WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Proposed Agenda
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Regular Meeting

October 17-18, 2012
Capitol Campus, O'Brien Building, Hearing Room D, Olympia, WA

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation:
In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment:
- Comments about topics not on the agenda are taken during General Public Comment.
- Comment about agenda topics will be taken with each topic.

If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison or at rebecca.connolly@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:
If you need special accommodations, please notify us by October 10, 2012 at 360/902-3013 or TDD 360/902-1996.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. **CALL TO ORDER** *Chair Chapman*
- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda – October 17-18, 2012
- Introduction of New Staff Members *Kaleen Cottingham*

1. Consent Calendar ***(Decision)*** *Chair Chapman*
a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2012
b. Approve Cost Increase: TCSA Shotgun Target Storage Building, RCO #11-1053
c. Approve Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013
d. Approve conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A)
e. Service Recognition: Steve McLellan
f. Volunteer Service Recognition: Douglas Strong

Resolution #2012-08

9:10 a.m. **2. Management Reports** ***(Briefing)*** *Kaleen Cottingham*
a. Director's Report
b. Fiscal Report
c. Policy and Legislative Report *Steve McLellan*
d. Grant Management Report *Scott Robinson*
e. Performance Report and Applicant Satisfaction Survey Approach *Rebecca Connolly*

9:45 a.m.	**State Agency Partner Reports** • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Natural Resources • State Parks	*Board Members Representing State Agencies*
	General Public Comment For issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.	*Chair Chapman*
10:00 a.m.	**BREAK**	
10:15 a.m.	**3. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Framework** • Approach for presenting the ranked lists	*Scott Robinson*

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

10:30 a.m	**4. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Habitat Conservation Account Grants**	*Sarah Thirtyacre*
	a. Critical Habitat Category.....Resolution #2012-09	*Sarah Thirtyacre*
	b. Natural Areas Category.....Resolution #2012-10	*Kim Sellers*
	c. State Lands Restoration Category.....Resolution #2012-11	*Kim Sellers*
	d. Urban Wildlife Category.....Resolution #2012-12	*Myra Barker*
Noon	**LUNCH**	
1:00 p.m.	**5. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Riparian Protection Account Grants** Resolution #2012-13	*Sarah Thirtyacre*
1:20 p.m.	**6. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Account Grants** Resolution #2012-14	*Scott Robinson*
1:40 p.m.	**7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Outdoor Recreation Account Grants**	*Darrell Jennings*
	a. Local Parks Category.....Resolution #2012-15	*Marguerite Austin*
	b. State Lands Development Category.....Resolution #2012-16	*Leslie Ryan-Connelly*
	c. State Parks Category.....Resolution #2012-17	*Karl Jacobs*
	d. Trails Category.....Resolution #2012-18	*Darrell Jennings*
	e. Water Access Category.....Resolution #2012-19	*Laura Moxham*
3:15 p.m.	**BREAK**	

3:30 p.m.	**8.**	**Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grants** Resolution #2012-20	*Leslie Ryan-Connelly*

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSION

3:50 p.m.	**9.**	**Communications Plan Update**	*Susan Zemek*
4:30 p.m.	**RECESS FOR THE DAY**		

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 a.m.	**CALL TO ORDER**		*Chair Chapman*
9:05 a.m.	**Executive Session: Personnel Matters** Performance Review of RCO Director		*Chair Chapman*
10:15 a.m.	**RECONVENE**		*Chair Chapman*
	General Public Comment For issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.		*Chair Chapman*

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

	10.	**Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses** • Livestock Grazing, Tree Removal, Telecommunications Facilities, Framework Resolution #2012-21	*Dominga Soliz*
11:00 a.m.	**ADJOURN**		

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-08
October 2012 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

a. Board Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2012
b. Cost Increase Request: TCSA Shotgun Range Facility, RCO #11-1053D
c. Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013
d. Conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A)
e. Service Recognition: Steve McLellan
f. Volunteer Service Recognition: Douglas Strong

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summarized Meeting Agenda and Actions, September 4, 2012

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Consent Calendar	Resolution 2012-05 Approved • Approved board meeting minutes – June 2012	No follow-up requested
Item 2A. Operating Budget and Capital Budget Requests Based on Revenue Projections	Resolution 2012-06 Approved • Approves 2013-15 budget request levels for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account; Boating Facilities Program; Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; Firearms and Archery Range Recreation; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities; Recreational Trails Program; and Youth Athletic Facilities • Approves other budget request actions for 2013-15	Submit budget request to the Office of Financial Management
Item 2B. Capital Budget Request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program	Resolution 2012-07 Approved • Approves a 2013-15 budget request of $90 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program	Submit budget request to the Office of Financial Management

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: September 4, 2012 Place: Room 175, Natural Resources Building, Olympia Washington
Most board members participated by conference call

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board members present in person or by phone:

Bill Chapman, Chair	Mercer Island	**Craig Partridge**	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	**Larry Fairleigh**	Designee, State Parks
Pete Mayer	Snohomish	**Dave Brittell**	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harriet Spanel	Bellingham		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the meeting materials provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.

Call to Order

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined.

Consent Calendar

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2012-05, Consent Calendar. The consent calendar included the following:

A. Approve board meeting minutes –June 2012

Resolution 2012-05 moved by: Ted Willhite and seconded by: Larry Fairleigh
Resolution APPROVED, 8-0

Item 2A: Operating Budget and Capital Budget Requests Based on Revenue Projections

Steve McLellan reviewed the information presented in the staff memo, noting the budget is due on September 5. They have recently had meetings with OFM, and shortfalls are still anticipated in the general fund due to the McCleary decision. Revenue projections have not changed since the June meeting. He noted that OFM may solve the issue with the Recreation Resources Account (boating) in a second supplemental budget, but since that is not certain, staff continues to recommend that the board authorize a direct bond request to cover the sweep in the previous budget.

Member Spanel asked if the resolution could be changed to have the table show the boating facilities total, but to leave the note in the table. The board agreed it was a friendly amendment and the change was approved.

Public Comment
Board members received a letter from the Washington Recreation & Park Association supporting the staff recommendations.

Resolution 2012-06, including the friendly amendment,
moved by: Dave Brittell and seconded by: Harriet Spanel
Resolution APPROVED, 8-0

Item 2B: Capital Budget Request for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

Steve McLellan reviewed the information presented in the staff memo.
Chair Chapman and other board members thanked staff for the analysis in the memo and in June.

