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STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 2008

Item #8b: **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program**
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement 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

"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."¹

Summary

Twenty-one State Lands Restoration category projects requesting \$4.7 million were evaluated between July 31 and August 14 through a written evaluation process. 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.15.040, Acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands



Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Table 1, which shows the ranked list of projects. If approved by the Board, staff will forward the list to the Governor. In keeping with Board guidelines, Table 1 includes enough projects to use the statutory amount set aside for this category and alternates.

Resolution #2008-036 is provided for Board consideration.

Program Policies

State Lands Restoration 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 reasonably be expected to result in a site that is, to the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

Other factors related to this program are:

Eligible Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Natural Resources• Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Types	Habitant enhancement or creation
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimum of \$25,000 per project• Maximum of \$500,000 per multi-site project• Maximum of \$1,000,000 per single site project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Properties should be managed primarily for resource preservation and protection

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category is eligible to receive 10 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.²

Evaluation Summary

Twenty-one State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects requesting \$4.7 million were evaluated between July 31 and August 14. A team of seven evaluators used a written evaluation process and criteria adopted by the Board to review and rank the projects. The evaluation team, composed of individuals recognized

² Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(d) RCW

for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement, included:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Lincoln Bormann	San Juan County Land Bank
John Konovsky	Squaxin Island Tribe
Mike Kuttel	Thurston County Conservation District
David Mudd	Citizen
Ian Sinks	Columbia Land Trust
Kelly Craig	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ted Smith	State Parks
Jennifer Zarnoch	WA Department of Natural Resources

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Ranked List of Projects, Fiscal Year 2010 shows the results of the evaluations.

Attachments

Resolution #2008-036

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration Ranked List of Projects, FY2010

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

RESOLUTION #2008-036

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category - Fiscal Year 2010
Ranked List of Projects**

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2010 of the 2009-2011 biennium, twenty-one 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 State Lands Restoration category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) members; and

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

WHEREAS, all twenty-one State Lands Restoration 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 public benefit and relationship to other plans, thereby supporting the Board's principles to make strategic investments that are guided by community support and established priorities; and

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the quality and function of the habitat, longer-term viability, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the Board's goals to help agencies maximize the useful life of Board-funded projects and to fund projects that maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board 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: _____

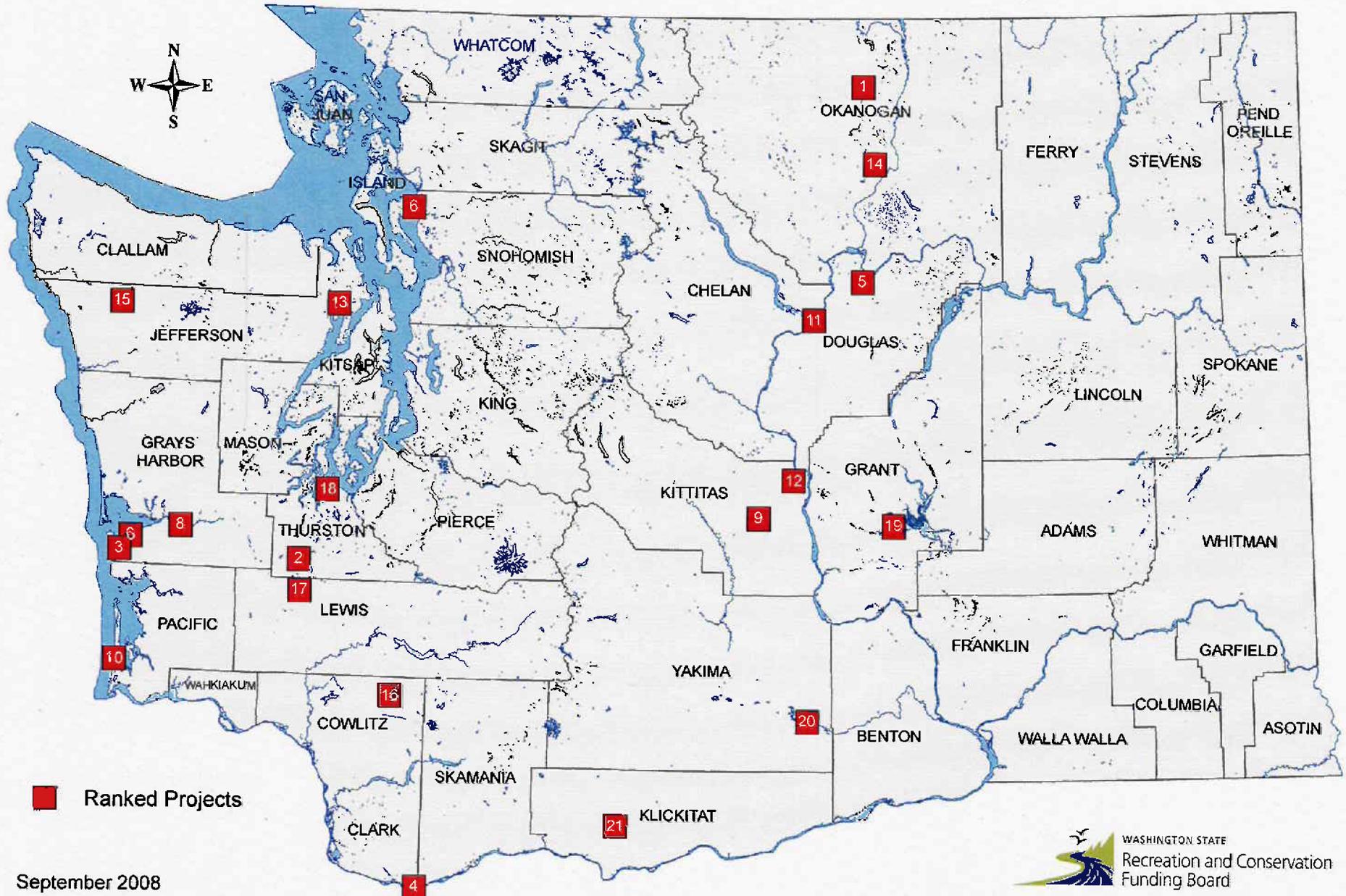
Table 1
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - State Lands Restoration
State Fiscal Year 2010

