

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: March 26, 2009

Place: Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Bill Chapman, Chair	Mercer Island
Karen Daubert	Seattle
Steven Drew	Olympia
Jeff Parsons	Leavenworth
Dave Brittell	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Stephen Saunders	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Rex Derr	Designee, State Parks and Recreation

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS SUMMARY BE USED WITH THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
A RECORDING IS RETAINED BY RCO AS THE FORMAL RECORD OF MEETING.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions were made and a quorum was determined.

CONSENT CALENDAR

(See notebook item #2)

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2008-051 Consent Calendar approving:

- a) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2008
- b) Time Extensions
 - i. RCO # 04-1502D, City of Port Townsend, Downtown Waterfront Access Restoration
 - ii. RCO #04-1450D, City of Poulsbo, Dogfish Creek Restoration and Development
 - iii. RCO # 04-1507R, King County, Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnect
 - iv. RCO #04-1208D, City of Seattle, South Lake Union Park Development, Phase I
 - v. RCO #04-1424, Bainbridge Island Park District, Blakely Harbor Project, Phase I
 - vi. RCO # 04-1417C, Clark County, Hockinson Meadows
 - vii. RCO #04-1381D, Tacoma Public Works, Thea Foss Waterway 21st Street Park
 - viii. RCO #04-1441C, Okanogan County, Similkameen Trail Phase I
 - ix. RCO #04-1353A, City of Bellevue, Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Acquisition
- c) Advisory Committee Recognition
 - i. Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee
 - ii. Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Advisory Committee
 - iii. Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Advisory Committee
 - iv. Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee
- d) Use of Unobligated Boating Activity Program Funds

Kaleen noted changes made to the agenda and that the consent agenda was updated to reflect Bill Chapman as the new chair of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.

Karen recused herself from the vote due to her association with Lake Union Park.

Steven Drew **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-01, approving the items on the Consent Calendar.
Jeff Parsons **SECONDED**.

Resolution #2009-01 **APPROVED** as presented.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Director Kaleen Cottingham presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #3 for detailed report.)

Kaleen highlighted a few points:

1. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is working on resolving and prioritizing our conversions. Staff is currently working closely with the Lummi tribe to resolve the Portage Island conversion.
2. The RCO has a second audit finding dealing with the lack of monitoring of our grant recipients. The agency must invest in a system of compensating controls. We have a plan in place and have had training the Office of Financial Management regarding risk planning and risk management.

Kaleen then noted that, in response to a board request in November, staff developed guidelines for public comment. Rebecca Connolly explained that the document outlines the role of the board and provides tips on how to present an effective testimony when speaking to the board. The document also describes role of the board in land use issues.

Board members requested the following edits to the document:

- Jeff Parsons asked that the paragraph regarding the board's authority be moved to the beginning of the document so that the public is aware of what the board is able to do. Steven Drew concurred, and suggested that it be the first bullet under the tips section.
- Bill Chapman recommended putting a time constraint of three to five minutes for public comment. Karen Daubert concurred, and recommended three minutes.

Rebecca responded that staff would make the edits and distribute the guidelines before the July meeting.

Kaleen finished this part of the agenda by noting agency accomplishments in performance management and that the reappropriation rate is decreasing.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #4 for details.)

Jim noted that sine die would be on April 26, 2009, and that the Senate and House are now discussing the other chamber's bills. The request bill to remove mitigation banking from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) has passed.

Jim noted that the legislation proposed by the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalitions is moving forward. The bill would add nonprofit organizations and the conservation commission as eligible grant

recipients in the farmland and riparian categories of WWRP. He noted in the Senate that questions arose regarding:

1. The use of leases and term conservation easements as a way not to tie up conservation land in perpetuity.
2. The effect of non-profits receiving a grant to acquire land and then selling it.

He noted that these questions resulted in an amendment to the bill, which asks the RCO to do a small study and report that evaluates the use of land preservation mechanisms and their ability to respond to future economic, social, and environmental changes. The RCO must submit a report by January 1, 2010 that compares the advantages, disadvantages, and costs of these land preservation mechanisms. He added that RCO could use this as an opportunity to dispel some myths, provide good information to the legislature, and review these mechanisms in a changing ecological world.

Jim also discussed the recreation boating bill (2SSB 5691) that would follow up on two State Parks studies and the boaters' needs assessment done by the RCO. The bill would earmark some Boating Facilities Program grant funds for several studies and needs assessments related to boating facilities and marine law enforcement issues. He commented on House Bill 2157, which moves the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to the RCO, noting that the bill likely would pass. He added that the Senate and House budgets would come out next week, and everyone anticipates significant cuts in both budgets. He noted that non-bond funds in the capital budget may be diverted to the operating budget, and that such a move would affect the boating account, firearms account, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), and the Non-highway Off-road Vehicle Account (NOVA).

Steven Drew asked what the worst-case scenario is.

Jim responded that it is almost impossible to tell, but he thinks the capital budget will be in better shape for bond-funded programs. He is optimistic that there will be some significant funding in the capital budget. Jim also noted that some of the administrative funds come from the capital budget. He also noted that if both the operating and capital portions of the four accounts above are diverted to the operating budget, there would be a huge effect on the agency.

Jeff noted that there were constitutional problems with making statutory changes in a budget bill. He asked if the House of Representatives or Senate addressed this.

Jim answered that he has not heard any issues involving RCO.

Kaleen noted that the House and Senate have difference opinions about the legal ramifications of diverting the funds. The Senate staff believes that amending the NOVA statute would require a "renegotiation of the compact with the gas tax payers" because there is no refund provision in NOVA. She noted that there is a refund provision in the boating account. An attorney general's opinion states that once funds go into the refund process, it removes it from the constitutional limitations.

Jim asked Jeff Parsons if he was referring to the gas tax or just statutory changes in general.

Jeff answered that it was about making policy changes in a budget that is supposed to be appropriating revenue and establishing revenue sources. He said if we can put the argument that it is unconstitutional to make statutory changes in the budget in there then it might be helpful.

Jim noted that this is something they do in every budget, but he thinks there are ways to divert those funds and stay within statutory constraints. He added that if they divert the capital funds, then RCO would not have grant cycles this biennium. Staff will have plenty to do from previous grant cycles.

Steven Drew mentioned hearing about the diversion of gas tax money in the boating account to keep existing waterfront facilities operating and available. He asked Jim if this is true and whether the RCO has commented on this proposal.

Jim answered that the proposal is real. The board of directors for the Recreational Boaters Association of Washington supports the proposal, with the rationale that if the funds will be put into the general fund, they should continue to support boating recreation. He added that he has not heard if legislature has considered this. The agency has not commented on the proposal.

Steven Drew suggested that the RCO model for selecting projects for capital funds would be a good model for selecting sites if the funds were diverted. He suggested that RCO staff make this point if asked to comment on the legislation.

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT AND OTHER EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN STATUTORY CHANGE PROPOSALS

Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #5a for details.)

Jim discussed the bills to eliminate boards and commissions. The Governor's request bills include the NOVA advisory committee and the FARR advisory committee. The RCO noted that that the cost savings would be minor, and that citizen involvement in the programs is important. The agency likely would continue public participation in a similar manner, even if the committees were abolished in statute.

He noted that there are similar bills proposed, including Senate Bill 5588. The bill would abolish the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and suspend both the Invasive Species Council and the Monitoring Forum for two years. He noted that there are significant discussions between the Governor, House, and Senate. He added that the agency believes all three boards should continue functioning because their value is greater than their cost.

Jim noted that there are other discussions on consolidating functions and programs. Some ideas have made it into bills; others will be on the table for the next session. He noted that the Governor has proposed convening a workgroup of natural resource agencies to discuss how natural resource agencies are organized and the potential reorganization of those agencies and their functions.

Jeff asked if the RCFB is still proposed for termination. Jim responded that the bill that includes the RCFB appears to be dead.

REVIEW COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #5b for details)

Jim reminded the board that at the last meeting, they asked questions about the advisory committees. In particular, they wanted to know how advisory committees are selected, whom they represent, and whether they are a fair representation of the stakeholders for that particular program. He referred the board to Attachment A of notebook item, and added that the composition of the committees can be found in statute or board-approved policy. He described the solicitation and selection processes for the committees. He also noted that the current roster is in Attachment C of the notebook item.

Steven Drew asked about the balance of motorized and non-motorized representatives in NOVA and the Recreational Trails Program. He asked if the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition represents hiking or motorized recreation, and the focus of the Intermountain Alpine Club.

Jim noted that many of the committee members participate in many activities and have a range of interests. The committees are not designed to be position-based, and members understand that they are not there to represent the interests of a single organization.

Greg Lovelady answered that the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition is focused on nonmotorized activities, but that he does not know the focus of the Intermountain Alpine Club. (Subsequent staff research indicates the club focuses on nonmotor outdoor activities.)

Steven Drew commented that if these two organizations are pedestrian orientated then this committee is balanced.

Dave Brittell said the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) representation on the committee would change upon implementation of budget cuts.

POTENTIAL FOR CLOSING PARKS

Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #5c for details)

Jim noted that up to 40 State Parks are up for closure and Thurston County Parks Department is being eliminated. Park closures may trigger a conversion process for the RCO and for projects funded with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. RCO and State Parks did an analysis of parks that may be either transferred to another managing entity or mothballed. He added that there would be more information and suggestions on how to work with grant sponsors at the next board meeting.

Steven Drew noted that for pending and future grants we need to examine the recipients' ability to carry out the grants.

Jim responded that those measures are in place for new applications. For existing grants, the agency needs to be vigilant in seeing which projects are going to be delayed or not carried forward. He noted that some sponsors will lose their match due to the economic situation.

Rex Derr said the parameters in which State Parks work are being shifted, but he will know more when the budget is decided. He noted that he is not sure what is going to happen and how they are going to deal with it. He added that at some point the board should make some statement that recognizes the valiant effort made by people in the recreation and conservation field.

Jeff Parsons said we need to have a bias in protecting the investments we have made. He added that if we are closing parks that we need to have a plan to get the parks operating when economic conditions improve.

Steven Drew commented that RCO should not be punitive. He wants the agency to determine how it will adapt to meet its mission in light of sponsors' ability to do the work.

Chair Chapman commended Rex and other agency heads on their work. He described similar situations in 2003 in King County, and how parks were transferred to municipalities. He noted that the decisions they make now will affect the board's ability to do its work when the economic situation improves. He noted that sponsors need to understand that they received substantial state and federal dollars toward a goal, and they need to remember that this is a long-term investment. The board needs to take the situation into account and be part of the process, but remember the long-term impacts.

GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Deputy Director Rachael Langen and Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #6 for details.)

Rachael gave background on the state and federal economic stimulus packages, and described the agency's process for developing project lists for each stimulus plan.

Staff contacted sponsors whose projects are reviewed and approved. For the state package, projects also had to be above the \$50 million funding level for WWRP. Rachael added that the economic stimulus packages are intended to create jobs, so staff looked at projects that would be ready to go by April or early May. Six WWRP projects were chosen for the state stimulus package. No projects in board-funded programs qualified for the federal economic stimulus package.

Pending legislative approval, the RCO is ready to put the six qualifying projects under agreement. She noted that the resolution before the board would be to give director Kaleen Cottingham the authority to act on the board's behalf and sign the agreements.

Jeff Parsons **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-02. Karen Daubert **SECONDED** the motion.

Resolution #2009-02 **APPROVED** as presented.

CONVERSION AND CONSEQUENCE POLICIES

Rachael Langen presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #7 for details.)

Rachael noted that there two purposes of this presentation:

1. Inform the board of the implementation of the high risk sponsor designation
2. Ask for support from the board to hold sponsors accountable for timely completion of projects

She explained that in June 2007, the board adopted revisions to manual 7, section 3, which describes the compliance policy for completed projects. The policy revision established a "high risk" designation for sponsors that fit into one of two categories:

1. Sponsors that have one or more unresolved conversions where the monetary value of the conversions exceeds \$1,000,000 or 25% of all the funds they have received from the board or Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), whichever is less.
2. Sponsors that have a conversion that has gone on for more than two years without the sponsor showing progress toward resolution, regardless of dollar amount

Rachael added that the board determines the high-risk designation, and that that sponsors designated as high risk can still apply for grants. If their project is approved, they will have 90 days following the board funding date to demonstrate progress on resolving the conversion for completed projects of concern. She noted that the RCO hired a compliance officer, Jim Anest, who is dealing with the more complex conversions while the grant managers are handling the routine conversions.

Steven Drew asked whether closing a park intended for public recreation would be a conversion.

Scott Robinson answered that closing a park could potentially be a conversion. He noted that in general, if sponsors mothball a park, but continue to allow public access and have a plan to open fully in the future, it may not be a conversion. If the park is going to be closed long term, and there is no plan to reopen in the future, then it would be a conversion.

Kaleen noted that staff recommended that the board make the decision to put someone on the high-risk list so that they may discuss any issues.

Rex Derr asked if it is an affirmative action by the board to remove someone from the list.

Rachael responded that it would be, but that it is not reflected in our policies.

Rachael then noted that the board has adopted policies for unnecessary project delay. These are primarily in manual 7, which states that unsatisfactory progress may be cause for project termination. She noted that project agreements allow the board or the director to suspend or terminate the agreement with the sponsor if the sponsor fails to make progress that is satisfactory to the funding board or director.

