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STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 2008

Item #9b: **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program,
Outdoor Recreation Account**
State Lands Development Ranked List for Fiscal Year
2010

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager

Presented By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager

**Approved by the
Director:**

Proposed Action: Decision

Description of Category

"This category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands."¹

Summary

Thirteen State Lands Development and Renovation category projects requesting \$3.5 million were evaluated July 28 – August 12 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.

¹ Chapter 79A.15.050, 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, this list includes enough projects to use the statutory amount set aside for this category and alternates.

Resolution #2008-040 is provided for Board consideration.

Program Policies

The State Lands Development and Renovation category provides funds for projects that involve development and renovation of public access facilities on existing state recreation lands. Typical facilities include campsites, fishing piers, interpretive trails, non-motorized boating access, picnic sites, and wildlife viewing blinds.

Other factors related to this category are:

Eligible Applicants	Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Types	Development and renovation
Funding Limits	Minimum of \$25,000 and a maximum of \$325,000 per project
Match Requirements	None
Planning Requirement	Outdoor recreation plan
Public Access	Required
Other Program Characteristics	Multi-site projects allowed <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Elements must be the same at each site (fishing docks, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk)▪ Sites limited to no more than two adjacent counties▪ Elements must meet capital project criteria▪ No more than \$100,000 per site▪ No more than five sites per project

The State Lands Development and Renovation category is eligible to receive five percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Outdoor Recreation account.²

Evaluation Summary

Thirteen State Lands Development and Renovation category projects requesting \$3.5 million were evaluated July 28 – August 12 through a written evaluation process. Using criteria adopted by the Board, a team of eight evaluators reviewed and ranked the

² Chapter 79A.15.050(1)(e) RCW

projects. The team was composed of state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to outdoor recreation. Members included:

Evaluator	Representing
Ken Heany, University Place	Citizen
John Peterson, Seattle	Citizen
Dave Bryant, Richland Parks and Recreation	Local Agency
Jennifer Schroder, Kirkland Parks and Recreation	Local Agency
Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Weed Board	Local Agency
Bruce Bolding, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Heather Kapust, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Randy Person, State Parks and Recreation	State Agency

The results of the evaluations are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Ranked List of Projects, Fiscal Year 2010*.

Attachments

Resolution #2008-040

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Ranked List of Projects, FY 2010

- A. State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category projects
- B. State Lands Development Evaluation Criteria Summary
- C. State Lands Development Project Evaluation Scoring Summary
- D. State Lands Development Project Synopses

RESOLUTION #2008-040

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

WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2010 of the 2009-2011 biennium, thirteen State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation 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, supporting the Board's goal to manage its resources and responsibilities with integrity, efficiency, fairness, and

WHEREAS, all thirteen State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Outdoor Recreation Account: Policies and Project Selection*, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process, and

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in Table 1 – *WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation 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 Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