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCO Amount	Sponsor Amount	Total Amount	Cumulative Amount
1 of 21	45.500	08-1524R	Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration - Phase 1	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$778,632	\$75,000	\$853,632	\$778,632
2 of 21	45.000	08-1535R	South Sound Prairie and Grassland Bald Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$270,380	\$15,000	\$285,380	\$1,049,012
3 of 21	43.125	08-1399R	Elk River NRCA - Phase 2 (Restoration) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$300,000		\$300,000	\$1,349,012
4 of 21	42.375	08-1400R	Washougal Oaks NAP (Restoration) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$235,000		\$235,000	\$1,584,012
5 of 21	41.875	08-1584R	North Douglas County Shrub-Steppe Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$249,812		\$249,812	\$1,833,824
6 of 21	41.250	08-1536R	John's River Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$2,083,824
6 of 21	41.250	08-1870R	Skagit Bay Riparian Enhancement	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$246,460		\$246,460	\$2,330,284
8 of 21	40.750	08-1397R	Chehalis River SP NAP Shoreline (Restoration) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$2,390,284
9 of 21	40.250	08-1530R	Parke Creek Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$129,000	\$8,500	\$137,500	\$2,519,284
10 of 21	39.875	08-1537R	Silverspot Butterfly Enhancement	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$40,500	\$6,000	\$46,500	\$2,559,784
11 of 21	39.125	08-1527R	Beebe Springs Phase 3 Columbia River Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$2,809,784
12 of 21	38.375	08-1528R	Colockum Road Abandonment	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$90,094		\$90,094	\$2,899,878
13 of 21	38.250	08-1383R	Dabob Bay NAP Restoration Phase 1 (2008)	Dept of Natural Resources	\$330,000		\$330,000	\$3,229,878
14 of 21	38.125	08-1610R	Pogue Mountain Pre-commerical Thin	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$328,800		\$328,800	\$3,558,678
15 of 21	37.875	08-1392R	Pole Creek Restoration (Hoh River Trust 2008)	Dept of Natural Resources	\$49,872	\$25,750	\$75,622	\$3,608,550
16 of 21	37.750	08-1534R	Mt St Helens, Hoffstadt Creek	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$185,706		\$185,706	\$3,794,256
17 of 21	37.625	08-1846R	Chehalis River Brazilian Elodea Eradication	Dept of Natural Resources	\$207,900	\$10,000	\$217,900	\$4,002,156
18 of 21	36.750	08-1402R	Woodard Bay NRCA - Phase 1 (Restoration) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$4,052,156
19 of 21	36.250	08-1825R	Desert W.A. Cooperative Wetland Enhancement	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$246,200		\$246,200	\$4,298,356
20 of 21	35.875	08-1529R	Sunnyside, Morgan Lake Restoration	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$147,200		\$147,200	\$4,445,556
21 of 21	33.375	08-1533R	Vaux's Swift Chimney Habitat	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$221,740		\$221,740	\$4,667,296
					\$4,667,296	\$140,250	\$4,807,546	

Note: Funds available, to be determined

Prepared: 08/27/2008

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - State Lands Restoration (WWRP - SLR) FY 2010 Ranked Projects



Attachment B: State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

(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.”

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

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?