Dave Brittell agrees with the staff recommendation of holding the sponsors accountable for project delays. He noted that the intent is to be open and collaborative to make these projects successful.

Rachael noted that unnecessary project delays are cause for placement on the high-risk list. She added that cultural resources issues may delay a project but are a necessary delay.

REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSIONS

Marguerite Austin presented this agenda time. (See notebook item #8a for details.)

Marguerite gave background on the Centennial Trail #04-1340D. Snohomish County Parks and Recreation requested consideration of a time extension request for the Centennial Trail – Arlington North project. Snohomish County expects to have all permits in-hand by June 2009, and to execute the construction contract by August 2009. The construction phase of the project will take eighteen months because of the time required to fabricate the steel bridge for the Pilchuck Creek crossing and the decking for the bridge and the trestle over the Stilliguamish River.

Marguerite noted that staff recommends approval of a time extension through March 31, 2011 for the Centennial Trail project via Resolution #2009-06.

Public Comment:

Tom Teigen, Director of Snohomish Parks and Recreation, noted that they use three tools for tracking projects, a dashboard, Microsoft Project, and a project timeline chart. He added that project delays are due to permitting issues with the Corps of Engineers.

Steven Drew asked Tom if this grant could have been funded by separate grants.

Tom responded that staff believed that they would make the deadlines. He noted that there was a lot of support and interest from a trails coalition and elected officials from Arlington and Marysville. He added that this timeline was very aggressive and it was possible for the project to be funded by separate grants.

Karen Daubert asked RCO staff why the time extension does not have conditions attached to it.

Marguerite responded that they put this onto the agenda because they wanted to give the board an opportunity to talk about the trail category projects.

Jeff asked if it is possible to anticipate the issues the Corps going to have with parts of the project. He added that possible complications that may delay the project should be added into the analysis during the application process.

Tom answered that they can anticipate these issues.

Dave Brittell **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-03. Jeff Parsons **SECONDED** the motion.

Board Discussion:

Karen Daubert favors the resolution but wants to add a friendly amendment to extend the date from March 31, 2011 to June 11, 2011 along with the condition that there will be no more time extensions.

Chair Chapman noted that changing the date from March to June is a friendly amendment, but the condition that we will not grant another time extension is not.

Karen Daubert **MOVED** the friendly amendment to extend the date from March 31, 2011 to June 11, 2011. Dave Brittell **SECONDED** the amendment to the original resolution.

Steven Drew noted that the additional extension sends the wrong message.

Dave Brittell said that he is concerned that the board is putting these important projects into a structured box. He noted that we use up some of our flexibility capital on projects that did not need to be extended.

Steven Drew added that 80 percent of the funds were not expended until after the fourth year. He noted that this is an example of the problem with the way we fit within the code of the state of Washington and perform in a way that the Office of Financial Management and Legislature expects us to.

Motion to approve the friendly amendment to Resolution #2009-03 **APPROVED**.

Bill asked for discussion on Karen's suggestion to add a condition for no more extensions if the project is not completed on time.

Kaleen noted that she is concerned about the message that the condition sends for development projects where the sponsors have already expended considerable time and money securing permits. She thinks it may be a more appropriate message for acquisitions.

Jeff added that if it is an issue beyond the sponsor's control, the board is not punishing the right party. He noted that there are bigger issues, and the board needs to look at the Corps of Engineers permitting process and how it affects our ability to do what we do. He asked what other permitting processes do the same thing.

Rex suggested we give the sponsors some kind of tool to that could help them solve the problem that they have.

Bill noted that one tool is a strong message from the board that this would be the last extension. He added that we are concerned with the size and time of the project.

Rex suggested that the alternative message we should send is that we are going to help sponsors be persistent and achieve their final objective. He added that we need to hang on to the long-term vision and mission.

Steven noted that to give this project a penalty for not being on time is unreasonable; he would want staff to encourage this recipient to make sure we get a billing in and spend all the money that can legitimately be spent if they finish in that biennium.

Karen withdrew her motion to add a condition for no more time extensions, but she added that she is concerned with a sending a mixed message.

Resolution #2009-03 **APPROVED** as amended.

REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSIONS

Sarah Thirtyacre presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #8b for details.)

Sarah gave background on the Northwest Maritime Center Mooring Field and Moorage Floats #03-1132D. Work completed to date includes the fabrication and installation of the two moorage floats. Remaining work includes the permitting, purchase, and installation of ten mooring buoys. Progress on this project has been slower than anticipated, and is delayed by Washington State Department of Natural Resources DNR's hold on issuing aquatic leases. The installation of the buoy field does not require that the work be done during a "fish window," so work can begin as soon as a lease is approved by DNR.

Sarah noted that staff recommends that the board approve a conditional approval of the time extension via Resolution #2009-04.

Jim Fox noted that the resolution in the boards' binders is #2009-06 and that a friendly amendment will be needed to fix the number on the resolution to #2009-04.

Jeff Parsons **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-04. Karen Daubert **SECONDED** the motion.

Bill Chapman said that the board could correct the number without a friendly amendment.

Stephen Saunders noted that the Department of Natural Resources has taken a step back from the aquatic leasing program to ensure that the information being collected is sufficient. He added that this project's materials are being looked at and should move forward shortly.

Dave Brittell noted that the board wants to send a message to sponsors that time extension requests need to stop and projects need to be done on time. He also added that he would want the director and staff to be able to work things out with sponsors to see if good progress is being made or not.

Bill asked Dave if he prefers the language that includes staff discretion on project progress.

Dave said he prefers that language because it gives the RCO staff and the director a chance to determine if appropriate progress is being made on a project.

Kaleen asked staff if we have a firm date on this funding.

Sarah Thirtyacre answered that she spoke with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and they approved the amendment through December 31, 2009 but they did not negotiate past that date.

Jeff asked has there been any opposition to this project.

Sarah said that she has not heard of any opposition and added that it is highly supported.

Dave suggested an amendment to the language for termination. He noted that it should say "if by the end of December 31, 2009 sufficient progress cannot be demonstrated to RCO, the director shall have the ability to terminate the project and any remaining funds will be distributed according to policy" instead of "if the sponsor does not complete the work by December 31, 2009 the RCO will terminate the grant."

Kaleen noted that the board and agency do not have the ability to redistribute the federal grant.

Stephen Saunders noted that he agrees with the amendment. He added that the world of permitting is often beyond the control of project applicant and having the additional flexibility makes sense.

Steven Drew added that he does not have a problem with the motion as it relates to this project.

Bill clarified the amendment. He said the resolution requires a correction to the resolution number, which is #2009-04. He also noted that the conditions are incorporated by reference in the resolution, and that the friendly amendment would be to replace "no further time extensions will be considered" with "further time extensions are not currently contemplated. If sufficient progress cannot be shown by December 31, 2009 the director shall have the authority to terminate the grant."

Karen stated that she does not support the amendment and prefers the original staff recommendation. She added that this is situation that requires holding a sponsor to a firm deadline.

Rex referred to item #7, and the staff request for support in holding sponsors accountable. He asked staff if they prefer the original amendment or this new language. He questioned whether the amendment gives staff the support they need.

Kaleen responded that the direction she has received is to tighten the practices and reduce reappropriation. Her recommendation is to use the original language.

Steven Drew said he is on the side of giving staff discretion to terminate the project. He pointed out that the sponsor has made progress since the memo and recommendation were written. He stated that it's important to make a strong statement against time extensions, but still give staff flexibility to handle requests on a case-by-case basis.

Stephen Saunders noted that our goal should be to narrow down our timelines. He stated, however, that they need to think about the budget realities because the agencies issuing permits may need to cut staff.

Rex Derr noted he saw a difference between this decision and the previous situation because the permitting agency is not a state agency. He suggested that the agencies at the table should work together to achieve the goal for the date set.

Bill called for a vote to amend the resolution with the language he suggested giving the director the authority to use her discretion.

Motion **APPROVED**.

Bill noted that the underlying motion says #2009-06 but we are going to change it to #2009-04.

Resolution #2009-04 **APPROVED** as amended.

REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSIONS

Darrell Jennings presented this agenda time. (See notebook item #8c for details.)

Darrell Jennings gave background on the Cape Disappointment #04-1270 and Bridle Trails ADA Improvements #05-1135D.

For project #04-1270, he noted that State Parks prepared and provided the post approval materials for the Bridle Trails ADA Improvements project. RCO's reassignment of territories created workload issues that delayed getting this project under agreement with the National Park Service. The federal agreement was issued in March 2008, and State Parks began to implement the project.

For project #05-1135, Darrell noted that State Parks has invested a lot of time working through complex design and permitting issues. As a result, the scope of the Cape Disappointment Multi-Use Trail project will be reduced to construction of a 2,000 foot trail between Beards Hollow and North Head Lighthouse Road.

Darrell explained that staff recommends conditional approval, of the extension requests included in Attachment A, Washington State Parks and Recreation Time Extension Request – March 2009, via Revised Resolution #2009-05.

Bill noted that page 2 of the memo states, "if the permits are not in hand by June 30th staff recommends termination of project and funds be given to an eligible candidate," and asked Darrell to reconcile that with the language on the revised resolution.

Marguerite noted that staff evaluated the latest date that the sponsor could have permits in place to meet the extension timeline.

Kaleen asked if the date June 30th would be stricken and if May 31st is the correct date. Marguerite said yes.

Karen Daubert **MOVED** revised resolution #2009-05. Steven Drew **SECONDED**.

Revised Resolution #2009-05 **APPROVED** as presented.

REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSIONS

Leslie Ryan-Connelly presented this agenda time. (See notebook item #8d for details.)

Leslie explained that WDFW requested time extensions for three grants originally funded through WWRP and the ALEA, and provided background on the projects and criteria for approval.

She explained that the time extension for #02-1199C is related to a lengthy negotiation with the landowner and a boundary line adjustment. Once the boundary line adjustment is submitted to Thurston County, the process generally takes about 60 days to complete.

She explained that the time extension for #03-1182A is related to changes in project scope. When the board granted the last time extension for this project, the scope of the project was expanded to include an additional adjacent property that is necessary for future restoration activities. The landowners of the additional property are willing to sell, but the acquisition is delayed due to a lengthy probate procedure that started about one year ago.

She explained that the time extension for #03-1287A is related to changes in project scope. The original target property for this project is no longer viable, so the request is coupled with a scope change. However, Leslie noted that there are grants in place to acquire the properties requested in the scope change/time extension.

Leslie noted that staff recommended that the board approve only two of the three time extension requests included in Attachment A, Time Extension Request from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – March 2009, via Resolution #2000-06.

In response to a question from Jeff Parsons, Leslie noted that project #02-1199C had a scope change in 2007 that expanded it to alternate properties, but that this time extension is related to the original property and application.

Dave Brittell noted that WDFW has discussed the RCO recommendations for all three projects, and that they are okay with the language.

Jeff Parsons asked how the sites in project #02-1199C are affected by development. Leslie used a map to highlight development in the Littlerock area.

Karen Daubert **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-06. Steven Drew **SECONDED** the motion.

Resolution #2009-06 **APPROVED** as presented.

REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSIONS

Kim Sellers presented this agenda time. (See notebook item #8e for details.)

Kim explained that the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested time extensions for six acquisition grants originally funded with WWRP funds in May 2005. She provided background information on each of the projects. She completed her presentation by recommending conditional approval of the extension requests included in Attachment A, Time Extension Requests for Board Approval – Department of Natural Resources – March 2009, via Resolution #2009-07.

On project #04-1328A, Steven Drew asked if there was conflict between the DNR and Nature Conservancy. Kim replied that the delay is a function of the nature of the Natural Areas Program. Landowners may not be willing to sell their land. Craig Calhoun, with the Conservation Lands Acquisition Program for DNR, noted that the Nature Conservancy is going through a process of consolidating their ownership.

Steven Drew asked if this is causing an inability to complete the grant. Kim noted that DNR is refocusing their efforts on properties within the NAP boundary.

Steven Drew asked if DNR would be able to provide focus on the negotiations for these projects, given budget reductions. He suggested that they provide an interim extension until DNR knows the impacts of the budget.

Kaleen noted that the reason all these extensions are before the board is that they all expire in May.

Stephen Saunders noted that cuts were made to DNR and cuts are being made to the general fund. He added that as long as grant funds are available then there would be staff to carry forward with projects.

Dave Brittell MOVED to adopt Resolution #2009-07. Karen Daubert **SECONDED** the motion.

Resolution #2009-07 **APPROVED** as presented.

SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST: RCO #06-2076, WHATCOM COUNTY, DICKSON FARM ACQUISITION

Kammie Bunes presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #9 for details.)

Kammie gave some background on the scope change request for #06-2076, Whatcom County, Dickson Farm Acquisition. She explained that the county obtained a waiver of retroactivity from the RCO before it purchased the easement. Later, the Assistant Attorney General reviewed the Dickson easement and concluded that the RCO could not reimburse the county for the easement because it did not name the RCO as a third party beneficiary or allow assignment to the RCO. Kammie then explained the size and function of the proposed replacement, Eldridge Farm.

Kammie noted in her presentation that the Dickson Farm has 3 development rights, rather than the four noted in the staff memo. She concluded her presentation by noting that staff recommends that the board approve Resolution #2009-08 to authorize Whatcom County's request to change the scope of this grant as presented.

