailed grouse, many of our highest priority species in need of conservation are covered by the scope of this proposal, including greater sage grouse, Washington ground squirrels, and pygmy rabbit. The successful completion of this project will help secure a core habitat area that is essential to increasing and maintaining important connectivity, travel corridors, and gene flow that is critical to the survival of the these species in general and sharp-tailed grouse in particular.

Rank (4 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$1,511,685	\$0	\$1,511,685
08-1185A Wanapum NAP 2008			

This project involves the proposed acquisition of priority parcels within the proposed 11,620 acre Wanapum Natural Area Preserve (NAP) in Grant County. The preserve is designed to ensure the protection of two primary conservation targets: the Striped Whipsnake and the Inter-Mountain Basin Active & Stabilized Dune Ecological System. The site will also provide protection for twelve other priority species and ecological systems. The size and diversity of habitat will contribute to the long-term viability of this preserve and associated species. The site contains the only two known extant populations of Striped Whipsnakes in Washington. The project area maintains connectivity between the two occurrences and protects critical habitat such as the hibernacula.

This is the first NAP in Washington designed to conserve inland sand dunes. The preserve design permits the sand dunes to migrate allowing the natural dynamic processes associated with this ecological system. State and federally listed species that occur in the project area include Sagebrush Lizard, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Washington Ground Squirrel and Black-tailed Jackrabbit. The project area also supports rare plant species including Geyer's milkvetch, beaked spike rush, Great Basin gilia and Gray cryptantha. Approximately 2300 acres of the globally rare Wyoming big sagebrush/needle-and-thread grass plant association occurs within the project area.

Rank (5 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$1,477,600	\$0	\$1,477,600
08-1518A Touchet River and Grasslands 2			

This proposed acquisition consists of 2,560 acres of diverse priority habitats (Grass and Shrub Prairie, Wetlands, Cliffs and Talus Slopes, Riparian - Cottonwood Gallery) and 3.5 miles of the Touchet River. The proposed acquisition is a rare opportunity, as there are no roads through the property and it has had very few human impacts. The property features an intact floodplain, one of the few remaining in the lower Walla Walla Basin. This floodplain and associated habitats are very important as a reference for our understanding of natural floodplain function in Eastern Washington. The property is on Eureka Flats, where sand dunes 30-40 feet high were produced by winds from the Columbia River through Wallula Gap. There is very little intact sand dune habitat left, though 20 - 30 acres remain on this property. Sand dune habitat has recently been added to the Priority Habitat List for Washington State. These critical habitats support a multitude of plant, animal, and insect species. More than 120 species of neotropical migratory birds utilize this property (Ferruginous Hawks, Vauxs' Swift, Loggerhead Shrike, Golden Eagle, Rufous Hummingbird, Wilson's Warbler, Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow). Mammals found on the property include badgers, pocket mice, western jumping mice, and black and white-tailed jackrabbits. In addition, there are numerous reptiles, amphibian, and fish species of special interest found on the property.

Rank (6 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$3,700,000	\$0	\$3,700,000
08-1501A Mountain View Phase 1			

This proposed acquisition includes approximately 3,550 acres in southern Asotin County, including portions of the Wenatchee Creek and Cottonwood Creek drainages, tributaries of the Grande Ronde River, as well as shorelines along the Grande Ronde River. The parcel is bordered on the north by National Forest lands, and the south by recently acquired Bureau of Land Management lands. Private lands border the property to the east and west. The opportunity currently exists for the WDFW to acquire this unique, and highly diverse property. Acquisition would protect miles of creek and river shorelines, cliff and talus habitats, riparian, meadows, springs, curleaf mahogany, interior grassland, and ponderosa pine habitats. A diverse suite of species would benefit from this acquisition - including steelhead, bull trout, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, wolves, and golden eagles.

Rank (7 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$731,950	\$0	\$731,950
08-1510A Klickitat White Oak			

The 250-acre Klickitat Oaks parcel is ecologically diverse, being comprised of riparian, forested wetland, Oregon white oak, mixed conifer forest stand, and open meadow habitats. Procuring the property will protect 1.5 miles of Klickitat River shoreline and side channel spawning habitat for Chinook, Mid-Columbia steelhead and coho salmon. Riparian habitat enhancement in the form of SRFB-funded native vegetation plantings have occurred. Another successful SRFB grant will place needed large woody debris at the mouth of the side channel.

Core habitat for State threatened western gray squirrels is included in the Klickitat Oaks property. Dozens of confirmed gray squirrel nests are located both on Klickitat Oaks and on adjacent Klickitat Wildlife Area lands. On page 70 of the recently released WDFW Western Gray Squirrel Recovery Plan recommends to "Protect essential western gray squirrel habitat through acquisition." In addition, "Where there are willing sellers, consider acquisition of important parcels of squirrel habitat."