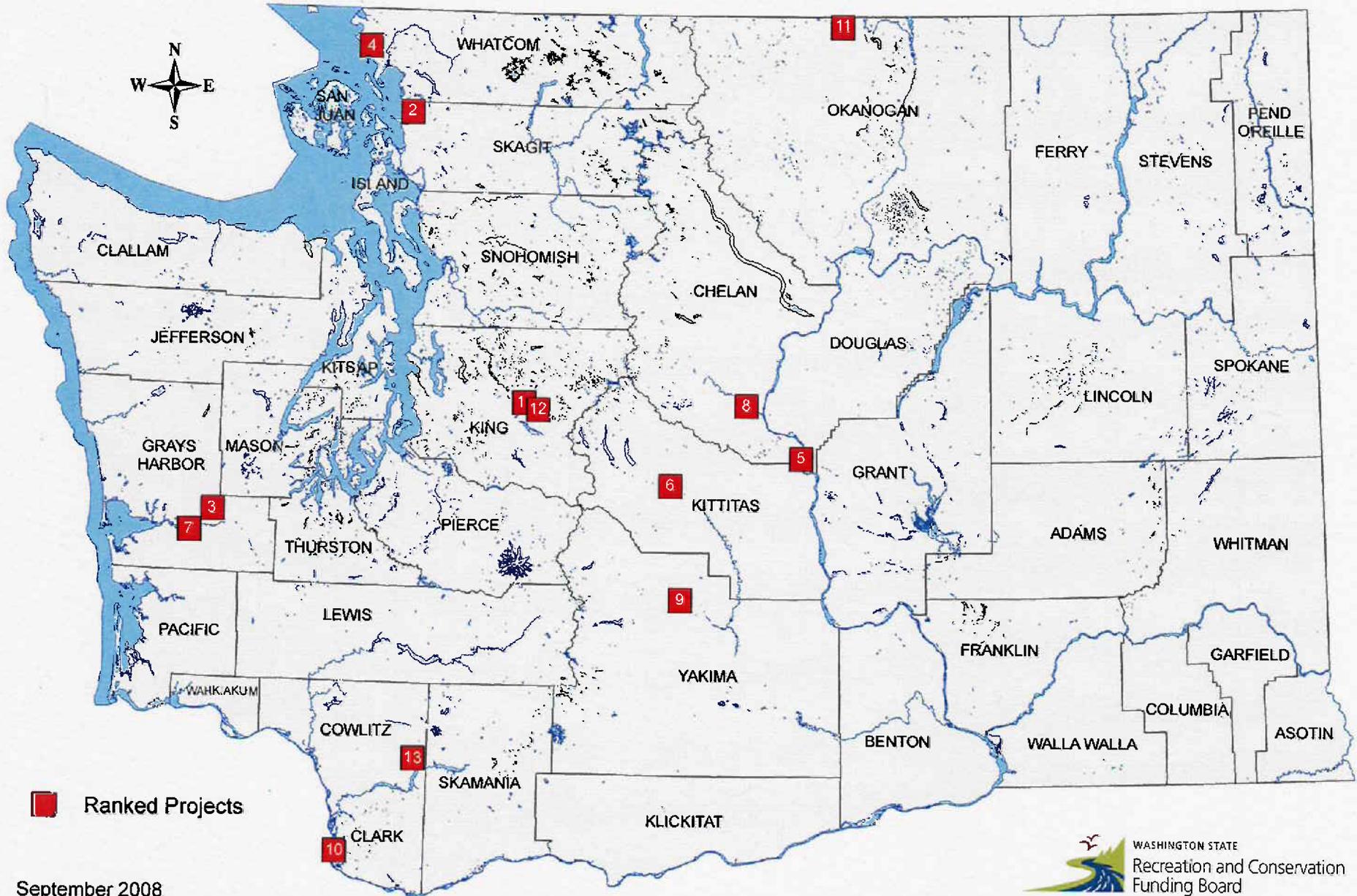
Table 1
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - State Lands Development
2010 State Lands Development Projects

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCO Amount	Sponsor Amount	Total Amount	Cumulative Amount
1 of 13	46.750	08-1165D	Mt. Si NRCA Trail Bridges (Development) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$170,000	\$18,000	\$188,000	\$170,000
2 of 13	43.625	08-1052D	Samish Overlook	Dept of Natural Resources	\$325,000		\$325,000	\$495,000
3 of 13	42.250	08-1487D	W Fork Satsop River Access Improvements	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,837		\$324,837	\$819,837
4 of 13	40.875	08-1485D	Whatcom ADA Dock Replacement	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,600		\$324,600	\$1,144,437
5 of 13	40.375	08-1489D	Colockum Access Improvements	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$284,358		\$284,358	\$1,428,795
6 of 13	39.875	08-1484D	Teaway Junction Access Improvements	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,932		\$324,932	\$1,753,727
7 of 13	39.750	08-1406D	Chehalis River SP NAP Access (Development) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$2,003,727
8 of 13	35.750	08-1475D	Lower Monitor Wenatchee River Access Development	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$315,811		\$315,811	\$2,319,538
9 of 13	35.625	08-1816D	Tim's Pond Public Access	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$320,650		\$320,650	\$2,640,188
10 of 13	35.500	08-1486D	Shillapoo North Unit Parking Lot Development	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$313,900		\$313,900	\$2,954,088
11 of 13	34.625	08-1405D	Loomis NRCA Trail Relocation (Development) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$175,000		\$175,000	\$3,129,088
12 of 13	34.375	08-1049D	Mailbox Peak Trail Development - Phase 1	Dept of Natural Resources	\$325,000	\$105,500	\$430,500	\$3,454,088
13 of 13	32.875	08-1407D	Merrill Lake NRCA (Development) 2008	Dept of Natural Resources	\$143,000		\$143,000	\$3,597,088
					\$3,597,088	\$123,500	\$3,720,588	