Bill asked if the matrix showing questions and factors used in item #10 for a scope change is applicable to this scope change.

Kammie read the questions from the matrix used in item #10 and answered them, amending them as needed to reflect the farmland criteria. She stated that the substitute property is eligible in the same category as the original project, and that it has similar attributes in the farmland evaluation criteria. She also explained that while the substitute property is six miles from the original property, the key factor is that it is adjacent to the agricultural zone. In answer to the final question, she stated that the substitute property would score better than the original.

Public Comment

Matt Eldrige, Organic Dairy Farmer, gave a brief history of the farm in Whatcom County. He noted they utilize a lot of local feed and rent land for grazing. He said there are fewer farmers because of the push to make land developable instead of farmland.

Dean Martin, Whatcom County planner, commented on his support for farming in Whatcom County. He noted that their comprehensive plan supports having 100,000 acres or more in the future for agriculture.

Samya Lutz, Whatcom County Planner, discussed the purchase of development right program and the partners they work with.

Jeff Parsons **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-08. Stephen Saunders **SECONDED** the motion.

Resolution #2009-08 **APPROVED** as presented.

SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST: RCO #06-1808, DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, TEANAWAY ECOSYSTEM

Leslie Ryan-Connelly presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #10 for details)

Leslie gave background information on the scope change request for #06-1808, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Teanaway Ecosystem. She explained that the owner of the original target property is

currently unwilling to sell it. WDFW notified RCO staff of the situation and asked to change the project's scope to the Heart of the Cascades Phase 1 project, which is located about 25 miles southwest of the target property.

She explained that the RCO supports WDFW's efforts to acquire and protect habitat lands in eastern Washington and believes the property proposed for acquisition is similar to the critical habitat originally proposed.

Leslie explained that the staff recommendation was to deny the request because the substitute property did not score well in the 2008 grant round, alternate projects are available, and approval would be inconsistent with board policy. She noted that the score for the substitute property may have been higher if they had disclosed their match. WDFW asked that the board consider their request.

Jeff Parsons asked why the match policy was not applied to this project as an added benefit. Leslie said that the RCO did not know it was an issue and that the sponsor did not include the match in the application.

Steven Drew asked what the staff recommendation would be if they considered the federal matching grant.

Kaleen responded that staff does not have that flexibility, so it is a board decision.

Jeff Parsons added he has a hard time comparing it with other projects in the 06-08 list. He noted his concern for consideration of the actual habitat values.

Public Comment:

Ken Bevis, habitat biologist for WDFW, technical person helped develop these projects. He noted that the east slope of the cascades is a biologically rich zone. He added that rock creek is a better location.

Bill Robinson, with the Nature Conservancy, commented that the state capital budget is 1/3 smaller than originally proposed due to revenue declines and legislative transfers from the capital budget. He added that a majority of funds coming out of the capital budget are natural resource funds. He noted that any project that is not finished by June 30th is at risk of losing its money.

Jeff Parsons asked if we are at risk of losing money if it is in the 2008 cycle as compared with considering this as a scope change with the 2006 cycle.

Bill answered that any 2006 monies that are not spent are considered to not be committed.

Ken Berg, manager for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, gave a perspective on the federal matching fund. He noted that this project was one of two projects that came to Washington out of nine total projects in the nation. He added that we need to execute this project so that the national office will continue to award grants to Washington.

Rantz Block, with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, said that what drew them to this project was the diversity of habitats and the vast landscape that this project impacts. He noted that by leveraging the section 6 funds, they will be able to use the WWRP funds to double the size of the acquisition.

Karen asked if ATV, snowmobile, and horseback riding would continue.

Rantz responded that they would not necessarily continue. He added that if all the land were sold to private owners, then those activities would be unregulated on private lands, and the activities would leak over onto neighboring lands.

Rex asked if the action to change the scope would be an expansion or replacement.

Leslie said that we are moving the project to the cascades.

Steven Drew **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-09. Jeff Parsons **SECONDED** the motion.

Karen expressed concerns that this is not the right way to go. She suggested that we clarify the unique circumstances that are involved here so we do not open the door for this happening repeatedly.

Resolution #2009-09 **APPROVED** as presented, with 6 board members voting in favor. Karen Daubert voted against the resolution.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LAND EXCHANGE

Leslie Ryan-Connelly presented this agenda item. (See notebook items #11 for details.)

Leslie explained that WDFW is working on an exchange of land with the DNR. The exchange will affect property acquired with funding assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, WWRP, and general state bonds. WDFW is developing a conversion package to satisfy these impacts for property purchased with WWRP funds. Leslie explained the progress on the effort since the last update in September 2008, and noted that WDFW expects to present a complete package to the board at the meeting in July 2009.

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT: RCO #05-1517N, GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, STRADDLELINE ORV PARK

Marguerite Austin presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #12 for details.)

Marguerite gave a brief overview of this agenda item. She explained the ownership history of Straddleline ORV Park, and explained that Grays Harbor County had asked the board to approve an amendment to their adopted exit strategy for the park. The amendment would allow the county to recoup documented costs for real property improvements made to the park using county general funds. Marguerite explained that the agency's assistant attorney general negotiated the proposed language with the county's prosecuting attorney, and that staff recommended that the board approve the language, as follows:

"...The Grantor shall deduct all reasonable administrative costs for the sale. With Grantee approval, the Grantor may deduct documented costs of improvements to the real property if made from Grantor's general funds and not from grant monies provided by the Grantee. Remaining funds will be turned over to the NOVA program."

Jeff Parsons asked Marguerite to clarify the use of grantee and grantor in the amendment language.

Marguerite answered that the county is filing an easement that they are granting to the people of the State of Washington to use the property, so the county is the grantor of the easement.

Steven Drew expressed concern with the language, "grantor may deduct documented costs of improvements" because it has little direct relationship to the market value at the time of calculating the

deduction. He suggested that it should say “grantor may deduct the documented current market value of improvements.” He noted the effect of this language would take into consideration the devaluation of improvements over time.

Marguerite responded that board policy says that they must have an appraisal and review done to establish the value. She noted this decision could not be made without the boards’ approval and the documents would establish the value.

Dave Brittell MOVED to adopt Resolution #2009-10. Karen Daubert **SECONDED** the motion.

Steven Drew **MOVED** to amend the language, “the Grantor may deduct documented costs of improvements to the real property...” with “the Grantor may deduct the documented current market value of improvements to the real property...” Karen Daubert **SECONDED**.

Kaleen asked Marguerite if this means that an investment by the county with their general funds in something that increases in value would allow them to recover more than what they expended.

Marguerite responded that would be true if the amendment says “current market value.”

Motion to approve the amendment to Resolution #2009-10 **APPROVED**.

Resolution #2009-10 **APPROVED** as amended.

REVISED CRITERIA FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Jim Eychaner presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #13 for details.)

Jim explained that the evaluation criteria for this program should recognize projects that conform to priorities identified in the state’s comprehensive outdoor recreation planning (SCORP) document. In January 2009, staff distributed a first draft of a new “priority rating system” for public comment. The system was consistent with the new SCORP document. Staff received only informal comments, and all focused on concerns about the use of the level of service (LOS) approach to establish project need. In response, staff developed a second draft set of criteria that eliminates the LOS question as a scored item.

Jim stated that staff recommends that the board adopt the second draft for use in the next LWCF grant round. In addition, staff recommends testing the LOS-based “need” question found in the first draft by seeking volunteer willing applicants. The tests and its results would have no bearing on grant funding recommendations brought back to the board.

Stephen Saunders said that he agrees with testing, but also supports continuing developing a level of service matrix that could be incorporated.

Karen asked how the testing would work, and if they would be scored twice.

Jim responded that they would be scored twice, but the scoring against LOS would be done in a different setting so that is clear that it does not affect rank. He noted that committees want more data, but using the LOS now would be premature.

Karen Daubert **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-11. Stephen Saunders **SECONDED** the motion.

Resolution #2009-11 **APPROVED** as presented.

BOATING PROGRAM POLICIES AND BOATING FACILITIES PROGRAM (BFP) EVALUATION CRITERIA

Jim Eychaner presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #14 for details.)

Jim explained that the current boating facilities program is based on a policy plan written several years ago. Since then, a variety of assessments and studies have gathered data about boater needs. The most recent is the RCO's Washington Boater Needs Assessment, which was developed in 2007. The data in the report cover all types of boaters, from paddlers to yacht cruisers, so it can provide context for all board grant programs that fund boating.

Jim explained that the Boating Programs Advisory Committee would like to revise the evaluation questions that they use to score and rank projects. Since the criteria would need to reflect policies, staff developed a draft of general policies that would guide all board grant programs that fund boating facilities. He stated that staff and the Boating Advisory Committee propose that the draft be circulated for public comment at this time.

GRANT TIMELINE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR 2010 CYCLE

Jim Fox presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #18 for details.)

Jim discussed this agenda item ahead of schedule due to technical difficulties. He summarized key policy issues that would need board discussion and adoption for the 2010 grant cycle. Jim noted that staff recommends that the board schedule the discussions and the decisions for separate meetings to allow time for consideration and public comment.

Jim also noted that the manuals not only provide directions to applicants, but also serve as a codification of the board's policy decisions. He noted that staff is revamping the manuals in part so that the board would review only policy, and not the details.

Karen suggested that the population proximity issue could be slowed and dropped in priority.

Jim responded that the policies are not prioritized, but that staff would work on developing relative priority in future reports.

Jeff Parsons noted that he would like to see issues of how we treat non-state match and comprehensive landscape planning. He added that these two issues deserve some level of significance in the assignment of points.

Jim said that the issue of the landscape approach to planning is on the policy list. He added that land exchanges also on the policy list.

Steven Drew noted that an item to add under conversion issues is park closures and access issues.

NOVA EVALUATION CRITERIA REGARDING NUMBER RECREATIONISTS SERVED

Greg Lovelady presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #15 for details.)

Greg gave a brief overview of the NOVA evaluation question revision. The proposed revision would change the approach to the “number of NOVA recreationists served,” which is one of the three questions that determine the distribution of competitive dollars.

Greg explained that staff and the NOVA Advisory Committee have found that sponsors use varied approaches to assessing the number of recreationists served. The proposal is intended to equalize the points by allowing the evaluation team to assess its level of confidence in the applicant’s estimate. Staff recommends that the board revise one of the NOVA program evaluation questions that help determine distribution of the competitive dollars. Greg presented the proposed language and a matrix showing how the scoring would work.

Steven Drew said that the approach is unfair for those projects that do not have mechanical accounting devices. He noted that the person judging the validity of the estimate has no better data than the person who originally makes the estimate because there is no mechanical counter. He added that mechanical counts may be skewed based on where they are placed and what user groups have access to them.

Stephen asked why staff proposed a ranking system (low to high) rather than more rigid criteria such as type of counter, use of surveys, or professional judgment. He asked if it is the complexity of setting up a scale, or if the idea was considered and rejected.

Greg answered that the complexity was an issue, but the scale would include a certain degree of subjectivity. He noted that when there is subjectivity, staff generally have the evaluation team make the decision. He noted that if a scale were rigid, staff may be able to score it.

Steven Drew asked if the “number served” criterion is in statute.

Greg responded that it is not in statute, but was recommended by the advisory committee several years ago. Until recently, it was the only criterion for competitive funds.

Steven Drew noted that the measurement of number of people served is inappropriate for comparing projects against each other. He believes there is too much variation in the count. Considering public comment, he added that he wonders why we have not considered removing this criterion.

Karen Daubert **MOVED** to adopt Resolution #2009-12. Derr **SECONDED** the motion.

Karen noted that this is a recommendation to move forward to change the policy and if it does not work then bring it back to us. She noted that one of the suggestions may be to eliminate it altogether. She says that she understands Steven’s point, but thinks that judging the number served is important.

Jim Fox noted that this is a good refinement of the process approved by the board last year, based on advisory committee input. He reminded the board that there are several criteria for awarding the funds ahead of this one.

Bill asked if the comment on page three about no multiplier is still true.

Greg answered yes and noted that staff would clarify the point.

Jeff noted that the distinction between urban, rural, remote areas, and areas close to cities could skew these results. He added that in long run we might want to look at something that is more geographically based.

Steven Drew noted that the proposed change makes the number served more subjective and less fact driven.

Karen asked how many total points are possible in this evaluation, and Greg noted that the three supplemental questions are worth five points each.

Karen noted that a counter is not needed.

Resolution #2009-12 **APPROVED** as presented, with 5 board members voting in favor. Rex Derr and Steven Drew voted against the resolution.

POLICY ON INDIRECT COST REIMBURSEMENT

Mark Jarasitis presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #16 for details.)

Mark Jarasitis gave a brief overview on indirect cost reimbursement

He explained that under current board policy, sponsors cannot recoup indirect costs. However, some sponsors report that it can be challenging to maintain their organizational capacity to undertake grant-funded projects. He stated that staff completed an initial assessment of the issue, and suggested two alternatives for proceeding on the issue.

1. Proceed with evaluating reimbursement of indirect costs.
2. Assess and improve RCO communication and management of current policy.

Public Comment:

Glen Gerth, WDFW, noted that what they are trying to get allowable for the in-house engineering and construction staff are the same charges that a public works contractor bills. He added that the supervision costs for project management are what they are trying to recover.

Steven Drew asked if travel expenses are a direct cost.

Glen answered that if it is part of the direct engineering costs.