Floodplains and Riparian areas are described as key Klickitat River basin limiting factors in Klickitat County's WRIA 30 Limiting Factors Analysis. Due to the deeply incised canyons with narrow valley floors comprising most of the mainstem, the development of floodplains and wetlands is limited over a large portion of the watershed by the geology and topography of the basin. The Klickitat Oaks property contains both functional floodplains and forested wetlands.

Rank (8 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
08-1818A Tarboo Headwaters to Bay			

This landscape-scale conservation project will help permanently protect and restore a stream and wetland corridor from the headwaters of Tarboo Creek to Tarboo-Dabob Bay in Upper Hood Canal. The project is part of a whole watershed approach to long-term, comprehensive protection of a diversity of at-risk species and habitats being undertaken by a coalition of conservation groups, landowners, Tribes, and local, state and federal agencies. Approximately 700 acres have already been protected by conservation easement and fee simple acquisition. The proposed project funds key properties necessary for connectivity and ecological viability of the entire area. A broad diversity of freshwater and estuarine species and habitats will be protected including 42 priority species, 8 priority habitats, and 8 priority Natural Heritage elements. This project proposes permanent protection of 415 acres on ten properties along Tarboo Creek and surrounding Tarboo-Dabob Bay. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe will hold title to conservation easements, with Jefferson Land Trust providing long-term stewardship. Matching funds have been secured through other federal and state grants and most properties have time limited opportunities for purchase of conservation easements.

Rank (9 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$2,400,000	\$0	\$2,400,000
08-1508A Heart of the Cascades Phase 1 - T17N R15E			

The Heart of the Cascades Project seeks to protect in two phases, 10,371 acres (16 square miles) of rich and diverse habitats on the east slope of the central Cascade Mountains near Yakima, WA. WDFW has already secured a 3.6 million dollar federal habitat recovery grant, providing nearly half of the funds for the project, valued at approximately 8 million dollars. State funds are required as match for the federal money. This first phase requests 2.4 million dollars of Critical Habitat funds to match half of the federal grant in order to protect 5185 acres. The second phase will seek a similar amount to match the remainder of the federal grant and purchase the rest of the property. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has secured an option agreement, and is providing bridge funding for the project.

TNC and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation are financially engaged here because they recognize the importance of biodiversity protection at this site. A striking array of habitat and species diversity occurs here because of the substantial elevation and precipitation gradient (2000 to 6000 feet) across the project. Four watersheds also have their headwaters here. These lands are a checkerboard inholding within the Wenatchee National Forest, and adjacent to the Wenas Wildlife Area and DNR state forest lands. Recreational use of these lands provides an important local community value.

Rank (10 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$4,800,000	\$0	\$4,800,000
08-1503A Stemilt Basin Phase 1			

The Stemilt Basin project in Chelan and Kittitas Counties seeks to protect 4,640 acres of dry conifer forest, mesic mixed conifer forest, and other diverse habitats on the east slope of the Cascades. This project is an offshoot of the larger natural resource planning effort undertaken by the Stemilt Partnership in the Stemilt and Squilchuck watersheds.

Critical habitat exists here for ponderosa pine dependent species, such as flammulated owl. Other habitats and species present include: mixed Douglas fir/ponderosa pine with white-headed woodpecker and spotted owl; mixed Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forests with northern goshawk and pileated woodpecker; basalt cliffs; dense riparian with neotropical migrants such as MacGillivray's Warbler; and Stemilt Creek with federally-listed steelhead and spring Chinook in the lower reach and resident rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout in the upper reaches.

The Stemilt Basin is popular for hiking, bird watching, fishing, hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. Support for the Stemilt Basin project comes from the Stemilt Partnership. This partnership is made up of over twenty entities with a common goal; To create a shared vision and action plan which will best accommodate and protect the range of interests, values, and uses present in the Stemilt and neighboring Squilchuck basins. A keystone of the action plan is to preserve critical habitats and associated fish and wildlife from the growing threat of development.

Rank (11 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
San Juan County Land Bank	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000
08-1261A Turtleback Mountain			

This grant will help purchase 1,576 acres of habitat at Turtleback Mountain on Orcas Island. As part of the largest habitat acquisition in San Juan County in a generation, the Turtleback Mountain acquisition galvanized the entire region. The owners, a private Seattle foundation needing to maximize their profit, had many private developers express interest, with one offering the full asking price in March 2006. Under current zoning, 78 home sites were possible. In an unprecedented outpouring of local philanthropy, the Land Bank and its partners managed to purchase the property for \$17 million in November of 2006. The Land Bank bonded heavily against its REET and conservation futures revenue to make certain this essential habitat was protected.

This project includes over 300 acres of regionally imperiled Garry Oak woodland, savannah, native grassland, and rocky balds. The 2007 Washington Natural Heritage Plan identifies this habitat as a top conservation priority, and few such large and intact habitats remain in the Puget Trough. Priority species identified on the property include peregrine falcon, golden eagle, Shaw Island vole, sharptail snake, and propertius dusky wing butterfly. The surrounding 1,276 acres of protected land are dominated by highly ranked dry site forested communities (primarily Douglas-Fir/baldhip rose-oceanspray) which shelter 24 inventoried freshwater wetlands, most with moderate to high habitat function.

