

**Item 1D**

Meeting Date: March 2010  
Title: Extension of Match Certification Deadline  
Prepared By: Scott T. Robinson, Section Manager

Approved by the Director:

---

**Proposed Action: Decision**

**Summary**

Staff is asking the board to extend the match certification deadline until April 15 for four projects that are awaiting notification about federal grant awards that they intend to use as match.

**Strategic Plan Link**

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) has adopted an objective to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process. These projects, which the board approved in July 2009, may be able to leverage federal grant dollars as match, thereby supporting the board's goals to manage funds efficiently and to provide leadership that helps its partners strategically invest public funds.

**Staff Recommendation**

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends that the board extend the match certification deadline to April 15 for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Program State Fiscal Year 2010 projects that had applied for but not received federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program funds, via Resolution #2010-01 (consent calendar).

**Background**

In November 2009, the board extended the match certification deadline for four projects in the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program, FY 2010 (see following table). The sponsors of these projects were unable to secure their matching funds from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) 2009 grant cycle due to changes in the federal evaluation criteria.

Rank	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCO Amount	Sponsor Amount	Total Amount
2 of 14	08-1238A	Nelson Ranch Farmland	Okanogan County	\$616,050	\$646,350	\$1,262,400
4 of 14	08-1638A	Whatcom PDR 2008	Whatcom County	\$379,750	\$384,750	\$764,500
9 of 14	08-1323A	Triple Creek Ranch 2008	Kittitas County	\$650,425	\$1,395,575	\$2,046,000
11 of 14	08-1288A	Finn Hall Farm	Clallam County	\$868,075	\$1,032,075	\$1,900,150

The board authorized an extension of the match certification requirement until February 15, 2010 to see if the projects would receive funding from the winter NRCS grant cycle. The NRCS fell behind in their project ranking and distribution of grant funds, and now anticipates that they will make awards at the end of March. At that time, we will know if any of the four projects will receive their matching funds.

Staff is asking the board to extend the deadline until April 15 for these projects.

## Analysis

Staff believes that several compelling reasons justify consideration of an extension of the match certification deadline for this grant round:

- Adequate funds are available in the WWRP farmland account to fund all projects on the state fiscal year 2010 list, including alternates.
- Changes to the federal fiscal year 2009 grant cycle put several WWRP projects at a disadvantage.
- Proposed changes to the federal fiscal year 2010 grant timeline and criteria will likely result in secured match for at least some of the four WWRP projects that did not receive funds in the last NRCS cycle.
- The delay is outside the control of the project sponsors.

## Next Steps

If the board approves a revised deadline for the affected projects, RCO staff will convey the revised deadline to those project sponsors. We will generate agreements for any projects on the state list that receive federal funding or are able to secure an alternate source of match by the revised deadline. After this date, projects that are unable to secure match will be treated as board alternates in an order relative to their current ranked order.