Steven asked if there is a percentage limit of direct costs.

Kaleen noted that we have policy that establishes direct cost.

Mark added that we allow an administrative charge for acquisitions and architectural and engineering charge for develop and restorations. He noted the limits are five percent for acquisitions, and thirty percent for restorations. He added that they have to be directly related to the project, so travel related to a purchase and sale agreement meeting would be covered.

Bill asked what is covered and at what rate their time is charged.

Mark said time, travel, and benefits are covered at 100 percent.

Bill and Karen noted that they prefer option 2.

Stephen noted that both option 1 and 2 have merit. He added that option 1 should be evaluated and option 2 can be implemented now.

Karen noted that there is a consensus on option two and keep the door open for option 1.

Bill noted that there is interest in thinking more about this but he does not see a consensus on adopting an option. He added that we are not ready to move on this until we get some further information.

Kaleen suggested that since the July agenda is packed, staff will return with additional information at the September meeting.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES ON BOARD-FUNDED ACQUISITIONS

Dominga Soliz presented this agenda item. (See notebook item #17 for details.)

Dominga gave a brief overview of this item, and explained that staff proposes analyzing which activities and structures should be allowed on board-funded land acquisitions to ensure compatibility with program purposes and fund source limits. She described the legal framework and the approach staff will use to begin the evaluation in WWRP.

Dave Brittell commented that it is a timely subject and that the process looks good.

Steven Drew asked if they are assessing the nature of the structure and whether the structure is there to benefit a business.

Dominga answered that the test presented in the federal tax code does look at the nature of the use. She added that the test consists of two parts the first part requires private business use and the second part requires revenue related to that private business use be paid on the debt service.

STATE AGENCY PARTNER REPORTS

There were no reports from the partner agencies.

Jeff commented on the membership roster. He noted that it reads citizen volunteers and it should read citizen members. He added that the governor appoints them.

Kaleen added that it would be changed when the new board member is appointed.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Approved by:

Bill Chapman, Chair

Date

Next meeting: July 9-10, 2009
Kitsap Conference Center, Port Orchard

Attachment A: Time Extension Requests for Board Approval – March 2009 (Updated 3/23/09)

Project #	Project sponsor	Project name	Grant program	Grant Amount Remaining	Funding date	Extension request	Circumstances or reasons for delay
04-1502 D	City of Port Townsend	Downtown Waterfront Access Restoration	ALEA	\$292,134	6/7/2005	12/31/2009	<p>This project will preserve the downtown area's prime public waterfront access by repairing a steadily deteriorating dock and wave-viewing gallery.</p> <p>The city had project delays due to negotiations with the artist of the wave pool. However, engineering design and specs are nearing completion and work is scheduled to start on the upland portion in February. The in-water work, which is subject to fish windows, will begin in late May/June.</p>
04-1450 D	City of Poulsbo	Dogfish Creek Restoration and Development	ALEA	\$46,740	5/11/2005	6/30/2009	<p>This project will restore riparian and upland habitat necessary to the proper natural functioning of the estuary by planting native vegetation and re-establishing plants and trees along the naturally self-sustaining aquatic riparian areas. Additionally a 0.33-mile loop trail with educational kiosks will educate the public about the value and function of the many ecological linkages.</p> <p>This project has been done in large part by using volunteers. The city is seeking an additional 45 days in order to finish trail construction. No re-appropriation will be required as this project will be complete by June 30, 2009.</p>
04-1507 R	King County	Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnect	ALEA	\$500,000	5/11/2005	12/31/2009	<p>This project will restore an active floodplain area in the lower 1/2 mile of the Tolt River by setting back a levee and allowing the river to meander through the restored floodplain area.</p> <p>This grant is being used to match another grant funded through RCO's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The SRFB grant is sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities. This project represents phase 2 of a two-part project. Phase one was completed in 2008. Phase two will begin in the summer of 2009 and be completed by the end of the year.</p>

Item #2b, Time Extensions
 March 2009: Updated March 23, 2009
 Attachment A, Page 2

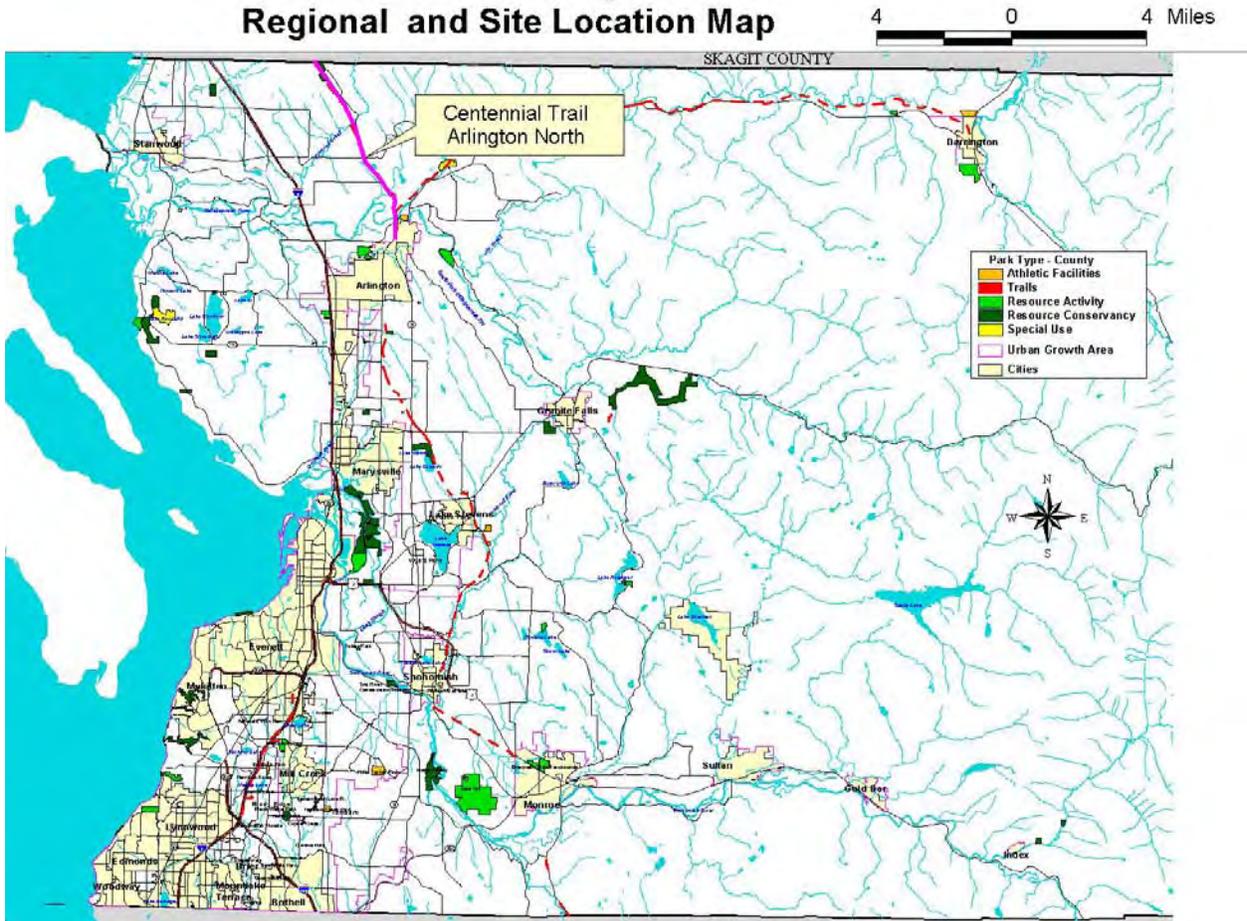
Project #	Project sponsor	Project name	Grant program	Grant Amount Remaining	Funding date	Extension request	Circumstances or reasons for delay
04-1208D	City of Seattle	South Lake Union Park Dev. Ph 1	WWRP-Water Access	\$164,510	5/10/2009	11/30/2009	<p>Seattle's development project involves improving the loading dock, adding a pedestrian path and walkway along the waterfront, and landscaping. The park is an important phase of the overall South Lake Union Master plan. It is 16% complete.</p> <p>The first phase of this multi-phased project included new bulkhead walls, boardwalk terraces, and landscaping, and was completed in April 2008. Due to its location on site, this project became part of the phase 2 development. Phase 2 could not begin before completion of phase 1, but permits were obtained for both phases. Construction for phase 2 began in the fall of 2008, and work is anticipated to be completed by November 2009.</p>
04-1424D	Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District	Blakely Harbor Park Phase 1	WWRP-Water Access	\$89,331	5/10/2009	12/31/2010	<p>Blakely Harbor Park is a popular destination for boaters, kayakers, beach enthusiasts and walkers. Proposed improvements include a trail, bridge, interpretive signs, vault toilets, and parking.</p> <p>The district experienced delays with this project due to extensive and unexpected constraints in permitting and complexities associated with archaeological and cultural resources. As a result, cultural assessments were conducted in cooperation with a tribal archeologist. In addition, there is evidence of contamination that was not shown in earlier analysis of the site. The area of concern is likely to affect the parking and restrooms. A Model Toxics Control Act clean up has been recommended and a full analysis is pending.</p> <p>The district is asking for a time extension to allow for clean up and construction. They will remove the vault toilets from the scope of work because it is unlikely they would be approved in light of the archeological findings.</p>
04-1417C	Clark County Parks	Hockinson Meadows	WWRP – Local Parks	\$282,502	5/11/2005	8/31/2009	<p>This project includes acquisition and initial development of a 120-acre community park and sports complex. The county acquired the property, completed the design and permitting, and began construction in July 2008. The December-January snowstorms stopped all construction work. The parks department is requesting an additional three months to complete the development.</p>

Item #2b, Time Extensions
 March 2009: Updated March 23, 2009
 Attachment A, Page 3

Project #	Project sponsor	Project name	Grant program	Grant Amount Remaining	Funding date	Extension request	Circumstances or reasons for delay
04-1381D	Tacoma Public Works	Thea Foss Waterway 21st Street Park	WWRP – Local Parks	\$250,626	5/11/2005	07/31/2009	This project completes the esplanade at the eastern end of the Thea Foss Waterway. Tacoma experienced numerous delays including complications with the federal matching grant and permitting. The project was first bid on April 22, 2008. The bids received greatly exceeded the project budget prompting the city to revise the design and rebid the project. The city awarded the bid on January 13, 2009. The site survey is underway and construction should begin the first of March. The city is requesting an additional two months to complete the project.
04-1441C	Okanogan County	Similkameen Trail Phase 1	WWRP – Trails	\$614,766	5/11/2005	9/30/2009	This project involves acquisition and development of a regional trail. The trail will eventually provide a connection to the Pacific Northwest Trail. The county has secured the properties for the first phase trail corridor, and design is nearly complete for the trailhead, bridge decking, and trail. The Bureau of Land Management is requiring an environmental assessment for the portion of the trail located on their property. A cultural resources survey has been delayed due to weather conditions. The county is requesting an additional 4 months to complete the project.
04-1353A	City of Bellevue	Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Acquisition	WWRP – Water Access	No funds remain	5/11/2005	6/30/2011	The city acquired two properties to expand Meydenbauer Bay Park. The acquisitions are complete, but this partially funded project has been kept open to allow staff to reimburse the city for eligible costs using unspent grant funds. If extended, any unused funds from the active water access category projects will go into this agreement as part of the final payment. The extension provides time to process the amendment and issue the final reimbursement.

Attachment A: Project Map

**Centennial Trail - Arlington North
Regional and Site Location Map**



Attachment A: State Parks Time Extension Requests for Board Approval – March 2009

Project #	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Program	Funding Date	Extension Request	Circumstances or Reasons for the Delay
05-1135D	State Parks	Bridle Trails ADA Improvements	LWCF	9/15/05	6/30/10	<p>The primary reason for the delay stems from workload and staffing changes within RCO. This agreement was not issued to State Parks until March 2008.</p> <p>Since then, State Parks has made slow but steady progress in working with a highly-involved user group on the design. Once agreement was reached on design, permitting and archeological work proceeded. State Parks indicates that permitting is now in place for all work except for the parking lot revisions. State Parks recently learned that permitting for the parking lot requires an additional 4-6 months. They will proceed with constructing the permitted work as soon as possible. This work can begin once the National Park Service completes the tribal consultation portion of the archeological work to comply with Section 106 of NEPA.</p> <p><i>Recommendation</i> The federal agreement between RCO and NPS currently extends to September 30, 2010. Approving this time extension request is consistent and within parameters of the federal agreement for this project.</p>
04-1270D	State Parks	Cape Disappointment Multi Use Trail	WWRP – State Parks	5/11/05	12/31/09	<p>This multi-use trail project was originally slated to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along SR100 within the park – from Beards Hollow south two miles to the main administrative center for the park. This stretch of SR100 is a narrow road characterized by tight curves, narrow shoulders, and fast moving traffic. The primary benefit of completing this project was to provide park users a safe alternative method of transportation to move throughout and enjoy the park.</p> <p>Because of alignment and environmental concerns and project cost, the project scope has been reduced to a 2000' trail (approximately an 80% reduction in length). The segment that is</p>

Project #	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Program	Funding Date	Extension Request	Circumstances or Reasons for the Delay
						<p>now part of this proposal begins at Beards Hollow and proceeds south to North Head Lighthouse Road. At this point, pedestrian and other trail users will cross the highway to access the lighthouse and ocean overlook area. The segment will feature a ten-foot asphalt trail two bridges and two road crossings. Future phases would continue the trail to its intended destination and complete the goal of keeping parks users off SR100. This phase is the most expensive phase to implement.</p> <p>The project requires SEPA review. A supplemental environmental impact statement has been completed and submitted state, regional and county agencies for review. If the trail is constructed outside of American bald eagle and marbled murrelet nesting seasons (nesting seasons are January through the end of August), State Parks staff anticipates that permitting will be completed and accepted in a matter of months.</p> <p><i>Recommendation</i> State Parks proposed a revised project schedule where they have all necessary construction permits in hand by May 1 and offer the construction contract by May 15. Staff is recommending approval of the extension request <u>contingent</u> upon Parks ability to meet these two important benchmarks.</p>

Resolution #2009-06

Department of Fish and Wildlife Time Extension Requests

WHEREAS, the Critical Habitat category in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program aims to fund projects that provide habitat for wildlife including endangered, threatened, or sensitive species; and

WHEREAS, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant program provides funds for acquisition of aquatic lands for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved the projects listed in Attachment A at meetings in 2003 and 2005 for the acquisition of properties in these categories; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) applied for the project funding to purchase target properties in support of the program goals; and

WHEREAS, the WDFW has experienced delays in the acquisitions due to negotiations and scope changes; and

WHEREAS, two of the projects can be completed by the end of 2009 and negotiations are underway for the acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, one project cannot be completed by the end of 2009 and other funds are available to WDFW to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, providing the time extensions to purchase properties promotes the board's strategic objective to help partners make strategic habitat investments;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the time extension requests shown in Attachment A for RCO projects #02-1199C and #03-1182A, with the conditions noted in the March 2009 memo to the board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board denies the time extension request shown in Attachment A for RCO project #04-1287A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director be authorized to execute the documents necessary to facilitate project implementation and/or termination as appropriate.