Member Spanel noted that it would be wise to start with a high number that reflected the need shown in the applications.

Member Willhite supported the recommendation, but was concerned that it might not be enough. He thinks that low interest rates may indicate that this is the right time to make a larger investment. However, $90 million may be a better figure to reflect fiscal realities.

Member Fairleigh noted that State Parks staff supports the $90 million figure, and will ask the Parks Commission to support it as well. The need continues to be as great as ever.

Member Bloomfield noted that population continues to grow, and indicates a growing need for habitat protection. If we are not prudent now, there will be a diminishing return for future generations. She also supports the $90 million figure.

Member Mayer stated that Figure 3 supports the $90 million request and indicates the projects that could be completed at that level.

Member Brittell stated that he wishes that they could ask for more, but the timing is off. He noted that WWRC and WRPA have done good work, and it is important to align with partners.

Chair Chapman noted that opportunity, in terms of low land prices, is creating a time when we can get good things done. Population means that more people need more good parks, and create pressure on the habitat base.

Public Comment

Board members received a letter from the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition urging the board to pass a recommendation in favor of funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for $90 million for the 2013-15 biennium.

Board members received a letter from the Washington Recreation & Park Association concurring with the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition recommendation that the board adopt a $90 million request for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for the 2013-15 biennium.

Member Spanel moved to approve resolution 2012-07 at $90 million. Member Mayer seconded the motion.
Resolution APPROVED, 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Approved by:

Bill Chapman, Chair

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-05
September 2012 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following September 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

1. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Meeting Minutes, June 27-28, 2012

Resolution moved by: Willhite
Resolution seconded by: Fairleigh
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)
Date: September 4, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-06
Recommending a Funding Level for Recreation and Conservation Office Administration and Grant Programs in the 2013-15 Biennium

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The board hereby approves the 2013-15 budget requests shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	$6,600,000
Boating Facilities Program *(this amount plus backfill amount noted in #2 below for a total of $9,263,000)*	$9,263,000
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	$2,200,000
Firearm and Archery Range Recreation	$775,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	$4,000,000
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	$8,305,000
Recreational Trails Program	$5,000,000
Youth Athletic Facilities	$3,000,000

2. The board hereby approves a request that $3.3 million to be reinstated to the Recreation Resources Account to ensure sufficient funding for the Boating Facilities Program.

3. The Director is authorized to modify and/or update the amounts as new revenue forecasts become available or to comply with Office of Financial Management budget instructions or directives. The Director also shall modify and/or update the request as necessary to meet the budget needs of the affiliated boards and councils, and to provide for scheduled rent, services, personnel increment dates, labor contract costs, and other operations costs.

4. The Director is authorized to apply for outside funding sources to supplement the capital budget consistent with the board and agency mission.

5. The Director shall submit any necessary reappropriation requests.

Resolution moved by: Brittell

Resolution seconded by: Spanel

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: September 4, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-07
Recommending a Funding Level for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program for the 2013-15 Biennium

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) must submit a 2013-15 Capital Request Budget to the Office of Financial Management; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) finds there is a continuing and compelling need for funding to maintain and enhance the state's quality of life and ecosystem health by investing in outdoor recreation opportunities and important plant, fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is a critical component to furthering the goal of maintaining and enhancing the state's quality of life and healthy ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, requesting budget support for these grant programs, and the RCO administration necessary to implement those grant programs, enables the board to fulfill its mission and goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the 2013-15 Budget request shown below.

Program	2013-15 Request
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	$90 million

Resolution moved by: Spanel

Resolution seconded by: Mayer

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: September 4, 2012

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1B**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Cost Change Request: TCSA Shotgun Range Facility, RCO #11-1053D
Prepared By: Sarah Thirtyacre, Senior Grant Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

The Tri Cities Shooting Association (TCSA) is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve a cost increase for the TCSA Shotgun Range Facility (RCO #11-1053D).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-08 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the requested cost increase.

Background

Grant Summary

Project Name: TCSA Shotgun Range Facility				**Project #:** 11-1053D	
Grant Program: Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program				**Board funded:**	6/22/2011
RCO Amount:	$100,000	**Sponsor Match:**	$174,700	**Total Amount:**	$274,700
RCO Increase:	$24,110	**Sponsor Increase:**	$42,126	**Total Increase:**	$66,236
New RCO Amount:	**$124,110**	**New Sponsor Match:**	$216,826	**New Total:**	$340,936

Description of project and progress to date

The scope of this project was to construct a new multipurpose facility at the Tri Cities Shooting Association (TCSA) shotgun range. The range is located within the 1,100-acre Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility (RMSF).

The TSCA used this grant to construct a new multi-purpose clubhouse facility at the shotgun range. The completed facility provides restrooms, a multi-purpose meeting room, storage, and dedicated space for the range officer. It was constructed to provide universal barrier-free access. This facility is available for military, law enforcement, government, hunter education, and other group uses.

The sponsor has completed all scope elements and RCO has conducted a final inspection[1].

Conditions resulting in request for cost increase

During construction of the new building, it became clear that the internal storage was insufficient. The multi-purpose building was under budget, so TCSA decided to build a larger, stand-alone, storage facility so that they could order shooting supplies in larger quantities, and store them in a safer and more secure location. Unfortunately, they overestimated the actual cost savings and are now in need of additional assistance.

Request for Board Decision

The board is being asked to approve the cost increase.

Analysis

Cost increases are allowed for Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) projects when funds are available. Manual #7, *Funded Projects: Policies and the Project Agreement* outlines the cost increase policy, which states:

- The sponsor must have little control over the condition causing the overrun,
- The sponsor must have fully explored alternatives to completing the project, and
- The increase is only for elements included in the project agreement.

Staff finds that the TSCA Shotgun Range Facility project meets the criteria required for cost increases. The requested cost increase exceeds ten percent of the project budget total, so policy requires that the board review this request.

[1] The board is receiving the request after the work is completed due to conflicts between the scheduled board meetings and the sponsor's desire to meet contractual milestones.

Evaluation of the Conditions Causing the Overrun

The sponsor originally estimated this project to be $274,700. The TCSA's plan was to construct a new range clubhouse that would serve as a multi-purpose building with a small interior storage space. The new range clubhouse was completed within the contract period and within the established budget.