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

Question #	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Rank Name/Sponsor	Ecological Biological Characteristics	Restoration Enhancement Need	Manageability Viability	Special Status Species	Plan Priority	Public Benefit	
1 Sinlahekin Eco/Fish & Wildlife	13.500	13.500	6.750	3.750	4.000	4.000	45.500
2 South S Prarie/Fish & Wildlife	13.875	12.375	7.000	4.625	3.500	3.625	45.000
3 Elk River NRCA /Natural Res	13.125	11.625	9.000	3.375	3.250	2.750	43.125
4 Washougal Oaks /Natural Res	12.375	11.625	7.750	4.125	3.375	3.125	42.375
5 North Douglas/Fish & Wildlife	11.250	12.750	7.250	3.750	3.625	3.250	41.875
6 John's River/Fish & Wildlife	10.875	12.375	8.000	3.500	3.375	3.125	41.250
6 Skagit Bay/Fish & Wildlife	12.000	12.000	6.750	3.875	3.250	3.375	41.250
8 Chehalis River /Natural Res	12.750	10.500	7.500	3.250	3.125	3.625	40.750
9 Parke Creek Res/Fish & Wildlife	12.000	11.250	7.500	3.375	3.375	2.750	40.250
10 Silverspot/Fish & Wildlife	12.000	12.000	6.250	3.875	3.000	2.750	39.875
11 Beebe Springs P/Fish & Wildlife	9.750	10.875	8.000	3.250	3.250	4.000	39.125
12 Colockum Road A/Fish & Wildlife	11.625	9.750	8.500	3.000	2.875	2.625	38.375
13 Dabob Bay NAP /Natural Res	11.250	9.375	7.500	3.625	3.750	2.750	38.250
14 Pogue Mountain /Fish & Wildlife	9.375	11.250	7.500	3.125	3.500	3.375	38.125
15 Pole Creek Rest/Natural Res	10.500	11.250	6.000	3.500	3.250	3.375	37.875
16 Mt St Helens, H/Fish & Wildlife	11.250	10.500	6.750	3.000	3.250	3.000	37.750
17 Chehalis River /Natural Res	10.500	11.250	6.000	3.000	3.375	3.500	37.625
18 Woodard Bay NRC/Natural Res	10.500	9.375	7.250	3.125	3.250	3.250	36.750
19 Desert/Fish & Wildlife	9.750	10.875	6.000	3.125	3.125	3.375	36.250
20 Sunnyside, Morg/Fish & Wildlife	9.000	10.500	7.000	3.000	3.250	3.125	35.875
21 Vaux's Swift Ch/Fish & Wildlife	8.250	9.000	7.500	2.875	2.750	3.000	33.375

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement**

Fiscal Year 2010

Project Synopses

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
STATE LANDS RESTORATION
State Fiscal Year 2010 Projects, In Ranked Order

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$778,632	\$75,000	\$853,632

08-1524R Sinlahekin Ecosystem Restoration - Phase 1

This project is the first phase in an effort to restore ecologically appropriate fire, on a landscape scale, to the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area fire-dependent ecosystem. Fire, a key ecological process that sustains and regulates fire-dependent ecosystems, has been excluded for nearly 100 years. Fire and fire by-products provide the effects needed to maintain a mosaic of plant communities, in various stages of succession across the landscape, to meet the needs of the wildlife species that evolved with the historic frequent fire regime characteristic of ponderosa pine ecosystems. Primary goals of this project are: 1) to reduce and/or reconfigure the historically uncharacteristic accumulation of fuels by thinning, pruning, piling and burning; and 2) using prescribed fire, restore ecologically appropriate fire to the landscape. The project will begin implementation of the recently completed Sinlahekin Fuels Reduction and Fire Regime Restoration Plan and will compliment ongoing cooperative efforts with the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service whose lands respectively intermingle and adjoin the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area. This project is expected to improve conditions for many wildlife species, particularly the ponderosa obligate species including flammulated owls, pygmy nuthatches and white-headed woodpeckers that require late seral conditions. Also the project will reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire, rejuvenate mule deer winter range, improve forest health and provide jobs.

Rank (1 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$270,380	\$15,000	\$285,380

08-1535R South Sound Prairie and Grassland Bald Restoration

Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, Bald Hill, Rocky Prairie and West Rocky Prairie are home to rare plants, animals, and plant communities of concern to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Natural Resources. They are typical of south Puget sound remnant grasslands and oak woodlands in that they have degrading pressures from invasive species. The WWRP project goal is to build upon initial funding and develop additional cooperative actions to restore these rare habitats and species. This 2.5-year project will a) develop additional seed resources, b) prepare areas for seeding, c) conduct seeding, and d) monitor the success to adapt and change seeding regimes in successive years. A key cooperative effort of this project will be the development of genetically appropriate seed sources for use in restoration activities. To date, habitat restoration has relied on propagation and transplanting of plugs from seed collected by hand, which has limited the area that can be effectively restored. WADNR and WDFW are entering into a partnership to build the seed production capacity to allow for direct seeding in grassland and oak woodland restoration in western Washington, and will work in concert with other partners (i.e. TNC, Fort Lewis). This is a cooperative project due to identical restoration needs, that saves time and money by avoiding redundancies in staffing, contracting, and seed source development.