Resolution moved by: Karen Daubert

Resolution seconded by: Steven Drew

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 26, 2009

Attachment A: Time Extension Requests from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – March 2009

Number	Project name	Grant program	Funding date	Extension request	Circumstances or reasons for delay	Staff Recommendation
02-1199C	South Puget Sound Prairies and Oak Woodlands	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Critical Habitat	7/11/2003	12/31/2009	<p>One target property remains viable from the original grant. WDFW has a verbal commitment from the landowner that they are willing to sell the property. WDFW is conducting a survey of the property for a boundary line adjustment to create a legal lot for the target acquisition. Once the boundary line adjustment is submitted to Thurston County, the process generally takes about 60 days to complete.</p> <p>The survey work also will allow for an accurate appraisal of the property and a formal offer to be developed. WDFW expects to complete this acquisition by the end of the year.</p>	Approve
03-1182A	Telegraph Slough	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	7/1/2003	12/31/2009	<p>WDFW has acquired the original target properties. The board has issued two previous time extensions to this project. As part of the last approved time extension, the scope of the project was expanded to include an additional adjacent property that is necessary for future restoration activities.</p> <p>The landowners of the additional property are willing to sell, but the acquisition is delayed due to a lengthy probate procedure that started about one year ago.</p>	Approve
04-1287A	Cowiche Watershed Phase 2	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Critical Habitat	5/3/05	6/30/2010	<p>The original target property for this project is no longer viable.</p> <p>The time extension request is combined with a scope change request to Phases 1, 3, 4, and 5 of the Cowiche Watershed project. WDFW has two other grant agreements underway for phases 1, 3, and 4 totaling \$2,366,720. Ten properties in these funded phases are currently under negotiation.</p>	<p>Do Not Approve.</p> <p>There are existing grants in place to acquire the properties requested in the scope change/time extension.</p>

Resolution #2009-07

Department of Natural Resources Time Extension Requests

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature established the Critical Habitat category in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to fund projects that provide habitat for wildlife including endangered, threatened, or sensitive species; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature established the Natural Areas category in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to fund projects that protect high quality, representative native ecosystems, or unique plant or animal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved the projects listed in Attachment A at its May 2005 meeting for the acquisitions of properties in these categories; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) applied for the project funding to purchase target properties within the defined boundaries of the Natural Area Preserves; and

WHEREAS, the DNR has been unable to acquire some of the target properties; and

WHEREAS, the DNR has identified other target properties that meet the eligibility criteria and intent of the funding categories and that are within the original scope of the project; and

WHEREAS, providing the time extensions to purchase properties within the defined boundaries promotes the board's strategic objective to help partners make strategic habitat investments;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves the time extension requests shown in Attachment A for RCO projects #04-1328A, #04-1329A, #04-1416A, #04-1327A, #04-1278A, and #04-1395A with the conditions noted in the March 2009 memo to the board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director be authorized to execute the project amendments necessary to facilitate project implementation.

Resolution moved by: Dave Brittell

Resolution seconded by: Karen Daubert

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 26, 2009

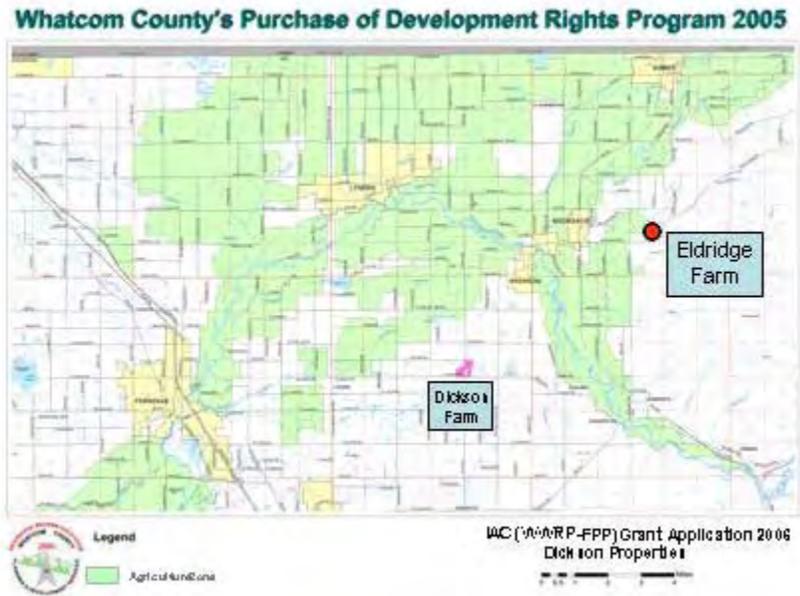
Attachment A: Time Extension Requests for Board Approval – Department of Natural Resources - March 2009

Project #	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Program	Board Funded Date	Extension Request	Circumstances or Reasons for Delay
04-1328A	Department of Natural Resources	Bone River and Niawiakum River NAPs	WWRP - Natural Areas	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR has acquired one property under this grant. DNR now is performing an appraisal review to acquire an additional property from The Nature Conservancy.</p> <p>Delays are due to unsuccessful efforts by DNR to acquire three other key properties within the NAPs. In these efforts, one landowner rejected DNR's offer after long and difficult negotiations and sold the property to another party, one landowner was unresponsive, and one was unmotivated to sell.</p>
04-1329A	Department of Natural Resources	Dyer Haystacks and Two Steppe NAPs	WWRP - Natural Areas	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR has not acquired properties under this grant because of complicated landowner negotiations.</p> <p>Currently, DNR has offers out on two properties important to the function of the NAP, the Two Steppe/Layton and the Dyer Haystacks/Poole properties.</p> <p>DNR anticipates that the Layton property will require more time than normal to acquire due to an unsure seller. The Poole property experienced delays when the owner rejected DNR's offer late in the acquisition process. Poole is now willing to sell a smaller parcel, which will require marking new lines on the ground (after the snow melts), a new appraisal, survey, and boundary line adjustment.</p>
04-1416A	Department of Natural Resources	Ink Blot and Shumocher Creek NAPs 04	WWRP - Natural Areas	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR has acquired one smaller property at Shumocher Creek NAP. Now, DNR is preparing to appraise the 160-acre Green Diamond property at Ink Blot NAP.</p> <p>Delays were caused by stalled negotiations on the 160-acre Green Diamond property in 2006 due to the landowner's corporate business reasons. These negotiations have recently resumed. DNR also spent time pursuing another property at Shumocher Creek NAP, but negotiations fell through due to an unmotivated landowner.</p>

Item #8e, DNR Project Time Extensions
 March 2009
 Attachment A, Page 2

Project #	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Program	Board Funded Date	Extension Request	Circumstances or Reasons for Delay
04-1327A	Department of Natural Resources	Methow Rapids NAP	WWRP - Natural Areas	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR has acquired two properties.</p> <p>DNR now has entered into preliminary negotiations on the large Schluneger property. This property has a high value and it would be beneficial to retain the remaining 2005-07 funds to combine with the 2007-09 funds so that DNR can be in a position to acquire this property in its entirety, or as much of it as possible.</p> <p>Delays are due primarily to time intensive negotiations on the two successful acquisitions and engaging on the Schluneger property.</p>
04-1278A	Department of Natural Resources	Washougal Oaks NAP/NRCA 04	WWRP - Natural Areas	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR acquired one key \$1.4 million property under this grant in September 2008 after prolonged negotiations.</p> <p>Currently, DNR has made an offer on the Dade property. It is under consideration by the landowner, who may want to close after June 30. DNR is in preliminary negotiations to acquire portions of the E. Schmid property, which will require a survey and boundary line adjustments.</p> <p>Delays are due primarily to lengthy negotiations on the successful land acquisition.</p>
04-1395A	Department of Natural Resources	Trout Lake Wetlands NAP 04	WWRP-Critical Habitat	5/3/2005	6/30/2010	<p>DNR has acquired one property – the 200 acre Hancock property – under this grant.</p> <p>Currently, DNR is in the final preparation for bidding appraisal work on an additional 160-acre property (the Hollenbeck property) that is of high significance to the Trout Lake NAP.</p> <p>The Hollenbeck property was in a family limited liability corporation that prohibited sale until mid 2008, causing the project delay.</p>

Attachment A: Maps



Dickson Farm (current scope)



March 2004 Orthophoto

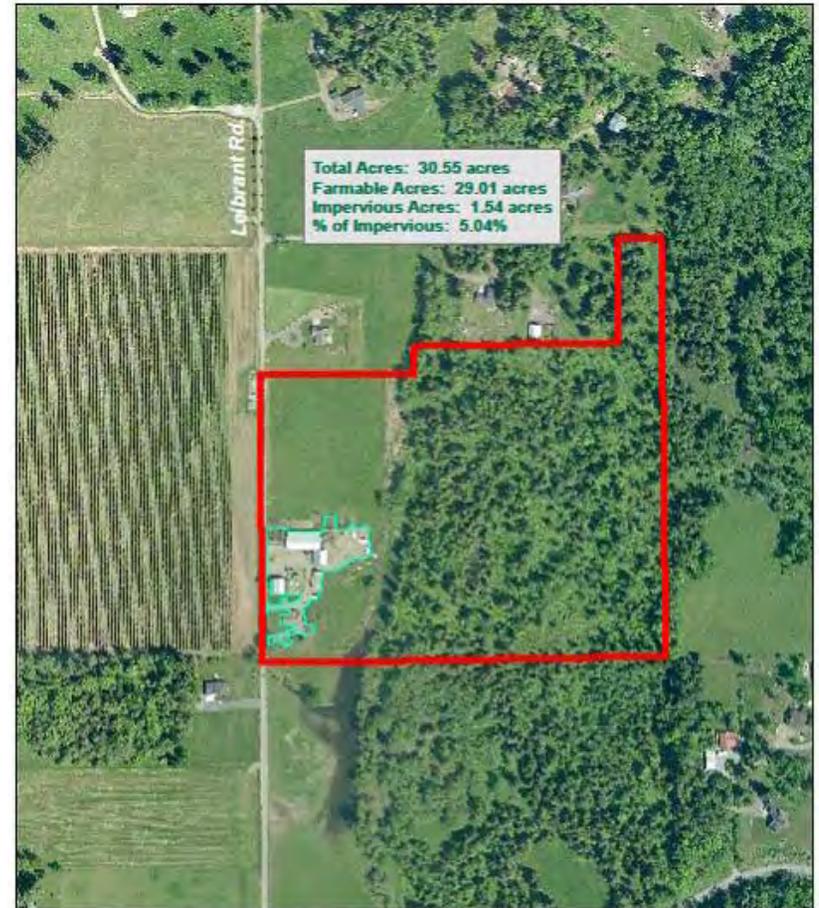
DICKSON - E. Hemmi Rd.

Legend

- Dickson Property
- NRCS Soils
 - 178 - Whatcom silt loam, 0-3% slopes
 - 179 - Whatcom silt loam, 3-8% slopes
 - 180 - Whatcom silt loam, 8-15% slopes
 - 182 - Whatcom-Labounty silt loams, 0-8% slopes



Eldridge Farm (proposed scope)

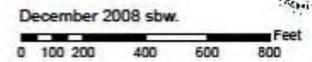


Eldridge - PDR Round 7

Impervious Surface

Legend

- Impervious Surface
- Eldridge Properties



Attachment B: Summary Comparison of Dickson and Eldridge Farms

Eldridge Farm Acquisition Summary & Comparison

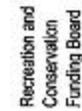
As with the Dickson Farm acquisition, the primary goal of the Eldridge Farm acquisition is to acquire development rights on an active farm through Whatcom County's Purchase of Development Rights Program in an effort to curb the loss of agricultural lands and achieve agricultural protection goals. The project would ensure permanent preservation and maintenance of agricultural land, open space, and habitat.