Rank (12 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
King County DNR & Parks	\$585,000	\$585,000	\$1,170,000

08-1341A White River Acquisition

This proposal would preserve 11 parcels totaling 78 acres adjacent to the White River & Red Creek, near Pinnacle Peak Park. White River spring Chinook are on the brink of extinction and is only one of two spring Chinook runs in central/south Puget Sound that are essential for the delisting of the Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). This Chinook run is genetically the most distinctive stock in central/south Puget Sound and is the last existing early returning "spring" Chinook population in southern Puget Sound. Most natural spawning occurs in the mainstem White R. and major tributaries upstream of Mud Mountain Dam. All five species of pacific salmon, steelhead, & bull trout must migrate through this reach of the river to reach Puget Sound, and improvements in this reach would directly benefit rearing Chinook, coho and steelhead. This project would preserve a dynamic link between the river, its floodplain and associated riparian zones, off-channel habitats, Red Creek, wetlands, and forested uplands. Other Priority species/Species of Concern: bald eagle, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, Van Dyke's Salamander, big brown bat, fisher, mink, Western toad. Red Creek flows through a 29-acre palustrine forested wetland within the project area. Acquiring these parcels would provide continued habitat protection for an area critically important for priority fish and wildlife species. The acquisition of riverine floodplain corridors is a high priority for WRIA 10.

Rank (13 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
King Co Water & Land Res	\$800,000	\$2,719,525	\$3,519,525

08-1398A Pt Heyer Drift Cell Preservation - Phase 1 WWRP

King County Water & Land Resources intends to preserve shoreline parcels within the north reach of the Pt. Heyer drift cell, as a Phase I project to ultimately protect the entire drift cell. The project will aid in recovery of ESA listed Puget Sound Chinook and Steelhead, and other aquatic species with special status.

The Pt. Heyer drift cell originates at the Vashon Landing, and terminates 2.5 miles downdrift at Point Heyer. The target reach contains 13 parcels with approx. 3/4 miles of nearshore and feeder bluff. This longshore transport system is among the most intact drift cells in Central Puget Sound; 90% is in tact (unmodified). The shoreline contains active feeder bluff w/mature native riparian vegetation. Juvenile Chinook, chum, coho, cutthroat, pink, sockeye, and steelhead are known or expected to use this nearshore for refuge and feeding during migration and the beach contains documented surf smelt and sand lance spawning habitat. Successful preservation of the north reach will protect active feeder bluff that supplies sediment to the entire shoreline south to Pt Heyer, sustaining the barrier lagoon - the only shoreform of this kind in Puget Sound.

Rank (14 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Upper Skagit Tribe	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
08-1681D Hansen Creek floodplain restoration			

The scope of this project is for plantings that will provide floodplain restoration in the Hansen Creek Reach area. The restoration plantings will occur on 80 acres of the site's 140 riparian acres to be restored. The restored riparian canopy will support the food web, water cooling, sediment stabilization and organic transport functions for the Hansen Creek mainstem. This restoration will also support spawning habitat for Chinook while providing beneficial habitats for Coho, Chum and Pink Salmon, Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout, and a number of other wildlife species. The project will restore off-channel floodplain and wetland habitat functions and develop a project boundary berm to serve as a future one mile public trail for viewing and environmental interpretation. The project features restoration of hydrology, hydraulic flow, sediment dispersal, side and off-channel complexity and the re-establishment of riverine flow through wetlands. The establishment of the riparian canopy is critical to forming self-regulating processes, while increasing efficacy of restoration actions in the reaches above and downstream.

Rank (15 of 16)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
City of Tukwila	\$245,000	\$2,058,521	\$2,303,521
08-1877A Duwamish Gardens Estuarine Habitat Acquisition			

The City of Tukwila proposes the purchase of 2.16 acres of property adjacent to the right bank of the Duwamish River immediately downstream of river mile 7. The site is in the high priority "transition zone" between fresh and salt water and will, in the future, be restored for salmonid habitat. The site is critical habitat because this reach of the estuary provides the appropriate range of salinities for juvenile chinook to transition to salt water. Off channel and shallow water habitats in this stretch of the Duwamish will provide opportunities for juvenile fish to move out of the main channel to habitats where they can feed and rear. Longer residence times in the estuary allow for larger, healthier smolts prior to ocean migration. The property is among the largest remaining undeveloped properties available for habitat restoration in the Duwamish corridor. Located in the midst of several other restoration sites, the property will provide an important habitat link and open space link.

The property, until recently operated as a family farm known as "Duwamish Gardens", is flat with a bank of approximately 15 feet to the Duwamish River with approximately 500 feet of river frontage. Structures on the property include an historic farmhouse, a contemporary house, a barn, and two outbuildings, all of which would be removed or demolished. Current vegetation is dominated by invasive blackberries. The threat that the property may be lost for restoration purposes is significant, so there is some urgency to the purchase.

Rank (16 of 16)