Rank (2 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
08-1399R Elk River NRCA - Phase 2 (Restoration) 2008			

The Elk River NRCA is nearly 5,000 acres in size and protects about 1,000 acres of high quality salt marshes and freshwater wetlands. It is one of the highest quality estuaries on the west coast. The salt marsh wetlands play key roles in primary productivity of biomass and nutrients in estuaries, providing the bottom link in the food chain for a wide variety of species such as copepods, salmon, waterfowl, mink, peregrine falcons, elk and bear. The Sitka spruce-dominated riparian wetlands provide excellent cover for elk, bear, and other mammals, in addition to nesting sites for birds.

This project represents the second phase of a restoration plan to repair all the blocked fish passages, and impaired wetlands within the NRCA. This project will remove fish passage barriers and two bridge approaches built on fill across marshes, near the Mallard Slough and on Beardslee Slough. These fills constrict tidal flows and have displaced salt marsh, and by removal will allow normal tidal interchange and re-establishment of native species. The previous phase removed four barriers in Beardslee Slough and included significant road abandonment, fish barrier and bridge removal in the Andrew's Creek areas. One of the major goals of the project is to restore functioning hydrologic conditions to tidal channels, creeks, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, restoring linkages in this interconnected ecosystem. Students from Gray's Harbor Community College have been involved in monitoring and research projects in the Elk River NRCA.

Rank (3 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$235,000	\$0	\$235,000
08-1400R Washougal Oaks NAP (Restoration) 2008			

This project will involve the restoration Washougal Oaks Natural Area (Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area) which contains the largest high-quality native oak woodland remaining in western Washington, an ecosystem of major conservation concern due to historic losses and ongoing degradation. Oak woodland ecosystems in western Washington have declined in extent and have been significantly degraded by land conversion, fire suppression and conifer invasion, grazing, and invasion of non-native plant species. The oak woodland type found at Washougal Oaks is considered globally critically imperiled.

Grant funding would be used to develop a Weed Management and Restoration Plan and exact locations of non-native plants will be mapped. Weeds will be controlled using a combination of mechanical and chemical methods that have proven successful in other oak restoration projects. Smaller conifers that will eventually overtop and out shade oaks will be removed. Larger conifers will be topped, or girdled in order to create wildlife snags. Native plants, including oaks will be grown from site-collected seed and planted in openings created by weed control.

Rank (4 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$249,812	\$0	\$249,812
08-1584R North Douglas County Shrub-Steppe Restoration			

This project is located on units of the Sagebrush Flat and Wells Wildlife Areas in northern Douglas County. We will convert 413 acres of old agricultural fields from stands of non-native grasses and noxious weeds into good quality shrub-steppe habitat. In their present condition these fields are of little ecological value.

Restoration of shrub-steppe habitat in this area will expand critical habitat and improve connectivity through the wildlife areas and adjacent landscape. This will benefit numerous shrub-steppe dependant wildlife that are year-round or seasonal residents of the wildlife areas.

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and sage grouse in particular will benefit from this project. There are active sharp-tailed grouse leks on and within 2 miles of these units. One sage grouse lek is less than two miles away. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse are known to nest on these units. Restoration of these fields will provide much needed nesting, brood rearing and escape habitat.

Shrub-steppe restoration is one of the highest priorities for these Wildlife Areas. Numerous Wildlife Area and Department planning and management documents support restoration of shrub-steppe habitat. In the last 15 years wildlife area staff have restored more than 700 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in Douglas, Chelan and Okanogan counties.

We anticipate it will take 3 years to complete the project from initial field work to seeding. Cost estimates are based on 2007 figures and adjusted for inflation for the 2009-2012 period.

Rank (5 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
08-1536R John's River Restoration			

This project proposes to restore 185 acres of estuarine intertidal emergent wetland on land owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is the largest remaining diked estuary that can be restored in the Grays Harbor. This restoration allows recovery of declining or depressed shorebird and salmon populations to recover. The first phase of the project has already restored over 300 acres of wetland habitat through a Coastal Wetlands Grant. In this phase, a levee and tidegate system will be breached, restoring tidal influences to 185 acres of estuarine wetland. A setback dike will be constructed to protect adjacent property owners and a State Highway. Restored habitats will be managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the State Wildlife Area Program in perpetuity.

The project will restore naturally functioning tidal marsh habitat to a 185-acre wetland. A plant community dominated by reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) will be naturally replaced by a native salt marsh community dominated by salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*).