Note: Funds available, to be determined.

Prepared: 08/27/2008

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - State Lands Development (WWRP - SLD) FY 2010 Ranked Projects



**Attachment B: State Lands Development and Renovation Category (State Agencies),
 Evaluation Criteria Summary**

This project category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands. RCFB Manual 10.

WWRP - State Lands Development and Renovation Criteria Analysis					
Score	#	Title	Type	Points	Focus
Team	1	Public Need	D	20	State
Team	2	Site Suitability and Design	D	15	Technical
Team	3	Diversity and Compatibility	D	10	State
Team	4	Performance Measure	D	5	State
Team	5	Public Benefit	D	5	State
RCO Staff	6	Population Proximity	D	1	State
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 56					

KEY:

- Staff = Criteria scored by RCO staff
- Team = Criteria scored by interdisciplinary *team*
- D = Development and Renovation specific question
- Mult/Mx = Multiplier and maximum points possible for this criterion
- Focus = *St/Loc/Tech*; Criteria orientation in accordance with SCORP policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors: those that meet general *statewide* needs (often called for in RCW or SCORP), those that meet *local* needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans), and those that meet *technical* considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, State Lands Development and Renovation

TEAM SCORED

1. **PUBLIC NEED.** Considering the availability and use of existing facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?
Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2002-2007, Chapter 5.
2. **SITE SUITABILITY AND PROJECT DESIGN.** Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site?
3. **DIVERSITY OF AND COMPATIBILITY OF RECREATIONAL USES.** To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible recreational uses?
Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State 2002-2007, Chapters 1 and 5.
4. **OUTCOME-FOCUSED PERFORMANCE MEASURES.** To what extent does the project result in measurable progress toward goals and objectives for the recreation or access area?
5. **PUBLIC BENEFIT AND PROJECT SUPPORT.** To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the community impacted as a result of this development or renovation?

SCORED BY RCO STAFF

6. **PROXIMITY TO HUMAN POPULATIONS.** Is the project in a populated area?
RCW 79A.25.250

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

Question #	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	Site							
Rank	Name/Sponsor	Public Need	Suitability & Design	Diversity and Compatibility	Performance Measure	Public Benefit	Pop. Proximity	Total
1	Mt. Si NRCA Trail/Natural Res	18.000	12.750	7.250	3.625	4.125	1.000	46.750
2	Samish Overlook/Natural Res	16.000	12.000	8.500	3.625	3.500	0.000	43.625
3	W Fork Satsop R/DFW	16.500	12.375	6.000	3.750	3.625	0.000	42.250
4	Whatcom ADA Dock/DFW	16.500	11.250	5.750	3.125	4.250	0.000	40.875
5	Colockum Access/DFW	14.500	12.000	7.250	3.250	3.375	0.000	40.375
6	Teaway Junction/DFW	16.000	10.500	6.250	3.250	3.875	0.000	39.875
7	Chehalis River /Natural Res	15.000	9.750	7.250	3.875	3.875	0.000	39.750
8	Lower Monitor W/DFW	13.000	9.750	6.250	3.250	3.500	0.000	35.750
9	Tim's Pond/DFW	13.000	10.125	6.750	2.500	3.250	0.000	35.625
10	Shillapoo North/DFW	12.500	10.125	5.000	3.250	3.625	1.000	35.500
11	Loomis NRCA Tr/Natural Res	12.000	8.250	7.250	3.250	3.875	0.000	34.625
12	Mailbox Peak Tr/Natural Res	12.000	9.750	4.750	3.375	3.500	1.000	34.375
13	Merrill Lake NR/Natural Res	11.500	9.375	6.000	2.875	3.125	0.000	32.875