During construction of the new building, it became apparent that there was a need for a larger, stand-alone, storage facility. The TCSA has seen tremendous growth in membership over the last 10 years. Following the development of the new clubhouse, the club has seen their membership dramatically increase. When they submitted the grant proposal, TCSA believed that the interior storage and the existing exterior Conex boxes would provide sufficient storage for the anticipated demand. After completing the clubhouse, the increased facility usage led to a more immediate need for safe and secure storage. Developing a large stand-alone storage facility became a very high priority for TCSA.

The stand-alone storage facility allows the club to order shooting supplies in larger quantities, thus saving money on transportation and shipping costs, and provides a more secure, safer, and weather-proof location for shooting materials. In addition, it allows the club to dedicate the new clubhouse entirely to facilitating the needs of the users without taking up valuable space for storage.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives

The first alternative was to do nothing (i.e., do not construct a new storage facility). However, the primary focus of the original project was to improve the user experience and provide a safe and secure clubhouse. Having insufficient and insecure interior storage was incompatible with that purpose, so the sponsor rejected the first alternative.

As soon as the sponsor identified the need to build the separate storage structure, the TCSA began a fundraising and volunteer campaign to secure the materials and supplies needed for the new building. Their second alternative was to construct a new building using only TCSA funds. They initially were able to secure only $15,000 in private donations (materials, supplies and donated labor.) The full cost of the new storage building was about $66,000, leaving the club with a significant funding gap. Thus, the second alternative also was rejected.

The third alternative was to secure additional funds to complete the development of the new storage facility. After discussions with the RCO, the sponsor decided to request a cost increase.

The sponsor has now secured additional matching funds, totaling $42,126 to meet the RCO match requirement.

Evaluation of Elements Related to the Increase

Storage for shooting related materials was originally intended to be accommodated within the new multi-purpose clubhouse. Due to the need for a larger and more secure location, the TCSA

moved the storage to a separate structure. Providing safe storage is consistent with the original intent of the project scope.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request supports the board's goal of helping its partners protect, restore, and develop recreation opportunities that benefit people.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the $66,236 (24% percent) cost increase for project #11-1053 via Resolution #2012-08 (consent calendar).

RCO has unobligated funds in the FARR grant program and 2012 FARR grant requests fall short of the full account balance.

Next Steps

If the board approves the cost increase request, RCO staff will execute the necessary amendments to amend the project agreement as directed.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1C**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Board Meeting Schedule for 2013
Prepared By: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This is a request for the board to adopt its regular meeting schedule for 2013.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-08 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Adopt a regular meeting schedule for 2013

Background

The Open Public Meetings Act requires state agencies to identify the time and place they will hold their regular meetings and to publish their schedule in the Washington State Register. The agency must notify the code reviser of that schedule before January of each year.

Board members have indicated availability on the dates suggested by staff.

Details of Proposal

Staff proposes the following dates and locations for 2013.

Date	Location
January 31	Olympia
April 4-5	Olympia
June 24-25	Olympia
September 11-12	Wenatchee
November 6-7	Olympia

Assessment of the Proposal

Meeting Dates

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) meets three to six times per year. Staff believes that the board can accomplish its work with five in-person meetings in 2013. The dates are designed to support the needs for approving ranked lists of projects following the 2013 legislative session, and for the policy development needed before the 2014 grant cycle.

Locations

Staff considered projects that could be of interest to board members, as well as the locations of previous meetings, to determine meeting sites in 2013.

Staff recommends Wenatchee for its travel meeting. Wenatchee, along with other communities and areas in Chelan County, will give the board an opportunity to see both recreation and conservation projects. The area offers a mix of old and new project sites, which can offer fresh insight into the practical implications of board policies for protecting and providing access to our State's natural and outdoor recreational resources. Further, the area offers an opportunity to see how communities meet the recreation needs of both their residents and visitors through successful partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations.

Strategic Plan Link

Approving a schedule and locations for open public meetings supports the board's goal to achieve a high level of accountability in managing its resources and responsibilities through a process that is efficient, fair, and open to the public.

Summary of Public Comment

The RCO received no public comment on this topic.

Staff Recommendation

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends that the board adopt the proposed meeting schedule and locations.

Attachments

Consent Resolution 2012-08

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1D**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Approve conversion at Woodland Creek Park in Lacey (RCO #92-070A)

Prepared By: Sarah Thirtyacre, Grant Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

The City of Lacey is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve a conversion of 2.41 acres of property at Woodland Creek Park, which was acquired with a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category grant in 1992. Staff provided a detailed briefing of this compliance issue in June 2012 (Item #9).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-08 (consent calendar)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the conversion and replacement property for a portion of the property at project 92-070A.

Background

The project in question is RCO #92-070A, Pacific Avenue Community Park in Lacey. The city acquired the park site with funding assistance from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category.

Project Name:	Pacific Avenue Community Park	**Project Number:**	92-070A
Grant Program:	WWRP Local Parks	**Board Funded Date:**	1992
RCO Amount:	$ 473,503	**Original Purpose:** Acquisition of 70 acres for a community park. Proposed future development will include interpretive and walking trails, informal open space, outdoor theater, and group picnic area.	
Total Amount:	$ 947,005		

In 1992, the City of Lacey (city) purchased 70 acres for future development of a community park with a mix of active and passive outdoor recreation elements. The city used grant funds and local appropriations. Today, the park is known as Woodland Creek Community Park. Upon completion of the acquisition, a Deed of Right for Recreation Purposes was recorded on a total of 67 acres, with a 3-acre exception for a future community center.

In 2000, after constructing the first phase of the community center, the city notified RCO of its plans to use a total of 2.5 acres for the community center. The remaining .5 acre would accommodate a senior center and associated parking.

Woodland Creek Community Park is now fully developed, offering large open play areas, a playground, walking trails, a community center, senior center, and other support amenities (Attachment A). Long's Pond is located in the park. It is more than 10 acres and has a year-round open fishing season for children 14 and under. The Department of Fish and Wildlife plants it with rainbow trout. Since 2007, volunteers have been planting native trees and shrubs along the banks of Woodland Creek, which runs through the park, to establish a riparian corridor and improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

The park serves the City of Lacey and the northern and eastern portion of Thurston County. The park, located off a major arterial, lies between a single family residential neighborhood to the east and two large-lot single family residences to the west. Most users access the park by driving, biking, or using public transit. Some users walk or run to the trails in and adjacent to the park. The Lacey Woodland Trail runs along the length of the park's south property line.