A large, diverse group of wildlife species will benefit from this project. Gray's Harbor is one of the largest, most important estuarine habitats on the Pacific coast. Up to 50,000 ducks migrate through Gray's Harbor annually. Restored estuarine habitat will provide important rearing areas for juvenile coho (*Oncorhynchus dsutch ssp.*) chum (*Oncorhynchus lreta ssp.*) and chinook.

Rank (6 of 21)

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – State Lands Restoration
State Fiscal Year 2010

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$246,460	\$0	\$246,460

08-1870R Skagit Bay Riparian Enhancement

The Skagit Wildlife Area (WA) provides a variety of estuarine and freshwater wetland habitats important for ESA-listed salmonid species, migratory waterfowl, and other non-game species. Two units of the Skagit WA: Leque Island and Headquarters have been identified as critical rearing habitat for chinook salmon and are scheduled to begin intertidal restoration projects in Summer 2008.

These sites also provide valuable riparian habitat for a variety of songbird species. As a result of the change to tidal flooding much of the woody riparian vegetation on these sites are expected to decline following intertidal restoration. This project will develop and improve woody riparian vegetation on the remainder of the site outside of the restoration area. The goal is to remove invasive species such as blackberry, reed canarygrass, and Spartina and to plant native woody vegetation to develop a freshwater riparian habitat adjacent to the newly restored estuary. In addition, some monitoring of the physical and biological conditions of the restored estuary will be done to determine future restoration needs.

Rank (6 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000

08-1397R Chehalis River SP NAP Shoreline (Restoration) 2008

The Chehalis River Surge Plain Natual Area Preserve is an extraordinary wetland that represents the highest quality habitat for fish and wildlife in the Chehalis Basin. This tidally influenced site supports vast sitka spruce forested wetlands, extensive shorelines of th Chehalis River and sloughs, and high quality wetlands recognized by the Washington Natural Heritage program as a high priority for protection. This project will restore about 5 acres of shoreline and associated riparian areas along the Chehalis River near the end of Preacher's Slough road. This is one of the very few areas within the Chehalis River Surge Plain NAP in degraded condition. The planted trees and shrubs will provide shade, cover and bank stabilization in this limited area of the preserve that lacks these key habitat features. The project will include intitial weed control of Himalayan blackberries and reed canary grass, followed by restoration of native species. Areas damaged by off-road vehicles will be repaired and restored to a natural, functioning condition. Species to be installed include willow, cottonwood, sitka spruce, cedar, alder, native shrubs such as twinberry honeysuckle, salmonberry, elderberry, nootka rose, ninebark, and red osier dogwood.

Rank (8 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$129,000	\$8,500	\$137,500
08-1530R Parke Creek Restoration			

This project will restore up to 200 acres of degraded shrub steppe and riparian habitat in the Parke Creek and Little Parke Creek drainage area using integrated weed management practices, including herbicide treatments, burning or mowing, and seeding with native species. The Parke Creek area was acquired in 2007 as part of the WWRP-funded Skookumchuck land acquisition. Livestock grazing, off-road vehicle travel, and past logging practices have resulted in areas of degraded habitat where noxious weeds and undesirable grasses have become established. With the acquisition of new land comes the responsibility to improve it in ways that will benefit both the public and wildlife.

Shrub steppe is a declining habitat that plays a vital role for wildlife. In severely infested areas, native plants cannot be expected to return on their own because native seed sources have been eliminated, microbotic crusts have been degraded or eliminated, and invasive plants have become well established. Without restoration efforts, invasive species will persist and likely expand their range, further degrading the remaining shrub steppe habitat. Restoring this degraded habitat will benefit numerous shrub steppe obligate species such as sage-grouse, Washington ground squirrel, sage thrasher, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and ferruginous hawk. Parke Creek is within the recovery zone identified for the Greater Sage-Grouse and will provide key habitat that will contribute to regional and statewide recovery efforts.

Rank (9 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$40,500	\$6,000	\$46,500
08-1537R Silverspot Butterfly Enhancement			

The Milepost 6 Oregon Silverspot Butterfly recovery area was purchased in 1992 with a WWRP grant acquisition, and expanded in 2004 with a donation. The property was the last place that the Oregon silverspot butterfly was sighted in Washington State (it is now considered extirpated from Washington). The property was acquired to assist in recovery of the silverspot butterfly in Washington. The property has been managed through mowing, burning, weed control, plant augmentation, herbicide application, habitat experiments and monitoring since 1996. More recently, propagation methods have been developed and outplanting of the state endangered plant species, *Sanicula arctopoides* (footsteps of spring) has been initiated.

The WWRP project will conduct (over two years) propagation and outplanting of *Sanicula arctopoides*, weed removal to maintain violet meadows for the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly, a federally threatened species, and begin tree removal to expand the size of the meadow.