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Outdoor Recreation Account
State Lands Development and Renovation**

Fiscal Year 2010

Project Synopses

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$170,000	\$18,000	\$188,000
08-1165D Mt. Si NRCA Trail Bridges (Development) 2008			

The scope of this project is to remove and replace two dilapidated bridges located within the Mt. Si Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). The two replacement bridges are located on the Mt. Si Trail and Francis North accessible/interpretive trail, which are located at the Mt. Si Trailhead. Currently the accessible/interpretive trail is closed to recreational users for public safety purposes due to the unsafe bridge conditions.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails Assessment, June 2005, noted that the two bridges on the Mt. Si Trail and the Frances North accessible/interpretive trail loop were in poor condition and in need of replacement. The two bridges were built with natural wood stringers approx. 15 years ago and, because of their age and our Northwest weather conditions, the bridge stringers have become rotten and the bridges are on the verge of collapsing.

The Mt. Si NRCA trail system is a popular destination for Puget Sound Metropolitan Area residents. It is about a 30 - 40 minute drive east on I-90 for approx. 52% (i.e. 3.3 million people) of the state's population. If funding is not provided for the bridges, the accessible/interpretive trail will remain closed to public use.

Rank (1 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$325,000	\$0	\$325,000
08-1052D Samish Overlook			

This scope of this project is to develop the already highly used Samish Overlook. The project includes design and construction work for improved parking, improved restroom access, signs, an observation terrace (natural surface and/or hardened surface terraces) and links to area trails. The overlook is located in the Blanchard Forest Block on the boundary of Skagit and Whatcom counties, just south of Bellingham.

Overlooking Samish Bay, the site attracts a wide range of users, including hang gliders/paragliders, horseback riders, hikers, picnickers, rock climbers, mountain bikers and sightseers, but there aren't facilities to handle the volume and variety of use.

Development of the site will direct where and how use takes place, and as a result, will improve public health and safety, reduce user conflicts, protect resources and provide new and improved visitor opportunities. This project will also provide for needed ADA access for disabled visitors to the Samish Overlook. A phased approach to development is being taken. Phase one included minor parking improvements (occured in 2003, funded through agency budget) and the installation of portable vault restroom facilities (RCO funded). This project request is for phase 2. Additional phases may be needed to complete the project.

Rank (2 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,837	\$0	\$324,837
08-1487D W Fork Satsop River Access Improvements			

The West Fork Satsop launch would be a very important launch site for a variety of recreational users. The current access is undeveloped and usable by hand-launching only. This project will provide much needed access for both power boaters and drift boaters for fishing, wildlife and bird viewing, picnicing. It is located between the Aberdeen/Hoquium/Montesano area and Elma.

PROJECT NEED: Rapidly increasing recreational use in Grays Harbor County creates a great need for access at this location, which will reduce pressure on other nearby accesses and also draw more new recreators to the area with increased access.

PROJECT GOALS: Provide safe and secure public access in a much-needed location where currently limited access exists.

PROJECT SCOPE: Install a new boat launching ramp with appropriate armoring to prevent erosion, grading of the parking area, install a vault toilet

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: : A safer and more efficient WDFW access site.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Strongly supported by the local angling and business communities.

PREVIOUS OR ANTICIPATED PHASES: No previous phase. The proposal should be permitted and constructed within the allotted timeline, if funded.