The Eldridge Farm has been reviewed by the local Purchase of Development Rights Oversight Committee. Final conservation easement purchase will be subject to verification of acceptable title and property status, a professional appraisal and funding commitments.

	Dickson	Eldridge
Acreage with AG Designation	43.72	30.55
Current zoning	R10: One residence per ten acres	R5: One residence per five acres
Number of development rights to be acquired	Four	Five
Current use	Cattle	Dairy
Soils classified prime or of statewide significance	100%	100%
Critical Habitat	None	Yes Approximately 1 acre

Attachment C: Ranked List of 2007 Farmland Preservation Grant Projects

Resolution: 2007-21



**Table 1
 WWRP Farmland Preservation Evaluation Ranked List
 State Fiscal Year 2009**

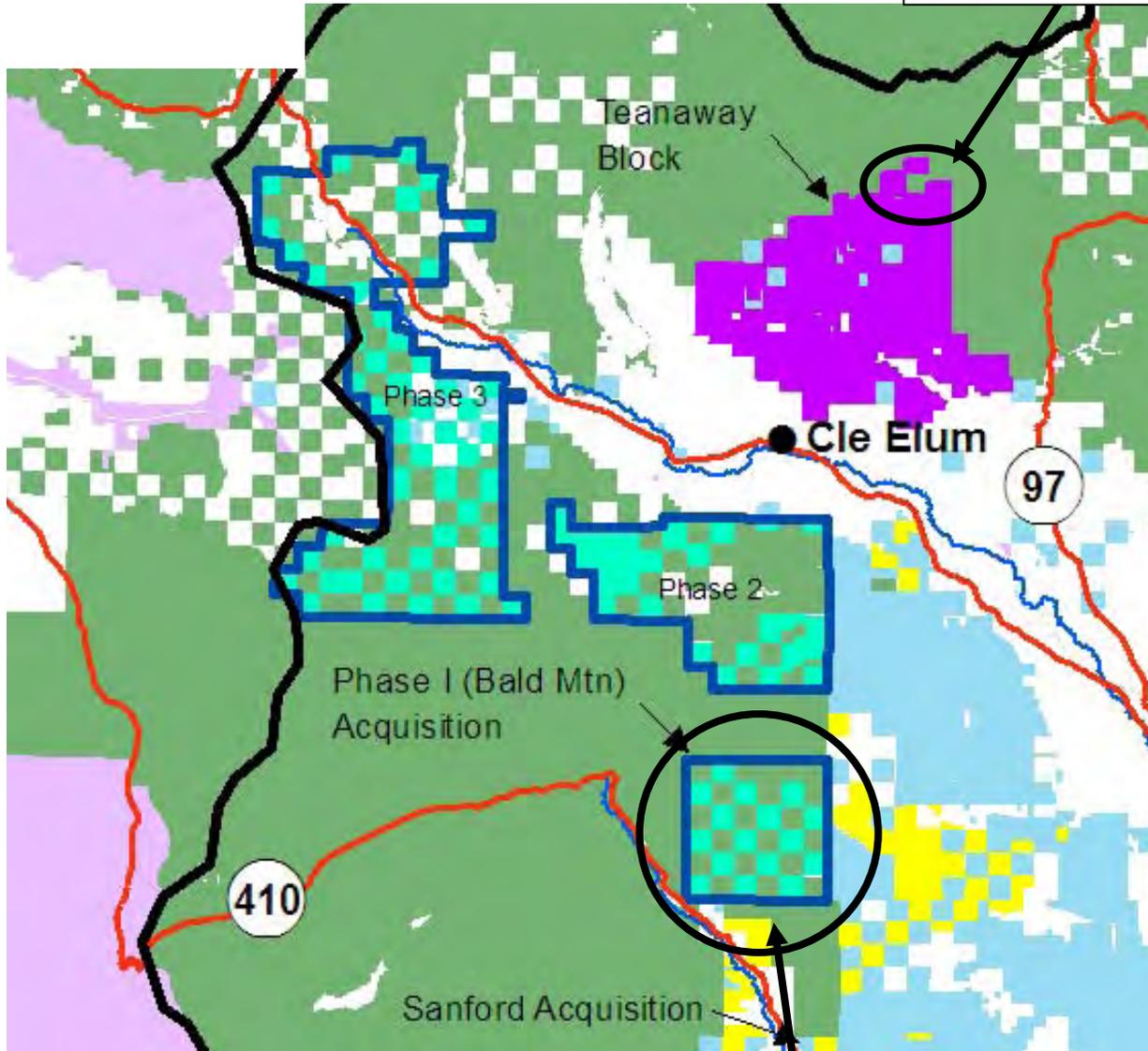
Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCFB Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total Cumulative Request Amount	RCO Staff Recommendations
1 of 16	111.857	07-1611A	Peoples Ranch	Snohomish County of	\$750,000	\$894,420	\$1,634,420	\$750,000
2 of 16	110.857	07-1540C	Glendale Farm	Jefferson County of	\$546,737	\$546,738	\$1,093,475	\$546,737
3 of 16	110.286	07-1600A	Ebey's Reserve Farmland - Engle	Island County of	\$750,000	\$900,200	\$1,650,200	\$750,000
4 of 16	109.429	07-1604A	Terry's Berties Farm	Pierce County of	\$291,370	\$291,371	\$582,741	\$291,370
5 of 16	109.000	07-1597A	Orting Valley Farms	Pierce County of	\$750,000	\$800,000	\$1,550,000	\$750,000
6 of 16	108.571	07-1610A	Willie Greens Organic Farm	Snohomish County of	\$78,210	\$78,210	\$156,420	\$78,210
7 of 16	107.429	07-1574A	Rattlesnake Hills Working Rangelands	Yakima County of	\$576,650	\$576,650	\$1,153,300	\$576,650
8 of 16	105.286	07-1594A	Useless Bay East Farmland	Island County of	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
9 of 16	105.000	07-1571A	Crown-S Ranch Farmland	Okanogan County of	\$213,750	\$213,750	\$427,500	\$213,750
10 of 16	102.143	07-1607A	Biderboast Farm	Snohomish County of	\$280,710	\$280,710	\$561,420	\$280,710
11 of 16	102.000	07-1602A	Triple Creek Ranch	Killbuck County of	\$689,695	\$1,073,705	\$1,763,400	\$689,695
12 of 16	101.571	07-1556A	Enunciate Plateau Pasture Land	King County of	\$102,900	\$102,900	\$205,800	\$102,900
13 of 16	101.000	07-1616A	Pearson Eddy	Snohomish County of	\$203,420	\$203,420	\$406,840	\$203,420
14 of 16	100.857	07-1596A	Cowiche Basin Working Rangelands - Phase 1	Yakima County of	\$690,900	\$690,900	\$1,381,800	\$690,900
15 of 16	99.000	07-1603A	Finn Hall Farm Phase 1	Columbia County of	\$508,475	\$508,475	\$1,016,950	\$508,475
16 of 16	95.286	07-1612A	Selzer Farm	Snohomish County of	\$20,210	\$20,210	\$40,420	\$20,210
					\$6,953,027	\$7,671,659	\$14,624,686	\$4,737,427

WWRP Farmland Preservation funds available \$4,853,343
 RCO Staff recommends that \$4,737,427 be used for FPP grants, with the remaining \$115,916 for Farmland Preservation Technical Assistance Grants

Date Created: 10/11/07

Attachment A: Project Location Map

Teanaway
Ecosystem Phase 1
#06-1808A



Heart of the
Cascades Phase 1
#08-1508A

Legend
Green = USFS
Blue = State
Yellow = Completed conservation projects
Teal = Heart of Cascades project
Dark Purple = Teanaway Ecosystem project
Lavender = Other Public

Natural Resources Building
1411 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98501

PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917



(360) 902-3000
TTY (360) 902-1996
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

December 4, 2008

FILE COPY

Dan Budd, Manager
Real Estate Services
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: Teanaway Ecosystem Scope Change Request
RCO #06-1808

Dear Mr. Budd:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requested a scope change to the Teanaway Ecosystem project due to the fact that the landowner for the target property is unwilling to sell at this time. WDFW requested the project be changed to the target acquisition identified in grant application #08-1508, Heart of the Cascades.

At this time, RCO staff cannot recommend the scope change request as the legislative approval process for the Heart of the Cascades project has not yet been completed. During the legislative process, the Heart of the Cascades project may be removed from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Critical Habitat list or there may be provisos stipulated that may affect project funding. It would be premature to approve the scope change without completing the legislative process.

In addition, the Heart of Cascades project is ranked #10 of 16 on the 2008 Critical Habitat project list. Approving a scope change to this project would disregard the ranking process and the critical habitat benefits of the higher ranked projects on the list.

I understand that WDFW has secured federal funds for the Heart of Cascades project which requires a state match. It is unfortunate that the Heart of Cascades project did not score higher on the 2008 Critical Habitat list which would have secured the match requirement. Until the higher ranked projects are exhausted, we feel compelled to award grant funds based upon the ranked list.

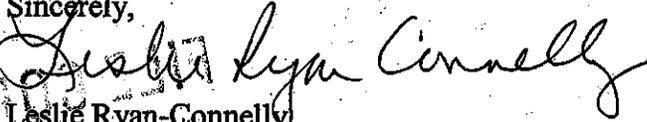
Following our process for addressing unspent funds, the next ranked project on the 2006 Critical Habitat list is the Mid-Columbia Shrub Steppe project #06-1811. This project is partially funded and could assume the entire Teanaway Ecosystem grant award. Please let me know if there are viable target acquisitions that could be pursued and this project could receive the additional funds.



Mr. Dan Budd
December 4, 2008
Page 2

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Leslie Ryan-Connolly
Grants Manager

C: June Skye, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

REVISED RESOLUTION #2009-10

**Grays Harbor County
Straddleline ORV Park, RCO #05-1517N
Amendment to Agreement – Exit Strategy Easement**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Grays Harbor County (county) completed a business plan, including an exit strategy, to guide operation of the Straddleline Off-road Vehicle Park in keeping with Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) Resolution #2005-23; and

WHEREAS, the board approved the plan and exit strategy that outlines the procedures to follow if the county were unable to continue operating the park in Resolution #2006-10; and

WHEREAS, a condition of the board approved exit strategy is that the county deduct only reasonable administrative costs and then return the remaining funds to the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program; and

WHEREAS, the county is asking to modify the terms of the exit strategy to allow them to deduct documented costs of improvements to the property that were made from county general funds; and

WHEREAS, the county and RCO legal counsel have negotiated substitute language that protects the interests of both the county and the state; and

WHEREAS, this substitute language supports the board's goals by protecting both public investment and recreation opportunities in a manner that is fair to the project sponsor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the exit strategy for project #05-1517N, Grays Harbor County, Straddleline ORV Park be amended with the following substitute language, "...The Grantor shall deduct all reasonable administrative costs for the sale. With Grantee approval, the Grantor may deduct the documented costs current market value of improvements to the real property if made from Grantor's general funds and not from grant monies provided by the Grantee. Remaining funds will be turned over to the NOVA program." under the condition that the county execute and return the recorded easement to the Recreation and Conservation Office by June 30, 2009, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director be authorized to execute all amendments necessary to facilitate prompt implementation.

Resolution moved by: Dave Brittell

Resolution seconded by: Karen Daubert

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 26, 2009

RESOLUTION #2009-011

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Priority Rating System (Evaluation Questions)

WHEREAS, Chapter 79A.25.130 RCW authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to participate in or receive aid from any federal program respecting outdoor recreation or conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program managed by the National Park Service (NPS) that grants funds to the state for recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, RCO is recognized as the state agency responsible for management of LWCF funds in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the NPS requires a priority rating system for selection of potential LWCF projects; and

WHEREAS, the priority rating system must reflect the goals and objectives of the state's comprehensive outdoor recreational planning (SCORP) processes and documents; and

WHEREAS, the priority rating system proposed in Draft Two (Attachment B) to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) memo meets the National Park Service requirements; and

WHEREAS, introducing the level of service approach as a test during the 2009 LWCF grant cycle will give valuable information for incorporating the approach into the criteria for future cycles; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF criteria use SCORP information to help the board make investment decisions, which the strategic plan specifies as a key activity; and

WHEREAS, the priority ranking system supports the board's strategic intent to fund the best projects to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board approves Draft Two (Attachment B) of the priority rating system and directs staff to implement the system for use in the 2009 and future grant rounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board directs RCO staff to work with the LWCF Advisory Committee to test the level of service approach during the 2009 grant round.