The Conversion

In 2011, the city contacted the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) about an upcoming senior center expansion at the park. City staff had discovered that the existing Community Center and Senior Center, which is located within the park boundary, had expanded beyond the 3-acre exception originally identified in the Deed of Right. The city also noted that the existing caretaker's residence is used as a rental property. Using dedicated park property for these purposes does not comply with the terms of the project agreement and is considered a conversion.

In May 2012, the city formally requested approval to convert 2.41 acres of the Woodland Creek Community Park to rectify the existing compliance issues and to address the planned senior center expansion. City maps refer to this area as "Parcel B", but for clarity, it is referred to as the "conversion property" throughout this memo. The senior center, associated parking, and former caretaker's residence are all located entirely in the conversion property. The conversion property also includes a portion of the existing asphalt shoreline trail and a horseshoe pit. A map is included as Attachment B.

In the conversion, the residence will be demolished to expand the parking lot for the senior center. The parking lot development will occur in a future phase and is not within the scope of the current senior center expansion project. The horseshoe pit may be relocated closer to the senior center. The trail will remain in place and will be available for public use following construction.

Property Characteristics

The 2.41-acre conversion property is less than 3.5 percent of the original 67 acres protected by the Deed of Right. About 25 percent of the conversion property is a wetland buffer, and the remainder is developed uplands. Most of the upland area consists of the existing Senior Center, parking lot, and a single family rental residence. The remaining land consists of the shoreline trail and a low-bank waterfront that is used for recreational fishing. The shoreline trail and the fishing area will remain in place despite the conversion.

Details of Proposed Replacement

The city proposes to replace the conversion property with 16.5 acres of the Fox Creek Greenway East Property, which the city purchased under a waiver of retroactivity in March 2011. The waiver allows the property to remain eligible as replacement property for this conversion. This 16.5-acre property will be referred to as the "replacement property" throughout the memo.

NOTE: This proposed replacement property is different from the property (referred to in this memo as the Fox Creek Greenway West Property) discussed in the staff memo prepared for the June meeting.[1] Shortly before the June meeting, RCO staff suggested, and the city concurred, that the Fox Creek Greenway East property might be a better option. This property was discussed with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) in June as a preferable replacement property for the conversion because (1) its location offers better access and connectivity to other park properties, and (2) the property characteristics are more desirable for future park development.

Location

The replacement property is located within the Woodland Creek drainage basin off Pleasant Glade Road NE. It is less than one mile from Sleater-Kinney Road NE and is adjacent to the planned Greg J. Cuoio Community Park in the Lacey urban growth area (Attachment C). The replacement property can also be accessed off Carpenter Road NE.

Property Characteristics

The replacement property is a portion of the 170-acre Fox Creek Greenway property, which spans both sides of Pleasant Glade Road NE. The proposed replacement property is 16.5 acres, and includes 13 acres of uplands and 3.5 acres of wetland buffer. There are no identified wetlands on the replacement property. Casual trails meander through the site. The property characteristics and topography provide an excellent opportunity for the city to develop trails, viewing platforms and interpretive signage. With the lack of wetlands and limited riparian area, the site will be easily developable and could support future park infrastructure if the need arises. The site is also conveniently located directly adjacent to the future Greg Cuoio Community Park. Once developed, this park will offer a mix of passive and active recreation opportunities. This

[1] Item 9, Briefing on Compliance Issue at Woodland Park in Lacey, available at http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rcfb/agendas/2012/June/R0612_9.pdf

future park will closely resemble the park site that houses the conversion property (Woodland Creek Community Park).

The City of *Lacey's Six-year Transportation Plan* shows a future road corridor extending from Pleasant Glade Road to Carpenter Road through this parcel. The exact location of the road corridor has not been determined, but it is unlikely that it would affect the replacement property.

Request for Board Decision

The board is being asked to approve the conversion and replacement property for a portion of the property at project 92-070A

Analysis

When reviewing conversion requests, the RCO considers the following factors, in addition to the scope of the original grant and the proposed substitution of land or facilities[2].

- All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
- The fair market value of the converted property has been established and the proposed replacement property is of at least equal fair market value.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement property has at least reasonably equivalent utility and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives

At the time of the original acquisition, the city identified Woodland Creek Community Park as the future home of the city's community and senior centers. However, it now appears that the three-acre exception from the Deed of Right did not adequately account for the future expansion.

The city has considered alternatives.

- No action. The city determined that avoidance is not a viable alternative since the senior center, constructed in 2002, is at capacity.
- Move the senior center to another location. The city determined that it is not practical to "move" the existing senior center and parking to another site.
- Expand the center at the existing location. The current senior center is already located within the park. Expansion at the existing location is less disruptive, cost efficient, and meets important needs identified by the Lacey City Council.

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[2] Manual #7: *Funded Projects: Policies and the Project Agreement*

- Construct a second senior center at another site in Lacey. This option would not satisfy the existing conversion, only reduce the acreage necessary to be converted The city determined it was more cost effective to expand the senior center at its existing location.

Replacement Property Considered

Three sites were assessed as potential replacement property based on these criteria:

- Potential for community park development with active and passive recreational uses.
- Waterfront, either freshwater lake or pond preferred, and wetland. Woodland Creek Corridor desired.
- Wildlife viewing and/or habitat.
- Natural features and quality, including native trees.
- Trail opportunities.
- Willing seller and affordable price.

Options considered:

Site	Name	Acres	Notes
1	Rancho Serino	67	The city submitted a WWRP Local Parks grant application in May 2010. The board later awarded a grant for the purchase of the property, so this site no longer meets the eligibility requirements for replacement property.
2	Fox Creek Greenway (West),Property	27.5	This site meets most of the criteria and includes frontage on Woodland Creek and Fox Creek and has a 15-acre pond. While this property provides more acreage than the chosen replacement, it would be difficult to develop needed support facilities such as parking and restrooms due to land use restrictions.
3	Hicks Lake	Unknown	The city is no longer pursuing this property because the city and landowner could not resolve the large difference between the appraised value and the asking price.
4	Fox Creek Greenway (East), Property	16.5	This property meets most of the criteria, with the exception of water frontage. The site is wooded, with existing casual trails that are directly connected to the board-funded Greg Curio Community Park. This property could function seamlessly as one recreational unit. Parking and other support facilities that will be developed for the Greg Cuoio Park will serve this property as well, reducing the cost of building separate facilities. The lack of wetlands provides for more recreational opportunities, as the city will be able to more easily develop trails and viewing areas.