The project is unusual in that primary habitat enhancement staff are Evergreen State College Students under the federal work-study program. Students work in a nursery to propagate and grow rare native plants, and travel to the meadow to weed, plant, and collect seed. Also, see an cooperative project with Woodland Park Zoo @ http://www.zoo.org/bflies_blms/silverspot.html

Rank (10 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
08-1527R Beebe Springs Phase 3 Columbia River Restoration			

This proposal is the next step in a multi-phased project to preserve and restore riparian and shrubsteppe habitat on a property formerly in orchard. Phase 3 includes a side-channel rearing area and islands for anadromous fish along the Columbia River shoreline, shrubsteppe restoration, and native riparian plant restoration. Upland improvements include an extension of the trail loop, a hand-carry boat launch that will provide access for small boats, and interpretive signage. (These public access features are not part of this WWRP grant request). Future phases will continue the restoration of habitats, especially anadromous fish enhancements and additional riparian, shrubsteppe, and wetland habitats. Additional trails and upgrades to the parking and visitor amenities are planned. In 2003 WDFW acquired 227 acres, a former orchard, surrounding the Chelan Hatchery. The acquisition provided the opportunity to develop to Phase 1, the restoration of Beebe Creek, which is now complete. Phase 2 of the project received RCO funds, is designed, and will be constructed in 2008-2009. Phase 2 includes riparian and shrubsteppe vegetation establishment adjacent to the restored Beebe Creek. Phase 2 will also include anadromous fish rearing habitat enhancements along the Columbia River shoreline. A parking lot, interpretive signage, and initial trail loop around the creek with viewpoints will also be constructed to allow public enjoyment of the area.

Rank (11 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$90,094	\$0	\$90,094
08-1528R Colockum Road Abandonment			

We propose to close and abandon two stream-adjacent roads on the Colockum Wildlife Area. The Stray Gulch Road (1.75 miles) and 2.5 miles of the Tekison Creek Road would be gated and burned, closing the roads to motorized vehicles. The roads would still be available for use as hiking trails, horseback riding and other non-motorized uses. This project is part of a larger effort to improve water quality, reduce sediment delivery to streams and improve fish passage on the Wildlife Area. This project mirrors Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan work being done in timbered areas of the Wildlife Area.

The Stray Gulch and Tekison Creek drainages are steep walled, rugged valleys that drain east towards the Columbia River. They contain typical shrub-steppe habitat of big sagebrush and perennial bunchgrasses interspersed with basalt cliffs and talus slopes. Riparian habitats of willows, cottonwoods, wild roses and serviceberry are well developed along both creeks. The Stray Gulch and Tekison Creek Roads lie immediately adjacent to these creeks. These roads are open to motorized vehicle use. In several places the creeks have begun to erode the roads, forcing people to drive in the creeks. Riparian vegetation is also overtaking the roads making vehicle access difficult. The WDFW Priority Habitat and Species Program considers these drainages important habitats for anadromous steelhead and salmon. The area is also important to priority wildlife species such as mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, golden eagles and Merriam's turkey.

Rank (12 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$330,000	\$0	\$330,000
08-1383R Dabob Bay NAP Restoration Phase 1 (2008)			

The Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve (NAP) is located in the Tarboo Watershed in eastern Jefferson County north of Quilcene, on Hood Canal and the Olympic Peninsula. The NAP protects high quality coastal sand spits, estuary habitats and upland riparian forests. The project sites are located within the riparian zone of Tarboo Bay. Forested shoreline riparian zones are an important component in maintaining the health of the Puget Sound. Nine acres of land within the Dabob Bay NAP were cleared for development by the previous landowner. Natural revegetation of forest land has not occurred at this site despite the presence of natural seed stock in the adjacent forested sections of the preserve. The land has become overgrown with invasive plants, domestic grasses and naturalized domestic plants. Although no structures remain at the two restoration locations, there are perk-holes and an acre of fill material remaining. Phase 1 of this forest restoration project will focus on 1) restoration planning for all 9 acres, 2) invasive plant control 3) fill removal & site preparation, 4) establishment of a holding nursery for the understory vegetation, 5) contract growing of the trees and 6) the replanting of 4 out of the 9 acres within the project area. Where conditions allow, the restoration site will be revegetated with the Natural Heritage Plan priority 1 Big leaf maple - red alder - Sword fern - fragrant Fringecup plant community that exists within the preserve.

