

option that staff will explore is for the WWRP eligibility threshold to be consistent with these other grant programs.

Non-profit Eligibility Requirement	Applies in...				
	BIG	YAF	FARR	RTP	Salmon
Be registered with the State of Washington	X	X	X	X	X
Identify a successor organization	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate activity (one to three years) relevant to the program's purpose	X	X	X	X	
Have nondiscrimination policies	X	X	X	X	
Not require exclusive use of the site or facility	X	X			
Have authority for the protection or enhancement of natural resources such as salmon, salmon habitat, or related recovery activities					X

Issue 2: Planning

Applicants must meet a planning requirement in all WWRP categories, except for farmland. The requirement is detailed in WAC 286-27-040:

- 1) *At minimum the plan must include:*
 - a) *A statement of the applicant's long-range goals and objectives;*
 - b) *An inventory, or description of the planning area;*
 - c) *An analysis of demand and need, that is, why actions are required;*
 - d) *A description of how the planning process gave the public ample opportunity to be involved in development of the plan;*
 - e) *A current capital improvement program of at least six years;*
 - f) *Evidence that this plan has been approved by the applicant's governing entity. For example, a city plan would be approved at the council level and a county-wide plan at the county council or commission level. Plans with a different scope would be approved by department heads, regional managers/supervisors, etc.;*
- 2) *A plan is not required for projects submitted in the farmlands preservation account.*
[Underline added]

For riparian projects, RCO Manual 10b states:

To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must submit a comprehensive habitat conservation plan; adopted by the applicant's organization. Plans accepted by RCFB establish an applicant's eligibility for up to six years. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that plans and documents are current.

It is uncertain at this time how nonprofit organizations will meet the planning requirement. Simply waiving the planning requirement for nonprofits is not recommended in the interests of fairness to other applicants, program transparency, and the strategic investment of public money.

Staff will begin the analysis by exploring the options in current policy, found in Manual 2, *Planning Policies*, which provides alternatives to developing and adopting a plan. The alternatives are shared jurisdiction plans (one entity adopting another's plan) and cooperative plans (more than one entity working together on the same plan). Whether these options are viable for nonprofit nature conservancy organizations or associations is a question that needs to be explored further.

Next Steps

RCO staff will work with stakeholders and the interested public to determine what qualifications are appropriate for newly-eligible nonprofit nature conservancy organizations, and what options are available for meeting the "riparian" category planning requirement. The question of how the Conservation Commission will submit projects for consideration will be addressed separately.

Staff will bring a recommendation to the board for discussion in September and adoption in November of 2009 so that the policies are in place for the 2010 WWRP grant cycle.