After reviewing the options, the city is proposing option 4 as the replacement property. The city chose this site because it met most of the selection criteria, is located adjacent to a proposed community park and meets the eligibility criteria for WWRP Local Parks.

Evaluation of Fair Market Value

Appraisals of the properties were conducted with a market value date of April 2012 for the conversion property and January 2011 for the replacement property. Both appraisals were completed within the timeframes set by board policy and do not exceed the shelf life of an appraisal for an acquisition.

	Conversion Property	Replacement Property	Difference
Market Value	$145,000	$145,161	+$161
Value Date	April 2012	January 2011	
Acreage	2.41 acres	16.5 acres	+14.09

As shown in the chart above, the appraisals found that the fair market value of the proposed replacement property is nearly equal to the value of the conversion property. There is a 585 percent increase in the number of acres that will be protected for public outdoor recreation.

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location

Woodland Creek Community Park serves the City of Lacey and the northern portion of Thurston County. It is located off a major arterial and is not directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods, so most users access the park by driving, biking, or using public transit.

The 16.5 acre replacement property is located within the urban growth area (UGA) of the City of Lacey, northwest of the existing Woodland Creek Community Park. It is in an area that currently has no developed community parks or county parks. The property is located along the Woodland Creek Corridor, and Pleasant Glade Road Northeast. It is less than one mile off Sleater-Kinney Road NE, which is a major arterial street, and adjacent to Carpenter Road NE which is an arterial street.

The two parcels are located about 2.5 creek miles apart. The replacement property provides an opportunity to residents north of I-5 who now have limited opportunities. Sleater-Kinney Road and Carpenter Road provide convenient access to residents who live south of I-5 (Attachment D).

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Utility

The replacement property consists of undeveloped land and is primarily wooded. Old “logging roads” and casual trails meander through the property. The city has not yet completed a master plan for the property, but envisions the property will be developed with passive recreation uses, including trails, wildlife observation, and habitat enhancements. The city identified this property because it can offer many of the same recreational opportunities (walking and wildlife observation), passive character and quality, and natural features as the conversion property.

The property's proximity and access to other planned parks in the area also increase its equivalent utility. The conversion property is part of a larger park complex that will be connected via walking trails. The larger park complex will offer active recreation opportunities such as ball fields and playground structures, and passive recreation opportunities such as open meadows and trails.

Evaluation of Public Participation

The Board of Park Commissioners held a public hearing at its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 27, 2012. The meeting was held at the Lacey Senior Center, the site of the conversion property. A public notice of the hearing was published in the legal section of *The Olympian* on July 26. One citizen attended, but had no comment on either the conversion or the proposed replacement properties. The conversion has also been discussed in open public meetings prior to the hearing.

Other Basic Requirements Met

Same Project Sponsor

The replacement property meets the requirement that it be administered by the same project sponsor or successor. The City of Lacey is the original project sponsor and will also be the owner and manager of the replacement property.

Satisfy Needs in Adopted Plan

The replacement property satisfies a need identified in city's adopted plan currently on file at RCO. Specifically, the action plan states that the city will acquire property along the Woodland Creek Corridor and evaluate its potential for improving water quality and providing trails and public access.

Eligible in the Funding Program

The replacement property meets the eligibility requirements of the WWRP Local Parks category.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the conversion and replacement property for a portion of the property at project 92-070A.

Next Steps

RCO staff will work with the city to complete the required contract amendment documents.

Attachments

Resolution 2012-08 (consent)