Rank (13 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$328,800	\$0	\$328,800
08-1610R Pogue Mountain pre-commerical thin			

The Pogue Mountain under story thin and habitat development project proposes to selectively thin approximately 700 acres of forestland within the 1,197 Pogue Mountain Unit and 100 acres within the 164 acre Big Green and Little Green Access Areas adjacent to the Pogue Mountain Unit. The units are located within 3 miles of the cities of Omak and Okanogan and can be best described as the Wildland-Urban Interface. At present, forest conditions consist of dense timber stands of small diameter trees (< 4 dbh), a thick forest canopy, limited herbaceous ground cover growth, lack of large diameter legacy type trees and forest encroachment into shrub-steppe habitats. The primary intentions of this project are to promote wildlife habitat and biodiversity, improve health and vigor of residual stand, minimize infestations of invasive species, limit the destruction of a intense wildfire event to habitat and adjacent private lands, and provide greater recreational opportunities for the public. This project has been identified in the 2006 Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Complex Management Plan and the Pogue Mountain Forest Plan 2007. In addition this project also has the support of adjacent landowners and the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Complex citizens advisory group.

Rank (14 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$49,872	\$25,750	\$75,622
08-1392R Pole Creek Restoration (Hoh River Trust 2008)			

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns a property interest, a conservation easement, on Hoh River Trust (HRT) lands. HRT is in the process of restoring late seral stage forest, salmonid and other Federal listed species habitat in the Hoh River valley. These lands include sites with significant need for road related riparian habitat restoration. The Pole Creek basin is the only area in the greater Hoh watershed, outside Olympic National Park, with significant portions remaining in old growth forest. HRT owns the upper basin, much of which is on a higher terrace, in logged-off land and on unstable soils. This Project will remove all fish stream blocking culverts and culverts delivering into Type F waters in the upper basin. Fills will be removed and sloped to original streambeds, road bed will be water barred and 9000 feet of abandoned road will be fully decommissioned. Impending road bed failures above good quality fish habitat will be repaired and riparian forest zones will be greatly expanded. It has the strong support and backing of WDFW, Pacific Coastal Salmon Coalition, Hoh Tribe and local citizen groups. A different application to another fund source will also open a major fish passage blocking culvert in the lower basin at the same time as this project.

Rank (15 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$185,706	\$0	\$185,706
08-1534R Mt St Helens, Hoffstadt Creek			

This project is located on the North Fork Toutle River mudflow that resulted from the 1980 eruption. The Mt. St. Helens State Wildlife Area was established here in 1990 as elk winter range but also provides habitat for federally threatened steelhead and Coho salmon. Since the 1996 flood several hundred acres of the mudflow have been eroded and river avulsions into Hoffstadt Creek have destroyed high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Actions prior to WDFW's acquisition have contributed to erosion and associated habitat losses. Gravel mining to support the reconstruction of a state highway was centered at the upper end of the largest avulsion and evidence of past grading is apparent on both sides of another. Large wood that may enhance stability was removed by salvage logging that occurred after the eruption.

The purpose of the project is to place structures and plant vegetation to help prevent future impacts to fish habitat and improve riparian conditions. A variety of techniques may be used to achieve this goal including earthen berms, log structures, cottonwood fences, and planting herbaceous and woody vegetation. This work will begin the process of recovery of 1 mile of spawning/rearing habitat in Hoffstadt Creek and improve conditions in 1.3 miles of small tributaries in the avulsion areas. Over time at least 40 acres of riparian vegetation will reestablish as a result of the project. Our citizens advisory group ranked projects of this type as the highest priority unfunded items in the wildlife area plan.

Rank (16 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$207,900	\$10,000	\$217,900
08-1846R Chehalis River Brazilian Elodea Eradication			

The objective of this project is to improve water quality in the main stem of the Chehalis River by eradicating the invasive plant, Brazilian elodea.

B. elodea is infesting the river over more than 15 river miles, where 2005 surveys measured its size at approximately 25 acres. Because this species reproduces by fragmentation, it can easily spread and colonize throughout the river if no action is taken. This project will follow up on removal work done in 2006-7, where approximately 5.4 acres of plant material was removed in 2006 and 9.4 acres in 2007. Work by Thurston County crews will began by removing missed plants in the 2007 project areas and then expanding work areas upriver to remove a projected 18 acres. The Chehalis Tribe will also follow-up on the 2006-7 removal areas and then expand their removal efforts downriver.

Researchers at PSU have found that in dense beds of species like B. elodea there are extremes in dissolved oxygen concentrations and pH that severely degrade fish habitat quality. On the Chehalis, dissolved oxygen increased by 8 % after B. elodea was removed.

Diver dredging will be used to remove plant biomass including the roots. Water is returned back to the river, and the plant material is composted by local citizens or taken to a gravel pit for disposal.

This work is part of the multi-jurisdictional and multi-organization Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Weed Management Plan for the Chehalis River.

Rank (17 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
08-1402R Woodard Bay NRCA - Phase 1 (Restoration) 2008			

This project is Phase 1 of restoring a pasture with two ponds, one large (5.6 acres) and one small (.4 acres), on newly acquired lands. This property is referred to as the "Rutherford Parcel" on existing maps. It is in a developing area, and has long been the target of acquisition, due to a hydrologic connection (via Woodard Creek) to the Woodard Bay NRCA. The ponds provide important waterfowl habitat, and are surrounded by a belt of mature trees. Some of the pond buffer contains dense blackberry thickets, and the surrounding landscape has been managed for hay.