Rank (3 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,600	\$0	\$324,600
08-1485D Whatcom ADA Dock Replacement			

Lake Terrell provides some of the finest warm water fishing in western Washington, and 3-5 tournaments are held annually. An improved fishing pier would reduce conflicts between anglers and boaters using the boat dock, and provide a handicapped-accessible fishing facility. Project entails removal of a small vault toilet and a 36 year old float (800 sq ft of wood and concrete slabs, and 6 large pilings), and installation of a new parking area, toilet, and fishing pier. The old toilet will be replaced with an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved toilet, and the new parking lot will reduce congestion at the boat launch and be located adjacent to the new pier. To minimize habitat impacts, the new pier will contain no float portion, and will nearly double available fishing area. The local bass club has volunteered to assist in removal of the old float.

Public benefits include: 1) Provide an ADA fishing structure, which the Wildlife Area currently lacks, 2) Reduce conflicts between anglers and boaters. Fishing use is estimated at 25,000 user-days per year and it is not uncommon to see 20 people fishing off the float and 15 off the boat dock. 3) Local anglers are highly supportive and willing to volunteer, and the Citizen Advisory Group ranks this as the #2 most important project on the Wildlife Area. 4) Replace 36 year old float that is worn out, floating at an angle, and becoming a serious public safety hazard. 5) Respond to increasing public need before the float fails (lifespan less than 5 years).

Rank (4 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$284,358	\$0	\$284,358
08-1489D Colockum Access Improvements			

The Colockum access is an existing primitive boat launch on the edge of the Colockum Wildlife Area. The area is a nature lovers dream with botanists, wildlife viewers, hunters, fishers, hikers, and recreational boaters frequenting the area known for its warm dry climate. The site is located 20 minutes south of Wenatchee and accesses the Columbia River. The site is used year-round by fishermen, duck hunters, waterskiers, and boating recreationalists. The existing site has an unimproved dirt and native rock launch, grass and native rock parking, and no facilities.

The scope of this project is to provide a concrete plank launch, delineated gravel parking for 6 vehicles and one ADA van space, plus designated overflow parking areas for up to 18 more, a vault toilet, widened road approach, and an upland ADA loading platform. Amenities being added will also include boat tie ups and turnouts along the narrow access road. Public access to this stretch of the river is scarce, with the nearest access being approximately 7 miles downstream and over 20 miles upstream. This is the only public launch on the west side of the river from Wenatchee to Vantage. This is a popular walleye fishing area and a popular place to launch your boat to access the Wildlife Area for hunting.

Rank (5 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$324,932	\$0	\$324,932
08-1484D Teanaway Junction Access Improvements			

The Teanaway Junction Access Area is located along the Yakima River just east of the City of Cle Elum, and upstream from the confluence of the Yakima and Teanaway Rivers. Water access sites are sparse on the upper Yakima River and the distance between each is long. The nearest upstream access site is approximately 12 miles upstream on State Parks land and is an unimproved dirt ramp. The nearest downstream access site is the WDFW Thorp ramp ~13 miles downriver from the Teanaway Junction site. The upper Yakima River provides a "blue-ribbon" trout fishery and is heavily used by anglers and recreational floaters. The WDFW Commission passed a motion that the agency further enhance the upper Yakima Access sites to accommodate anglers and relieve pressure on the heavily used Yakima Canyon fishery.

The existing Teanaway Junction Access site is in great need for rehabilitation. The old boat ramp was blocked off three years ago with concrete barriers due to safety concerns. WDFW used local Regional funds to construct a basic drift boat access in a safer location after the old ramp was closed. However, the replacement ramp is in need of maintenance and improvement. The toilets are in need of replacement, the road/parking need gravel, install new signage, remove old derelict boat ramp, establish a variable 50-foot buffer and replant portions of the existing parking lot for bank stabilization, habitat improvement and site footprint reduction.