A. Map/master plan of Woodland Creek Community Park

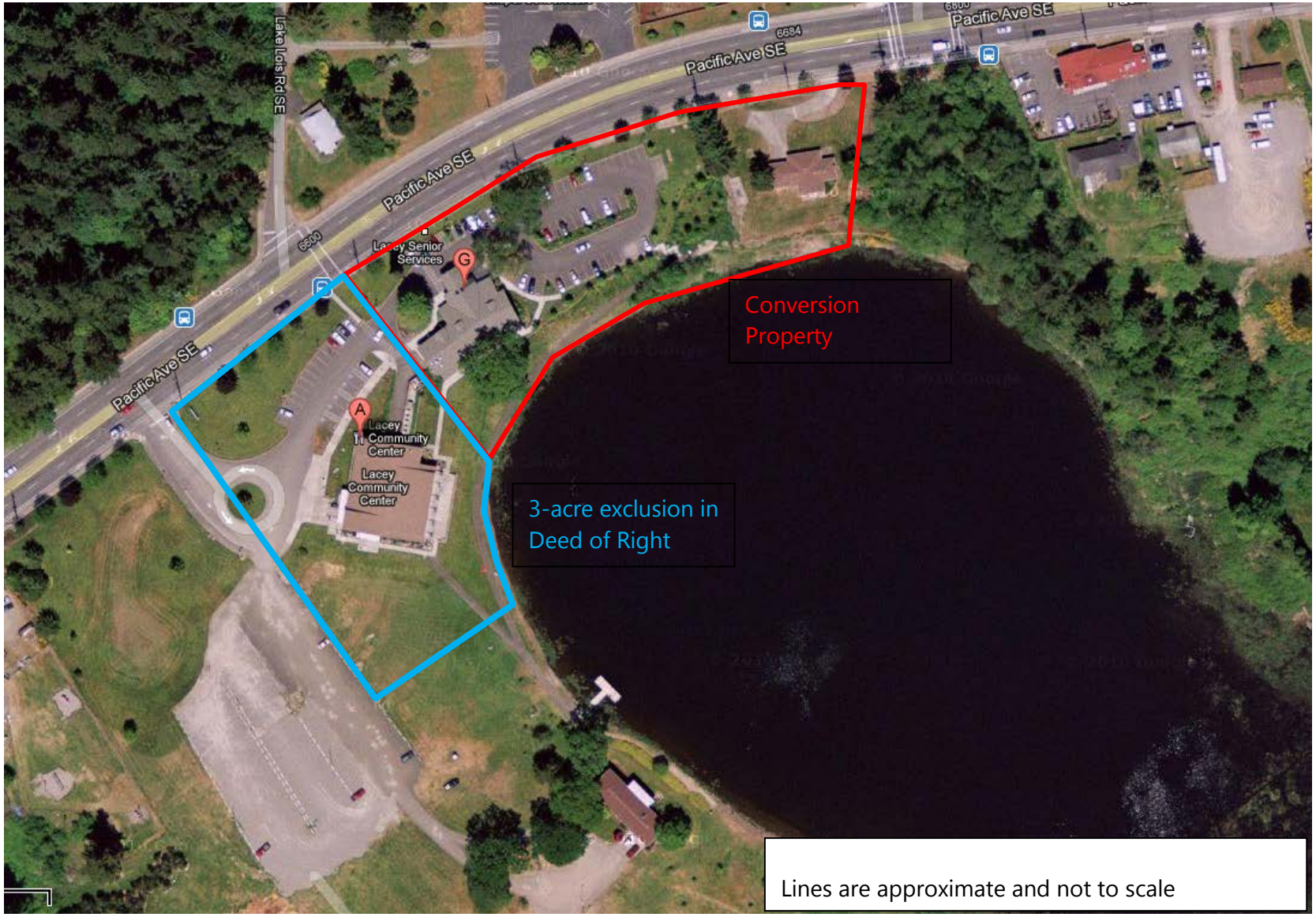
B. Map of conversion property

C. Map of replacement property

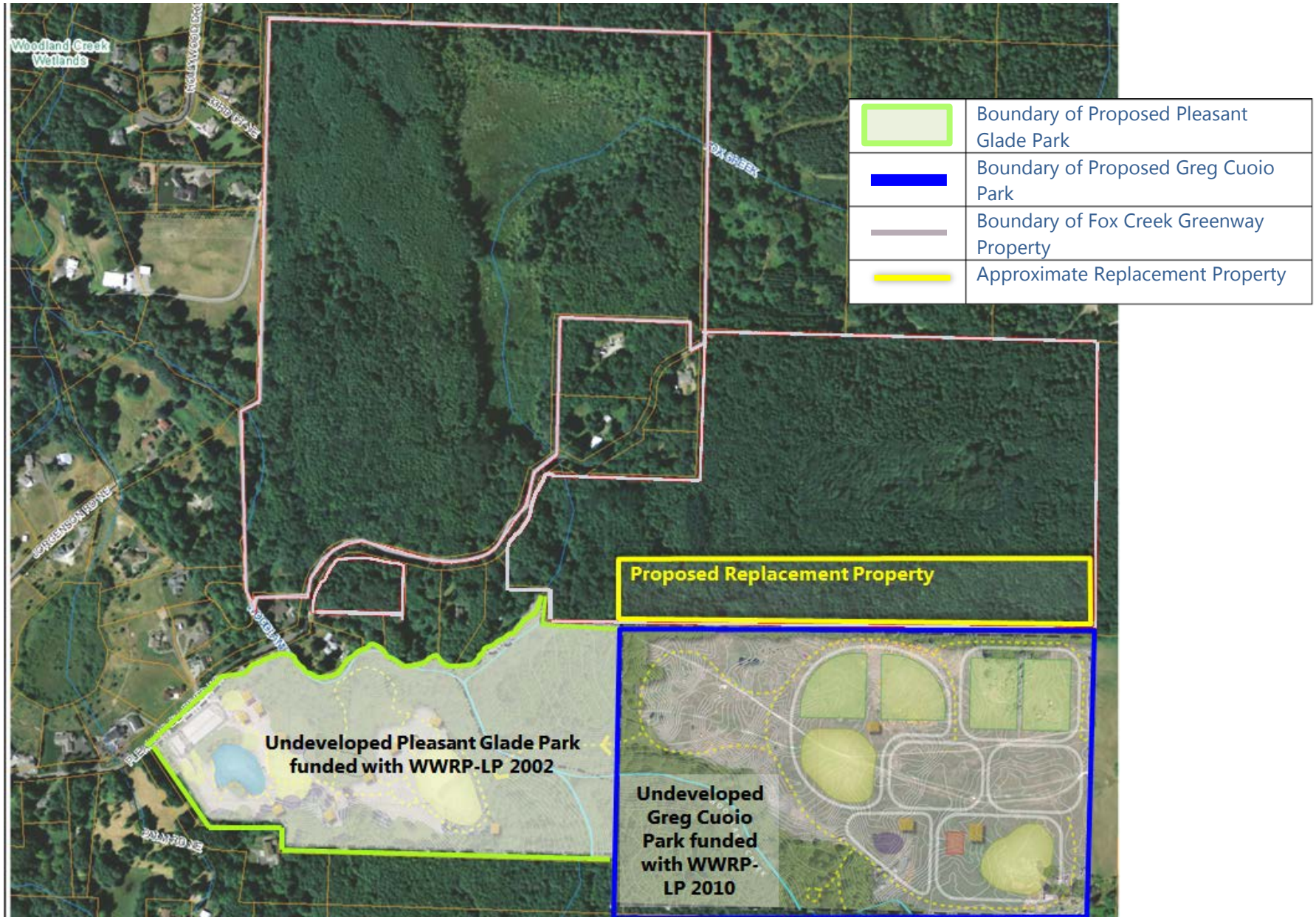
D. Map showing locations of converted and replacement property

