



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

MEETING DATE: November 2009 **ITEM NUMBER:** 2C
TITLE: Recreation and Conservation Grants Management Report
PREPARED BY: Scott Robinson and Marguerite Austin, Section Managers
APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR:

Proposed Action: Briefing

Grant Cycles

2010 Grant Cycle

Staff are now planning the deadlines and setting evaluation schedules for the 2010 grant cycle. Applications will be due by May 1 for the following grant programs:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), all accounts

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) will be asked to approve the ranked lists or, for some programs, project funding at the October 2010 meeting. Other possible grants in 2010 include the Boating Facilities Program for local and state agencies and the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program, pending fund availability.

Policy staff is working with grant managers to review and revise portions of key policy manuals for the 2010 grant cycles.

On October 14, 2009 Marguerite Austin and Scott Robinson gave an overview of RCO's upcoming grant programs to approximately 35 people at the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council annual meeting in Wenatchee. Marguerite and Scott also participated in two planning assistance sessions in which they offered suggestions on how RCO grant funding may be a source of funds to assist in the development of portions of community development projects in Shelton and Entiat.

2009 Grants Cycle

Evaluations are now completed for 128 projects requesting nearly \$7.1 million in this year's grant cycles. The board approved the ranked list of RTP projects at the October meeting, and will consider funding for FARR and LWCF in November (see agenda items 9 and 11 for detail).

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)

The Recreation and Conservation Office received one Tier 1 Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) project to review for federal fiscal year 2010 funding consideration.



Boating Infrastructure Grant projects develop or renovate boating facilities targeting recreational boats 26 feet and larger. There are two tiers of funding. Tier 1 projects requests \$95,000 or less and are approved at the state level. Tier 2 projects requests more than \$100,000 and are considered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of a national competition.

Harbour Village Marina, a nonprofit condominium marina organization, requested \$91,498 to add power and upgrade the fire suppression system on its public transient moorage dock. In addition to its 135 slips for long-term moorage, the marina, located in Kenmore at the north end of Lake Washington, provides more than 500 feet of transient moorage and a pump-out facility.

On September 24, the director approved funding for the project. As part of the assessment, staff solicited comments from the Boating Programs Advisory Committee and used those comments to help determine final scoping before the project was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for fund appropriation. Final authorization is expected within the next few weeks.

2008 Grants Cycle

On July 9, 2009, the board approved funding for 105 Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account and Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program projects. The board authorized RCO staff to begin writing contracts totaling \$70 million. As of October 12, staff had issued 76 agreements and placed 47 projects under agreement.

Project Update, RCO #06-1792, Camp Kilworth Nearshore Preservation

On September 8, the state Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from the Boy Scouts of America that would have allowed them to sell Camp Kilworth to Federal Way for a park. The court's decision upheld a prior ruling in favor of two property trusts. As a result, the number one ranked WWRP water access category project submitted in 2006 was withdrawn. The board had approved a \$1.0 million grant for acquisition of the 25-acre Boy Scout camp and protection of 1,000 feet of Puget Sound shoreline. Camp Kilworth has been a Boy Scout camp for 70 years and is largely forested and undeveloped. Purchase of the camp would have preserved a section of Puget Sound shoreline that is habitat for Chinook salmon, which is threatened with extinction, as well as other wildlife. Per board policy, funds will be reallocated to eligible alternate projects.

Recruitment Underway for Advisory Committees and Evaluation Teams

This fall, RCO staff recruited 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.

By mid-October staff had received five applications and a number of inquires about the advisory committee positions. The recruitment period runs until December 4. We anticipate making appointments in early 2010 so we will be ready for the upcoming grant round.

PRISM Modifications

The RCO's work on changing the PRISM database is progressing on schedule. Beginning with the 2010 grant cycle, RCO staff will be able to provide more performance measures for its grants. This will require sponsors to provide the RCO with more data about their projects, so staff is developing an outreach effort. In addition, we are working with the programmers to use computer logic so that applicants view only those questions applicable to the project they are proposing.

The newly created progress report module for PRISM went through two weeks of internal testing and was released for general use on October 15, 2009.

Conversions and Compliance

Staff recently finished working with the city of Bothell on the construction of an upgrade to their stormwater system along state route 522 near Bothell Landing. This project required RCO involvement because the new stormwater pipes were installed beneath Bothell Landing, which was funded with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in the late 1970s. Staff also completed work with the City of Federal Way to resolve some administrative and compliance issues at Dumas Bay which was funded with LWCF money in 1968.

Project Administration

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

Program	Active Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	16
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	28
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	2
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	9
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	8
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	69
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	107
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	171
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	18
Total	428