Rank (6 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
08-1406D Chehalis River SP NAP Access (Development) 2008			

The scope of this project is to provide public access improvements for low-impact uses and environmental education in buffer areas of the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve. At the Preacher's Slough area, these include a car-top small boat launch (canoe, kayaks, etc) on the Chehalis River, general river access provided by a river adjacent trail in the same area, a parking area for 8 cars, and site protection such as large boulders or barriers to protect wetlands and the riverbank. At the western end of the preserve and western terminus of the existing walking/interpretive trail, a 6 car parking area will be constructed for the Blue Slough water access, trailhead and canoe launch. Three miles of existing interpretive/ walking trail will be upgraded to ADA accessibility with fine crushed rock surfacing (the first 1/2 mile of surfacing is completed on the eastern end of the trail). The local and regional community has provided input through several public meetings in 2007 and 2008. At these meetings it was clear that access for fishing, boat launches, and trails were a strong need expressed by members of the community as well as regional groups such as the Washington Water Trails Association. Funding for this project would help to fulfill these expressed needs.

Rank (7 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$315,811	\$0	\$315,811
08-1475D Lower Monitor Wenatchee River Access Development			

Many access areas on the Wenatchee River have deteriorated over the years while increased fishing opportunity on the Wenatchee River has intensified public recreation on the Lower Monitor Access Site. This small primitive site has no improvements and has become increasingly popular with white water rafters, too, because of its "takeout" location on the river.

Even though this 1/2-acre primitive site is challenged to meet the increased demands of rafters, boaters, and anglers using their trucks and trailers on the Wenatchee River, we can't facilitate major development. Because of the small size of the Lower Monitor site, improvements must be made with few if any minor changes to the physical vegetative characteristics of the site and existing features. We have requested funds to improve this site including widening the existing ramp road and expanding the existing parking area slightly (if possible) and grading and graveling both, installing an approximate 64'+- concrete boat ramp with 20' asphalt approach to help preserve the ramp, installing an ADA vault toilet and marked parking pad, and chain-link fencing on the west boundary line to the river. Some trimming of the over-grown shrubs, trees and vegetation will be necessary during slight widening of the road and parking area, but will be kept to a minimum.

These improvements/development propose to help meet increased public demands for a better fishing and water recreation access on the Wenatchee River with an ADA parking pad and vault toilet facility.

Rank (8 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$320,650	\$0	\$320,650
08-1816D Tim's Pond Public Access			

Tim's Pond is a beautiful public access site at the entrance to the Tieton River Canyon set below massive cliffs, towering pines, and oak woodlands. This popular fishing spot in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area is stocked with rainbow trout from WDFW Naches Hatchery just a few miles down the road. There are wooded pathways surrounding the lake and adjacent to the Tieton River to view a variety of birds and wildlife. Just a few miles northwest of the towns of Yakima, Naches, Tieton, Cowiche, Moxee, Lower Valley towns and Selah as well as White and Chinook Pass travelers, its a location to be enjoyed by all.

ADA accessible restrooms, paved parking/unloading areas, and paved/curbed fishing areas are essential improvements needed at Tim's Pond. The paved pathway around the pond for wildlife and river viewing will enhance the use of the site. This location allows for easy loading near the lake, but lacks the hard surface needed for those with disabilities. At this time there are no restroom facilities, and the surrounding vegetation is showing signs of misuse, litter and debris as a result.

In nearby Yakima, there are two other lakes claiming ADA accessibility. Myron allows for selective gear rules only, and it's paved pathway is a distance, downhill to the lake. At Rotary, parking locations require foot travel along paved or gravel trails and crossing highway bridges to arrive at the ADA fishing dock on the other side of the lake.

Rank (9 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Fish & Wildlife	\$313,900	\$0	\$313,900
08-1486D Shillapoo North Unit Parking Lot Development			

This project proposes to construct a parking lot for 20 cars to provide improved and safe access to the North Unit of the Shillapoo Wildlife Area. The site, which was originally purchased, in part, with RCO funds, is currently undeveloped and will require clearing, grading and graveling. Two parking spaces will be paved and a short trail and blind will be built to ADA standards. Creation of a pond is part of this project to compensate for imported materials.

