

available recreation areas open. RCO staff approved extensions for 26 NOVA projects and are currently reviewing extension requests for 10 additional projects.

Recruitment Underway for Advisory Committees and Evaluation Teams

NOVA Advisory Committee

The RCO typically recruits NOVA advisory committee members on an annual basis. However, since there are no grant funds to award this biennium, the director extended the terms for the entire committee. Regular recruitment of new members will resume in 2010 in anticipation of a 2011 grants cycle.

Other Committees

This fall, RCO staff will recruit for four standing advisory committees and for volunteers to help review and evaluate projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program during calendar year 2010. RCO needs more than 150 volunteers with expertise in various natural resource disciplines, such as design and development of public access sites, as well as experience with land use management.

PRISM Modifications

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) revised their reporting metrics in the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) database, so the RCO staff needs to make significant updates to PRISM to implement the new metrics. A portion of the 2008 and 2009 PCSRF grants will fund the work. The NOAA modifications are designed to capture metrics for salmon recovery, but the RCO is using this as an opportunity to also capture information about conservation, and recreation projects.

When the modifications are complete, RCO staff will be able to provide more performance measures for its grants. For example, these measurements will allow us to determine how many miles of trail were maintained, how many acres we acquired for new parks, or the number of stream miles protected for salmon recovery. The measures could be taken across all programs, or by specific fund source. We hope to have most of the work completed this fall.

In addition, RCO has been working on a module in PRISM for progress reports. This module will increase communication between RCO staff and sponsors. It is designed to allow staff to better monitor project progress and subsequently reduce reappropriations requests. This new module should be available for use by mid-October.

Conversions and Compliance

Interns and outdoor grant managers have been conducting site inspections on grant funded sites. The information gathered is entered into the PRISM database and immediate needs are prioritized and addressed accordingly.

Staff continue to work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on outstanding compliance issues. RCO and WDFW have been working through a “top ten” list of projects and progress has been made on several fronts. Several site name changes have been completed with DNR, and RCO is addressing 21 DNR grants that were funded through LWCF but transferred to other entities. Both agencies have recently shown a renewed effort in working with RCO to rectify compliance issues.

The National Park Service approved the conversion of the athletic fields involving the City of Lynnwood and the Edmonds School District, and RCO staff is in the process of completing all the necessary paperwork. This conversion should be complete by October 1, 2009.

Staff also continue to be involved with larger long-term conversion efforts such as the DNR/DFW land exchange and the expansion of State Route 520.

Project Administration

This table summarizes the active outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects currently being administered by staff. In addition, staff have several hundred funded projects that they monitor for long-term compliance.

| Program | Active Projects 9/9/2009 |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) | 25 |
| Boating Facilities Program (BFP) | 29 |
| Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG) | 2 |
| Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) | 9 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | 11 |
| National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) | 76 |
| Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) | 113 |
| Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) | 239 |
| Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) | 19 |
| Total | 523 |