Attachment A: Map/master plan of Woodland Creek Community Park

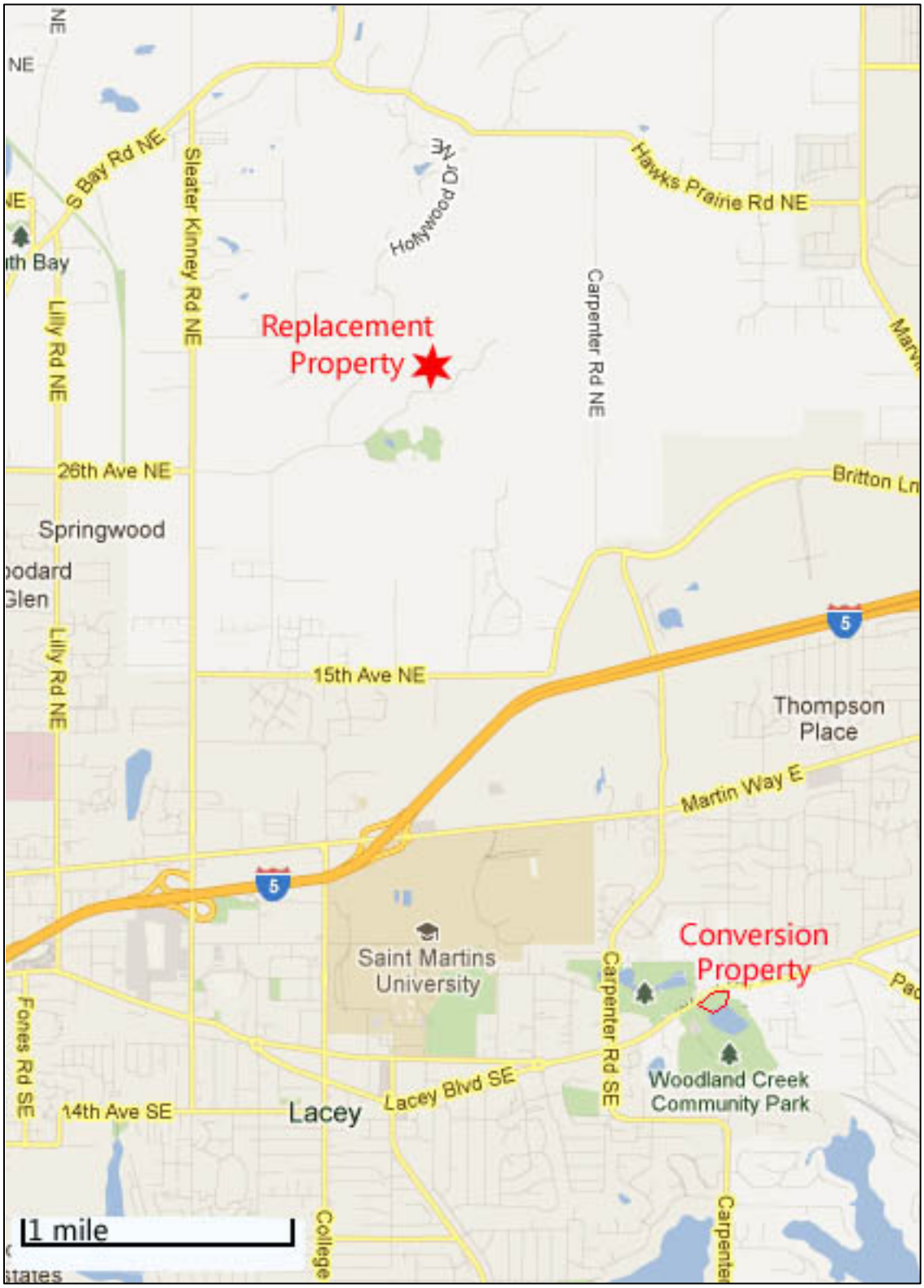
Attachment B: Map of Conversion Property



Attachment C: Map of Replacement Property



Attachment D: Map Showing Locations of Conversion and Replacement Property



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1E**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Service Recognition for Retiring Policy Director Steve McLellan

Prepared By: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison

Approved by RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This is a request for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to recognize the service of Policy Director Steve McLellan.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-08 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Recognize the service of Policy Director Steve McLellan.

Background

Policy Director Steve McLellan will retire from state service in October 2012. During his 29-year career, Steve served the citizens of the state of Washington through work at the State Legislature, Utilities and Transportation Commission, State Energy Office, State Senate Democratic Caucus, TVW, and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

At RCO, Steve is recognized for his uncommonly good sense, ability to distill complex situations into understandable and manageable parts, grasp of the "big picture," and his endless good humor. His steady approach during difficult budget times and legislative sessions has benefited the agency greatly.

This resolution recognizes his service to the RCO.

Attachments

A. Individual Service Resolution

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Steve McLellan

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from August 2009 through October 2012, Steve McLellan served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) with high integrity, good humor, and dedication to the provision and preservation of recreation and habitat and salmon recovery; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McLellan's thorough understanding of key issues provided the board with valuable insight and advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies and decisions for funding projects that promoted sound investments of public funds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McLellan made a tremendous contribution to the work of the board through his tireless efforts to work with other natural resource agencies on complex issues and legislation to ensure that RCO's programs and goals were understood and considered; and

WHEREAS, Recreation and Conservation Office staff noted that Mr. McLellan could always be relied on to provide feedback that was honest, thoughtful, based in common sense and to-the-point; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McLellan used his deep understanding of the issues, upfront communication skills, respectful cooperation with stakeholders, skillful navigation of the budget process, and calm demeanor to help guide the RCO through challenging economic times; and

WHEREAS, members of the board wish to recognize his support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. McLellan dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. McLellan.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 17, 2012

Bill Chapman Chair	Harriet Spanel Citizen Member	Pete Mayer Citizen Member	Betsy Bloomfield Citizen Member
Ted Willhite Citizen Member	Don Hoch Washington State Parks	Steven Saunders Department of Natural Resources	Dave Brittell Department of Fish and Wildlife

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1F**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Service Recognition of Volunteer Douglas Strong

Prepared By: Lorinda Anderson

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This action will recognize the years of service by volunteer Douglas Strong, who served on several advisory committees that the Recreation and Conservation Office uses to assist in its grant programs.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-08 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Recognize the service of volunteer Douglas Strong.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) relies on volunteers to help administer its grant programs. Volunteers provide a strategic balance and perspective on program issues. Their activities, experience, and knowledge help shape program policies that guide us in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) typically recognizes the service of several volunteers at once. In October, the board will recognize the service of Douglas Strong, who passed away in August 2012.

Douglas Strong was the retired Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Richland. Doug's passion and commitment to the outdoors awarded him many honors, culminating in a Distinguished Service Award from the Washington Recreation and Park Association in March

2012. An active outdoorsman, Doug enjoyed many hobbies with his friends and family, including archery, hunting and athletics. Doug is remembered in part for one of his personal maxims, which is posted on City of Richland's Parks and Recreation website: "Play early, play often, play forever."

Over the years, he made a significant contribution to the RCO. He had been an active member of the Boating Advisory Committee since 2008, helping to review and evaluate projects in the Boating Facilities Program and the Boating Infrastructure Grants Program.

The attached resolution acknowledges a small part of Doug Strong's service and contributions toward public outdoor recreation. Staff will send the resolution along with a letter of appreciation to his family.