The Wildlife Area is adjacent to the Vancouver city limits and receives heavy use from birders, hikers, waterfowl hunters and other users. Providing parking on this unit was identified by our citizens advisory group as the top priority unfunded item in the Wildlife Area Plan. Users currently struggle to park along the roadsides with limited shoulders creating an unsafe situation.

The primary use of this unit is currently by waterfowl hunters who hike into the unit to access blinds on the area. Other uses such as birding and hiking are currently at much lower levels than we see on other parts of the wildlife area, which is due at least in part to the unavailability of parking, even though the natural features on this site probably provide the best wildlife viewing opportunities. Future phases may include amenities that will further enhance the wildlife viewing experience including trail improvements and viewing structures. Being so close to a major urban area and with two county regional parks a short distance away, the site has tremendous potential.

Rank (10 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$175,000	\$0	\$175,000
08-1405D Loomis NRCA Trail Relocation (Development) 2008			

The scope of this project is to complete trail restoration on portions of the Snowshoe and Olallie trails within the Loomis Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA). Construction elements will include 1,300 feet of turnpike, 4.3 miles of trail clearing, the installation of water bars and drainage structures, 5000' of trail treading, reshaping, and the final completion of trail restoration work from previous projects. Volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen, Pacific Northwest Trails Association, and Washington State Snowmobile Association will be involved and contribute labor for the project. Many trail segments need to be relocated because they go through wet areas within riparian or wetland zones or are located on unstable slopes. This project will provide stream bank restoration and protection for sites within the project area. Re-routing and/or improving trails will be done to increase user safety and resource protection. This project continues the work that the Department has been doing over the last several years. We hope to continue this project until all trails within the state forest meet current trail standards.

The Loomis NRCA is comprised of two blocks totaling 24,700 acres within Loomis State Forest. There are approximately 45 miles of user built trails and 10 miles of roads that are used as trails. Trails are designated as either summer use only, winter use only or all season use. No wheeled vehicles are allowed on the roads or trails.

Rank (11 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$325,000	\$105,500	\$430,500
08-1049D Mailbox Peak Trail Development - Phase 1			

The scope of this project is to construct 5 miles of new trail leading to the summit of Mailbox Peak. The existing Mailbox Peak Trail, also known as the Direct Route, is an extremely steep route with an elevation gain of almost 4,000 ft. in just 2.5 miles of trail. Historically this existing route was used by a dedicated number of users, primarily mountaineers, who used the route for training for mountaineering expeditions. Over time, the route has become better known and has been identified in several hiking guides. With increased recreational use, the route has become "braided," erosion has occurred causing resource damage, and is a threat to public safety. Last year, Search & Rescue was called upon an average of at least twice a month to rescue hikers who were either injured or lost. The existing route cannot sustain the recreational use that is now occurring.

In June 2005, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails Assessment was completed. For the Mailbox Peak Trail, the Assessment states: "The trail was once a low use route that has been 'discovered' and now receives more users than it can sustain without significant damage to the trail. The trail should be relocated and reconstructed to a standard that can accommodate very high use levels. Length of a reconstructed Mailbox Peak Trail should increase to five miles." The project is to design & construct a trail that meets agency standards and increase public safety.

Rank (12 of 13)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dept of Natural Resources	\$143,000	\$0	\$143,000
08-1407D Merrill Lake NRCA (Development) 2008			

The scope of this project is the construction of a one mile loop interpretive trail, which will include interpretive signs about the old growth forest and lake ecology. While the site contains a primitive campground, day use sites, and boat launch there are no other amenities including trails on site. Campground users are creating userbuilt trails into the oldgrowth forest which is creating erosion problems and trampling native plants. This proposal would add diversity to the recreational options at the site and help minimized damage to the forest by directing hiking along an approved trail. Currently there are very few interpretive trails in southwest Washington. The project also involves the improvement of the primary access road.

Rank (13 of 13)