Resolution moved by: Karen Daubert

Resolution seconded by: Stephen Saunders

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 26, 2009

Attachment A: Draft One, Criteria for Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Selection

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

DRAFT

Priority Rating System (Evaluation Criteria)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded grant program administered by the RCO to assist in preserving and developing public outdoor recreation lands and facilities for the benefit of all citizens. (LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat 897)

LWCF – Priority Rating Analysis					
Score	#	Title	Score and Multiplier	Maximum Points	Priority
Team	1	Consistency with SCORP	0-5 (x 3)	15	SCORP
Team	2	Need (based on level of service)	0-5 (x 3)	15	SCORP
Team	3	Federal grant program priorities	0-5 (x 2)	10	LWCF
Team	4	Readiness	0-5	5	LWCF
Team	5	Cost efficiencies	0-5	5	LWCF
Staff	6	Population Proximity	0-3	3	State law
Staff	7	Applicant compliance	0-5	5	NPS policy
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 58					

KEY TO PRECEDING TABLE

- Team = Criterion scored by the evaluation team
- Staff = Criterion scored by RCO staff
- LWCF = Criteria a priority for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- SCORP = Criterion supported by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Team Scored

Question 1. Consistency with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP?

The most recent SCORP document is *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO, 2008). SCORP identifies three priorities for LWCF grant-in-aid support:

1. Projects supporting individual active participation. "Active" means those forms of recreation that rely predominantly on human muscles and includes walking, sports of all kinds, bicycling, and other activities that help people achieve currently accepted recommendations for physical activity levels.
2. Projects that provide continued improvement of existing sites and facilities previously funded with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. Note: *Evaluators should consider the actual proposed improvement, especially the extent to which the proposal will enhance or expand these sites or facilities, not the previously-funded project or project elements.*
3. The provision of active connections between communities and recreation sites and facilities. "Active connections" means shared use trails and paths, greenways, and other facilities and features that encourage walking, jogging, running, and bicycling for more than recreation. *The emphasis is on dedicated, grade-separated facilities.*

How well does the proposed project address any combination of these priorities?

Projects addressing more than one priority may not necessarily score higher than a project addressing one priority in an outstanding manner.

Evaluators award 0 to 5 points that are later multiplied by 3.

Question 2. Need. What is the need for the project?

What evidence does the applicant have that there is a need for the project?

Applicants are asked to use the proposed level of service (LOS) tool to answer this question whether or not the LOS tool has been incorporated into the applicant's qualifying recreation plan or plans. The level of service criteria include:

- Participation (local agencies)
- Resource protection (state agencies)
- Service area and populations served within the service area
- Agency-based assessment of whether its facilities are fully functional for design and safety
- Public satisfaction
- Operations and maintenance
- Access by foot, bicycle, and/or public transportation

The criteria are explained on pages 28 through 32 of the most recent SCORP document *Defining and Measuring Success: the Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO, 2008).

Applicants should identify which LOS criteria have been used and the methods

used to grade the criteria. Applicants may use a grade for any combination of the criteria they consider most relevant for their proposal. Applicants may use an overall “average grade” of all criteria used.

Whatever combination or method used, the applicants should be able to explain how the proposed project will improve the grade or prevent the grade from going down if the project is not funded.

Evaluators award 0-5 points that are later multiplied by 3.

Question 3. Federal grant program goals. How well does the proposed project meet Department of the Interior and National Park Service goals for grant programs?

As a partner with the federal government, the State of Washington believes it has a responsibility to respond to national goals.

The National Park Service is a Bureau within the Department of Interior (DOI). The DOI has also developed annual goals for its agencies’ programs. Examples include engaging children in the great outdoors and improving water use efficiency. Evaluators will be provided with the most recent set of federal goals and will be asked to determine the extent to which a proposed project addresses those goals.

For example: if the National Park Service has a current goal to encourage projects that meet the needs of underserved communities, expand the public recreation estate or strengthen the health and vitality of the American people, the applicant should be able to demonstrate how the proposal addresses this goal on the local, regional, or state level.

Projects providing opportunities that help meet one or more of these goals should receive higher scores than those projects that do not help meet any of the goals.

Projects will also be evaluated on the *how well* they meet federal grant program goals.

- a. No federal goals are met..... (0 points)
- b. The project meets only one goal and the contribution to the goals is marginal or moderate.....(1-2 points)
- c. The project helps meet more than one goal and the contribution to the goals is moderate..... (3 points)
- d. The project helps meet one or more goals and the contribution is exemplary or substantial.....(4-5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points

Question 4. Readiness. Is the project ready to proceed?

National Park Service rules encourage proposals that are ready for immediate implementation. That is, an applicant should be ready to start work as soon as a project agreement is signed.

▶ **Start-Finish:** Are matching resources available? When will work on the project begin? When will work be completed and/or the facility open to use? How long will it take before the project is complete?

▶ **Preliminary Work:** Are all elements ready — permits, environmental clearances, historic or cultural resources, engineering, signed agreements, equipment, labor force, etc.? Have any appeals been resolved? (Explain.)

▶ **Acquisitions:** Has the landowner been contacted? Is the owner willing to sell? Does the applicant hold an option on the property? (Describe). Are required appraisals and reviews completed? (Describe). Will the land acquired be immediately available for use? Explain.

- a. *Very large* barrier(s) exist that will likely delay the project a year or more..... (0 points)
- b. *Substantial – significant* barrier(s) exist which will likely be removed in the next 12 months. (1-2 points)
- c. *Minimal – ordinary* barrier(s) exist which will likely be removed by the time a grant is approved. (3-4 points)
- d. *No* barriers; the project is ready to move forward immediately..... (5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

Question 5. Cost Efficiencies. The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies and/or reduces government costs through documented use of:

- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Donations
- ▶ Innovative or sustainable design or construction resulting in long-term cost savings. Examples: Use of solar energy, integration of wetlands as “green infrastructure,” new materials or construction techniques with outstanding potential for long service life.
- ▶ *Signed* cooperative agreements
- ▶ *Signed* memoranda of understanding (such as no-cost easements/leases, or similar cost savings).

- a. *No* evidence presented. (0 point)
- b. The benefit of any such agreement is *marginal*. (1-2 points)
- c. Cooperative measures will result in *moderate* efficiencies and/or savings..... (3 points)
- d. Cooperative measures will result in *substantial* efficiencies and/or savings..... (4-5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

Scored by RCO Staff

6. Population Proximity. Is the project in a populated area? (Staff will score.)

This question is scored by RCO staff based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive a score, the map must show the project location and project boundary in relationship to a city's or town's urban growth boundary.

a. The project is located within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more.

Yes: 1.5 points
No: 0 points

AND

b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Yes: 1.5 points
No: 0 points

The result from "a" is added to the result from "b." Projects in cities with more than 5,000 population *and* within high density counties receive points from both "a" and "b."

RCO staff awards a maximum of 3

7. Applicant compliance. Has the sponsor demonstrated good grant stewardship? (Staff will score.)

- a. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had no negative site inspection findings.....5 points
- b. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had only minor site inspection findings (e.g. missing signs).....4 points
- c. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues but has outstanding site inspection findings that are not conversions.....3 points
- d. Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion not of their making and is actively working with RCO & NPS to resolve.....2 points
- e. Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion of their own making and is actively working with RCO & NPS to resolve.....1 point
- f. An otherwise eligible sponsor has one or more outstanding confirmed conversion that is more than five years old and/or that they are not working actively with RCO & NPS to resolve.....0 points

Attachment B: Draft Two, Criteria for Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Selection

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

SECOND DRAFT

Priority Rating System (Evaluation Criteria)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federally funded grant program administered by the RCO to assist in preserving and developing public outdoor recreation lands and facilities for the benefit of all citizens. (LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat 897)

LWCF – Priority Rating Analysis					
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- SCORP = Criterion supported by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Team Scored

Question 1. Consistency with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP?

The most recent SCORP document is *Defining and Measuring Success: The Role of State Government in Outdoor Recreation* (RCO, 2008). SCORP identifies three priorities for LWCF grant-in-aid support:

1. Projects supporting individual active participation. "Active" means those forms of recreation that rely predominantly on human muscles and includes walking, sports of all kinds, bicycling, and other activities that help people achieve currently accepted recommendations for physical activity levels.
2. Projects that provide continued improvement of existing sites and facilities previously funded with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. Note: *Evaluators should consider the actual proposed improvement, especially the extent to which the proposal will enhance or expand these sites or facilities, not the previously-funded project or project elements.*
3. The provision of active connections between communities and recreation sites and facilities. "Active connections" means shared use trails and paths, greenways, and other facilities and features that encourage walking, jogging, running, and bicycling for more than recreation. *The emphasis is on dedicated, grade-separated facilities.*

How well does the proposed project address any combination of these priorities?

Projects addressing more than one priority may not necessarily score higher than a project addressing one priority in an outstanding manner.

Evaluators award 0 to 5 points that are later multiplied by 3.

Question 2. Need. What is the need for the project? (All proposals.)

Consider the goal of the project and how it relates to the service area:

- Inventory of existing sites and facilities
- Populations or activities that are unserved or underserved
- Amount of use of existing sites
- Potential use of proposed sites
- How the project meets identified need
- Whether the project named by location or type as a priority in an adopted plan such as a community's comprehensive plan, a state agency capital improvement plan, a park/open space plan

Examples:

- A proposal to develop a new sport fields to address an identified shortage could receive a high score. A proposal for a sports field without plans or relevant studies supporting the need would receive a lower score.

- A proposal for renovating the last intact Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structure in a remote park site could receive a high score. A proposal to renovate a picnic shelter may receive a lower score.
- A proposal for building a community trail in a location or service area with few existing trails could receive a high score. A proposal to develop a trail in a location or service area where many other opportunities exist would receive a lower score. Note: the applicant will help define “community.”

Evaluators award 0-5 points that are later multiplied by 3.

Question 3. Federal grant program goals. How well does the proposed project meet Department of the Interior and National Park Service goals for grant programs?

As a partner with the federal government, the State of Washington believes it has a responsibility to respond to national goals.

The National Park Service is a Bureau within the Department of Interior (DOI). The DOI has also developed annual goals for its agencies’ programs. Examples include engaging children in the great outdoors and improving water use efficiency. Evaluators will be provided with the most recent set of federal goals and will be asked to determine the extent to which a proposed project addresses those goals.

For example: if the National Park Service has a current goal to encourage projects that meet the needs of underserved communities, expand the public recreation estate or strengthen the health and vitality of the American people, the applicant should be able to demonstrate how the proposal addresses this goal on the local, regional, or state level.

Projects providing opportunities that help meet one or more of these goals should receive higher scores than those projects that do not help meet any of the goals.

Projects will also be evaluated on the *how well* they meet federal grant program goals.

- a. No federal goals are met..... (0 points)
- b. The project meets only one goal and the contribution to the goals is marginal or moderate..... (1-2 points)
- c. The project helps meet more than one goal and the contribution to the goals is moderate..... (3 points)
- d. The project helps meet one or more goals and the contribution is exemplary or substantial..... (4-5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points

Question 4. Readiness. Is the project ready to proceed?

National Park Service rules encourage proposals that are ready for immediate implementation. That is, an applicant should be ready to start work as soon as a project agreement is signed.

- **Start-Finish:** Are matching resources available? When will work on the project begin? When will work be completed and/or the facility open to use? How long will it take before the project is complete?
- **Preliminary Work:** Are all elements ready — permits, environmental clearances, historic or cultural resources, engineering, signed agreements, equipment, labor force, etc.? Have any appeals been resolved? (Explain.)
- **Acquisitions:** Has the landowner been contacted? Is the owner willing to sell? Does the applicant hold an option on the property? (Describe). Are required appraisals and reviews completed? (Describe). Will the land acquired be immediately available for use? Explain.

- a. Very large barrier(s) exist that will likely delay the project a year or more..... (0 points)
- b. Substantial – significant barrier(s) exist which will likely be removed in the next 12 months. (1-2 points)
- c. Minimal – ordinary barrier(s) exist which will likely be removed by the time a grant is approved. (3-4 points)
- d. No barriers; the project is ready to move forward immediately..... (5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

Question 5. Cost Efficiencies. The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies and/or reduces government costs through documented use of:

- Volunteers
- Donations
- Innovative or sustainable design or construction resulting in long-term cost savings. Examples: Use of solar energy, integration of wetlands as “green infrastructure,” new materials or construction techniques with outstanding potential for long service life.
- *Signed* cooperative agreements
- *Signed* memoranda of understanding (such as no-cost easements/leases, or similar cost savings).

- a. No evidence presented. (0 point)
- b. The benefit of any such agreement is marginal. (1-2 points)
- c. Cooperative measures will result in moderate efficiencies and/or savings..... (3 points)
- d. Cooperative measures will result in substantial efficiencies and/or savings..... (4-5 points)

Evaluators award 0-5 points.

Scored by RCO Staff

6. Population Proximity. Is the project in a populated area? (Staff will score.)

This question is scored by RCO staff based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive a score, the map must show the project location and project boundary in relationship to a city's or town's urban growth boundary.

- a. The project is located within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more.

Yes: 1.5 points
No: 0 points

AND

- b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Yes: 1.5 points
No: 0 points

The result from "a" is added to the result from "b." Projects in cities with more than 5,000 population and within high density counties receive points from both "a" and "b."