This project will control invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and reed canarygrass, followed by restoration targeted at wildlife species that depend on this site for resting, feeding and cover. Restoration will include planting native trees and shrubs in the upland buffers, and wetland plants in the wetlands, install bat boxes, combined with continuing weed maintenance. The goal is to replace most of the invasive species around the ponds with native trees and shrubs, and to improve the quality of wetland habitat. The total area to be restored in Phase 1 includes about 12 acres, plus the 6 acres of ponds. The result will be high quality wetland pond habitat, supporting waterfowl, fish, and amphibians, plus a forested upland providing valuable habitat for birds, deer, and other wildlife. The surrounding hay fields provide a buffer between the restoration and nearby homesites, and will be the focus of future restoration phases.

Rank (18 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$246,200	\$0	\$246,200
08-1825R Desert W.A. Cooperative Wetland Enhancement			

The Desert Wildlife Area offers important wetland and riparian wildlife habitat for migratory waterfowl and other non-game species in the Columbia Basin. The wetland and recreational value of the project area is quickly declining due to infestations of a non-native Phragmites, a grass that grows to 12-feet. Phragmites reduces sight distances in wetlands and makes them undesirable for waterfowl, makes public access difficult, and threatens to extirpate the state's native Phragmites population.

The project goal is to create a more balanced ratio of open shorelines to emergent vegetation for the benefit of waterfowl nesting and the public access. The project's objectives are:

- Control Phragmites in the project area and eliminate seed production.
- Implement a pilot project to find vegetation that will compete with Phragmites.
- Work with Columbia Basin land managers to develop a local management plan.

Approximately 200 acres/year of Phragmites will be treated using the aquatic herbicides glyphosate and imazapyr. Areas that are treated will be burned to remove standing biomass and to expose and stimulate regrowth. Regrowth will be treated using herbicide.

Permanent plots will be used to monitor Phragmites efficacy and the percent cover of other species using a cover class before and after treatment. A pilot project will be implemented to determine what combination plant species and planting methods are necessary to establish desirable vegetation.

Rank (19 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$147,200	\$0	\$147,200
08-1529R Sunnyside, Morgan Lake Restoration			

Morgan Lake is an old Yakima River oxbow channel that lies in the middle of a wetland system, which is nearly 2 miles in length. Historically, Morgan Lake was all open water with a gravel bottom, and it was a popular public fishing area. Sediment from dirty irrigation (source) water and the natural life/death cycle of encroaching aquatic and emergent vegetation have been causing the lake to fill in at an exponential rate. The result has been a substantial decrease in the percentage of open water in this wetland system. Irrigation return flows created the wetland habitat in this oxbow lake, which is isolated from the river, but the passive flows have allowed silt to drop out and fill in the lake.

The scope of this project is to remove 70 years of accumulated sediment from a portion of Morgan Lake. Restoration and enhancement work is being performed in this wetland system with a \$300,000 NAWCA grant (North American Wetland Conservation Act). The overall goal of the NAWCA grant is to 1) increase flows through the wetlands to inhibit growth of the invasive white water lily, 2) maintain a better ratio of open water habitat to benefit multiple wildlife species, 3) clean sediment and nutrients in irrigation return flows, and 4) create additional acres of wetland habitat. Removing sediment deposition along the shoreline of Morgan Lake is an integral part of the overall project. This grant is from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Rank (20 of 21)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$221,740	\$0	\$221,740
08-1533R Vaux's Swift Chimney Habitat Repair			

The Icehouse building was one of 5 on the property when Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife purchased it in 1973. All of the buildings were sold to a salvage contractor. When local residents learned of the plans for demolition of the buildings, they advised WDFW that large numbers of birds roosted in the chimney of the Icehouse. Investigation of these reports revealed that many Vaux's swifts use this structure as a communal roost. This activity occurs during the fall migration, in late September.

The agency bought the Icehouse building back from the salvage contractor, to preserve important Vaux's swift habitat. This is the only building that remains on the site today. The shell of the building is intact, although the exterior is heavily weathered. The interior is in extreme disrepair. This is not important relative to maintenance of the swift habitat, however, it presents considerable risk as a public hazard. Therefore, the windows of the building have been sealed to prevent public entry. The door was also sealed, although this needs to be re-done periodically due to vandalism.

Much of the chimney appears to be in sound condition. Six feet of the chimney is built of bricks and mortar, with no stucco covering. This section of chimney has lost many bricks. Repair of the brick chimney is needed to preserve the most important habitat feature of the building. Hollow trees normally occupied as roost sites by swifts have been lost due to human management practices. Old chimneys serve as replacement roosts.

Rank (21 of 21)