RCO staff awards a maximum of 3

7. Applicant compliance. Has the sponsor demonstrated good grant stewardship? (Staff will score.)

- a. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had no negative site inspection findings.....5 points
- b. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues and has had only minor site inspection findings (e.g. missing signs).....4 points
- c. Sponsor has no outstanding compliance issues but has outstanding site inspection findings that are not conversions.....3 points
- d. Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion not of their making and is actively working with RCO & NPS to resolve..... 2 points
- e. Sponsor has outstanding confirmed conversion of their own making and is actively working with RCO & NPS to resolve.....1 point
- f. An otherwise eligible sponsor has one or more outstanding confirmed conversion that is more than five years old and/or that they are not working actively with RCO & NPS to resolve.....0 points

Attachment A: Summarized Public Comments on the Proposed “NOVA Recreationists Served” Evaluation Question

Commenter	Response ¹	Comments ²
1. Debra Davis, Cle Elum Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest	Does not support	<p>Not all applicants have equal capabilities, so it seems like there’s no way to fairly compare their efforts to obtain accurate use numbers. Accurately measuring the number of trail users is difficult. The most accurate methods are (1) electronic trail counters, which cost about \$300 and must be deployed and maintained in the field, and (2) on-site surveys. A paid employee costs at least \$100 per day. Employees and volunteers must be trained and supervised.</p> <p>The proposal appears to be biased toward those with small acreage and motorized trails with easy access. It is much more complicated to get accurate counts on trails that are accessed by foot, horseback, or motorcycle or mountain bike riders.</p> <p>It would be helpful to develop sampling guidelines or some structured way of gathering information and turning it into meaningful numbers.</p>
2. John Keates, Mason County Parks Director, NRTP advisory committee	Does not support	<p>Smaller jurisdictions will never score high on this criterion because they are not close to the population. The need is just as great or greater since they have so few trails. It will be difficult for a NEW project proposal without any history compete. Many areas are resource strapped so taking the extra effort to attain the documentation may be tough. Perhaps we should consider taking the 10% and allocating it evenly among the three existing categories.</p>
3. Randy Person, State Parks	Does not support	<p>I am firmly against the proposal. In other places, evaluators assess whether or not the proponent is making a good argument, and consider the amount claimed and the chances that it will ever happen. The new proposal indicates an answer has two part: (1) how good an answer can you concoct, and (2) how well can you convince me to believe it?</p> <p>Rather than separate the question so obviously, try to wrap it all together, something like: <i>The extent to which evidence shows the project will serve between x and y.</i></p> <p>This asks for the numbers, and says they need to be well supported.</p>
4. Alan E. Dragoo, Pacific Northwest Four-Wheel Drive Association	Does not support	<p>This proposal would put many development grant requests at a disadvantage, since they would not have existing use from which to derive high-confidence estimates of user numbers.</p> <p>The proposal automatically assumes that any estimate without hard evidence to back it up is inflated and that the less evidence available, the more severely inflated the estimate. It seems to me that a low-confidence estimate is nearly as likely to be low as it is to be high.</p> <p>While I understand the desire to ensure the grant selection process is based on the most accurate data possible, I do not think this proposal accomplishes that goal in a fair manner.</p> <p>Serving the most NOVA recreationists may not be a good criterion; need would</p>

¹ The “Response” column is RCO staff’s attempt to summarize each respondent’s position. This can be difficult and less than 100 percent accurate because some respondents are not clear about their position, others may change their point of view after receiving staff’s response, etc.

² In some cases, the remarks have been edited for brevity.

Commenter	Response ¹	Comments ²
		<p>be better.</p> <p>The relative ranking of projects within a category should not change when allocating competitive funds. Projects in all categories should be ranked in a single list, probably by percentage of maximum possible score in their category.</p>
<p>5. Neil T. Morgan</p>	<p>Does not support.</p> <p>Staff has revised the proposal to address Mr. Morgan's concerns about electronic counters</p>	<p>PLEASE NOTE MR. MORGAN'S LETTER TO THE BOARD AT THE END OF THIS ATTACHMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF EMAIL COMMUNICATION.</p> <p>Smaller counties or those located in remote geographically locations are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to number of persons served.</p> <p>There may have been applicants that have fudged on the number of persons served, but the proposal should be reconsidered in favor of alternative methods that can be successfully used to resolve the problems.</p> <p>There should be more time allowed during presentations to evaluate this issue and for the evaluators to ask questions. If the presenter knows the project inside and out, knows the value of the project, and uses current data during their presentation, the evaluators can judge it.</p> <p>My two objections: (1) the use of electronic devices that do not count individuals using area as passengers and (2) no separation of use values based on seasonal use differences.</p> <p>Someone should initiate some sort of action for the use of technology like that used on the Narrows Bridge. It would give not only who is using a particular area, but also when they are using the area and what type of vehicle they are using. There are a number of bugs associated with this concept but nothing that can't be worked out.</p>
<p>6. J. Lambert, NOVA advisory committee</p>	<p>Does not support</p>	<p>The numbers are good enough for the purpose. I am sensitive to the issue is because in E. Washington we often have lower density of use so I am very aware of the criteria. Another perspective is the potential for higher use in the future. I vote to do nothing but encourage applicants to establish protocols meeting industry standards for tracking use.</p>
<p>7. Steven J. Drew, RCFB member</p>	<p>Unsure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not support if projects that use electronic counting devices are exemplary of a project that would automatically score well. • Does not support if well intended estimates are held as any less accurate 	<p>Thank you for sending this interesting question along for comment. While I agree in general that judgment should enter into the points given for the Number served, based upon how believable the number provided by the applicant is, I am not sure I buy your premise stated as follows:</p> <p>"While some specify the use of electronic trail counters as a basis for use estimates, others use less accurate trailhead registers, field personnel interviews, and top of the head estimates."</p> <p>Use of electronic trail counters can be very subjective based upon where they are placed, the characteristics of the user group being measured, the number of occupants assumed in a vehicle and so on. An electronic counter placed on a hiking trail 1/2 way up a grade would be very accurate, for instance, while a counter near a parking area or on a desirable section of trail or road, for motorized users, would count many users over and over again. Trailhead measurement is even more complex since a trailhead parking area may be used as a lunch stop, for its restrooms, or as a place to park for those who use the associated trails as well as for those who then use the road. As for counting vehicles, this fails to account for the number of occupants who's out of vehicle activities may qualify independently as a users served.</p> <p>In order to support any shift toward favoring electronic counter data, I would first</p>

Commenter	Response ¹	Comments ²
	<p>than electronically collected data.</p> <p>Staff modified the question to address the concern about electronic counters.</p>	<p>need to be convinced that well intended estimates are any less accurate than electronically collected data. I would also want to be assured that electronic counting devices are being made available and used by all user groups so that weighting this data source does not have the effect of giving favor to one user group over another.</p>
8. L. Caywood, RTP advisory committee	Unsure	I disagree. No matter the length of a season, we should still base our decisions on the number of users that will benefit from the grant \$.
9. L. Haught, RTP advisory committee	Unsure	This is a difficulty, but I'd hate to drive people to buying an electronic trail counter just to satisfy this.
10. Gary Cooper, City Of University Place	Unsure	I recognize the need to make sure the numbers provided are true and accurate, but I question the value of asking the part "B" question. I know if I am taking the time and effort of putting together a grant request I am going to express that I have "high" confidence in all of the data provided. Has the group thought of awarding points to the method of collecting the number of recreationists served data?
11. R. Ingram, RTP advisory committee	Unsure	Obtaining accurate trail usage estimates is difficult except for those trails where registration is required before use. However, I think it is important that the amount of use the trail receives is known. Having a very high weighted rank for this question would give an unfair advantage to the trails closer to the populated areas (west side of the mountains) versus those areas on the east side of the mountains.
12. Christine M. Redmond, Department of Natural Resources	Supports	As currently worded, it is easy to mislead the panel inadvertently. Due to the lack of structure in the question, the panel may give a low score to projects that probably should fall somewhere in the middle of the point scale. Clarifying and expanding the question would make it much easier to answer this question clearly and with confidence.
13. Robert Winslow, DNR	Generally supports	Speaking as an individual and not for the agency: The word "served" is ambiguous: Is it the number who were physically present on the trail; the number within a "reasonable commute" who might use the site; the total physical site users, including multiple trips by the same user; separate and discrete users? These should be defined so that responses are accurate and "apples to apples" comparisons and statements.
14. Richard Elkins, Mercer Island	Generally supports	RCO should be counting actual users with real numbers that have been verified. The "number of unfunded projects in each category" question should be based upon merit.
15. Stan	Supports	The proposed revision is well thought out and a very positive change.

Commenter	Response ¹	Comments ²
Johnson, Richland Parks and Recreation		Wilderness trail projects may have a difficult task getting exact figures, but estimating a range of participation can be done more reliably.
16. Chuck Foster	Supports	I think it looks good. I will be interested in seeing the results.
17. John E. Spring NOVA Advisory Committee	Supports	<p>This new formula is too complicated and allows the land manager to submit a number that may not be a standard to the rest of the applicants and ultimately still sway their number. The numbers need to be a substantiated number of NOVA users, or allow RCO staff to make a demographics decision on number of users.</p> <p>Evaluators should be given the chance to decide the best use of the limited funds. The evaluation process cannot be hampered by inconsistent information from differing sources of information gathering.</p>
18. K. Kuykendall, RTP advisory committee	Supports	Evaluation team should score this and applicants should be very aware that hard numbers would receive a higher score.
19. T. Windsor, RTP advisory committee	Supports	Satisfactory
20. D. McMains, RTP advisory committee	Supports	I agree
21. A. Brooks, NOVA advisory committee	Supports	Workable
22. J. Blasdel, NOVA advisory committee	Supports	Yes, I agree with this. Also should require someone who knows the facility to give the presentation.
23. A. Tuftee, NOVA advisory committee	Supports	I particularly like the committee scoring this question.
24. J. Horan, State Parks, NOVA advisory committee	Supports	Agree

12 February, 2009

From: Neil T. Morgan
45 West Eugene Street
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To: Greg Lovelady, Recreation and Conservation Office, Grant Services Program Mgr
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Subj: Revision of a NOVA Evaluation Question

Ref: (a) RCO proposal dated 10 Feb, 2009

1. Why are the points given on reference (a) Part B with missing tenths i.e. (.2), (.4), (.6), (.8), (1.0)? Why isn't .2, .3, .5, .7 and .9 included? Is this room to be left for further interpretation? If it is then it should be noted and some sort of description as to the interpretation.

2. Questions (e & f) in Part B indicate that by using electronic counting devices a higher score will be received. What you are actually saying is that agencies who can afford these measures will have a tremendous advantage over those agencies that may not be able to afford to provide, collect and interpret with this equipment.

3. The description of "Good" and "High" is that you consider traffic counters are not accurate and the separation of number of users into seasonal variations. The number of persons served should be based on a yearly count period. Why try to break the total down and separate it into another degree of evaluation. Your own question on which this is based clearly indicates "typical year" and does not separate the year into seasonal portions. There are users who use trails during specific periods of the year and who are prohibited to use trails during other period therefore why is their use numbers being subcategorized into periods of less importance with lower scores? A prime example of these users is snowmobile users, hunters and fisherman.

If traffic counters are not accurate then the number should not be used. If you consider them accurate enough to give a very high score then don't separate their result into a sub category of accurate and inaccurate. There are types of counters that have been recently used yet proved to be inaccurate.

4. If traffic counters are used then I question the results. Is traffic or electronic devices used to count every non motorized user? I think they are and count each person who walks the trail. Do these same counters count every occupant of a multi seated vehicle? I do not believe they do therefore these recreational users who is an occupant is not counted. I question the results of these devices to be considered as a trustworthy method to give a higher evaluation score if they favor one use over another.

Summary:

Too much emphasis is being given to counting devices instead of other more reliable methods. If you want to measure parking lot figures or road figures then they work adequately but if you want to figure the number of users who use the trails then they aren't accurate to the point

where they should be used as a basis for an evaluation. They can be used in conjunction with other methods for those making the grant application to give a reasonable number.

I believe the number of persons served section of the grant evaluation should be totally reworked. It should be a portion of the application requiring a summary from applicant and should include, a brief description of users expected to use the area, approximate number of users, category of users provided for, **all** methods used to count those numbers and, how old is information used by applicant, I have full trust in the evaluation committee to use this information to give a creditable score.

I understand that in essence, Part B "a through d." is adequate if indicated they are based on the summary applicant provides. I also believe "e. &f." should be eliminated for previous stated comments and questions. If a summary is not provided then **only** questions (a-d) should be used and scored "Low" "Med" "High" and "Very High".

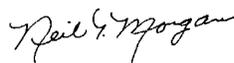
It seems to me that RCO wants to reduce the applicants responsibilities in presenting their application with knowledge of the subject and replace them with answers to numerous questions that produces a simple numerical score. Furthermore, has RCO lost confidence that the evaluation committee evaluate applications without asking questions? Once a user summary is presented, the evaluators should be asking the question to determine what is accurate and what is inaccurate. Additional time needs to be given to ask question and for answers to be given. If this were to occur I believe the problem may be greatly diminished.

If the project is presented in such a fashion that's includes all aspects of the project including its ability to meet user needs, environmental needs, and a summary of projected users, the projects worthiness to be funded should be very obvious to the evaluators and scored accordingly.

I do believe the evaluations require additional presentation time to allow the process of evaluation to be more accurate and to insure applications meet the scope of the program that the applicant is seeking funds from.

I offer the alternative suggestion of leaving things as they are with additional time allowed during the presentation for evaluators to ask questions and those presenting, sufficient time to give a more meaningful answer.

Give thought to initiate a plan to use electronic tag system to all users much like the system recently initiated on the Narrows Bridge to track vehicles who use the areas. There are numerous benefits to this plan of action that will not be mentioned here but should be evident to all.



Neil T. Morgan