Attachments

A. Service Resolution

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Douglas Strong

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS , from 2008 through 2012, Douglas Strong served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Boating Programs Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of local and state agency boating projects for funding; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Strong's passing in August 2012 was met with sadness throughout the recreation community, which had benefited from his dedication and energy for many years; and

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to posthumously recognize this support and service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Strong's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Strong's family.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 17, 2012

Bill Chapman, Chair

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2A**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Management Reports: Director's Report

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities. To minimize duplication, some items that might normally be included in the director's report have been deleted here and included in other memos throughout the notebook (such as the policy director's report, and the grant manager's report).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Supporting and Implementing Grant Management

Fiscal Online

RCO recently added new fiscal trainings to its Web site so that grant sponsors can better understand the billing process. In the past, RCO offered weekly trainings. Now sponsors can just click on a video or narrated PowerPoint on one of the following nine topics:

- General Grant Overview
- Tracking Expenditures
- Billing Information
- Necessary Forms
- Reimbursement Overview
- Backup Documentation Requirements
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board Advance
- PRISM Overview
- RCO Internet Overview

PRISM and Mapping Project Updates

The PRISM developers have completed the initial development of the new Sponsor Workbench, a Web-based application module that will be used by sponsors in 2013 to submit applications to RCO. We are developing a training plan for RCO staff to familiarize them with this new tool.

Training is scheduled to begin in October. Thanks to the Sponsor Workbench design team for help and assistance: Darrell Jennings, Kim Sellers, and Kat Moore.

We have three new mapping features that staff will be seeing shortly:

- **Project Search Map** – This feature is an update to our existing project search feature on the RCO home page. In addition to seeing the current charts and project lists, we will also show the search results on a map.
- **Pin-the-Point** – As part of the new Sponsor Workbench, we have developed a mapping tool that will allow sponsors to map the location of their projects just by dragging a worksite icon onto the map. This new feature will save grant managers hundreds of hours.
- **Dashboard Map** – When sponsors log into the Sponsor Workbench, they will see a map that shows the location of all of their projects that they are associated with or are associated with their organization.

2012 Salmon Recovery Grants

The 2012 salmon grant round closed in August with 146 applications received. Staff spent part of September reviewing applications. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board's scientific panel will review the projects in October with the board awarding grants in December.

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program** – For this other salmon grant program, staff have been working closely with partner agencies to get the additional $10 million dedicated by the Legislature to projects that remove fish passage barriers in small, privately owned forests. Recently 46 projects have been approved and are in the early stages of design for work next year. Several projects approved in previous years have been completed this summer.
- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** – For this other salmon grant program, 50 pre-proposals have been submitted and will be reviewed by a technical group to determine which projects should submit a full proposal. There are a lot of new projects being proposed this year with a broad distribution across Puget Sound and into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. There are also a number of shoreline projects this time around due to the emphasis by federal Environmental Protection Agency to fund beach restoration projects.

Habitat Work Schedule Contracting

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office has taken on full responsibility for managing the Habitat Work Schedule, which is an online data system that tracks and helps prioritize salmon recovery activities. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife managed this project until 2010, and then partnered with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in management through 2011. The system is funded through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is the first year that RCO received funds directly from the federal agency to fund and manage the system. It is unclear whether the Habitat Work Schedule will be fully funded in 2013, or whether the system will be

federally funded in 2014. GSRO is preparing a backup plan for maintaining the system if the funding decreases or diminishes.

Employee News

Nona Snell will join RCO on October 15 as the agency's policy director and legislative liaison. Nona comes to us with great depth of knowledge on our programs. For the past two years, she's been the policy director for the Washington State Treasurer's Office. But before that, she was the coordinator for the House Capital Budget Committee, where she oversaw RCO's capital budget. During her five years with the non-partisan staff for the House of Representatives, she served on both the Capital Budget and Appropriations Committees. Before coming to work in Olympia, she served as the senior finance associate for the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. She received her undergraduate degree in communications from Washington State University and her master's in public administration from The Evergreen State College.

Meetings with Partners

- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition** annual meeting – Marguerite Austin, Scott Robinson, Sarah Thirtyacre, and I attended the annual breakfast at which the Coalition recognized the Police Chief for the City of Mossyrock for her incredible efforts to apply for both a Washington Wildlife and Recreation (WWRP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant, ranking first in both categories. She in turn recognized the important role Sarah played in her success.
- **Washington Recreation and Park Association** board meeting in September. I briefed our partners on our budget proposals, update to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, new employees, grant evaluations, and new money awarded by the federal government for backcountry trails.
- **Yakima** – I spoke at the opening of Kiwanis Park. The City had received a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to build a ball field, parking, a skate park, a restroom, and pathways.

Other Work

Transition Talks

At our September 11 all staff meeting, we were joined by Stan Marshburn, the director of the Office of Financial Management. Stan spoke to staff about what we might expect to happen during the transition to a new Governor. Stan has been through several gubernatorial transitions so his insight made for a good discussion. Staff had an opportunity to ask questions and Stan did an outstanding job of relaying to us his experiences.

Trails Conference Set for October

The Washington State Trails Coalition is wrapping up the final conference details before the October 25-28 trails conference. The conference will bring together trail users, volunteers, and organizations, as well as trail facility managers (local, state and federal) from both Washington and Oregon. Some of the highlighted conference speakers include: Mickey Fearn, National Park Service deputy director (and former State Parks Commission member); Dr. John Crompton, a professor at Texas A&M University's Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Services; and Dave Hahn, professional mountain guide (14 Mount Everest summits), ski patroller, journalist, and lecturer. Conference and program information is available online at this link.

The conference is hosted by Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Foundation for Clark County. RCO continues to provide staff support before and during the conference, and I will moderate a panel discussion with state and federal agency directors.

Update on Sister Boards

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

The SRFB met September 19-20 in Port Angeles. They approved funds to include a video the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* report. Partner reports included a briefing on statewide accomplishments from the regional fisheries enhancement groups. The board later approved moving the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant requests for capacity from a biennial basis to an annual basis to help ensure the ongoing competiveness of the state's grant application. The board also enjoyed demonstrations of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's SCoRE Web site, and a preview of the *State of the Salmon in Watersheds* Web site. Puget Sound Partnership staff presented information about the *Action Agenda*, and the board engaged in a good discussion about knotweed control, beaver reintroduction, and bank stabilization.

On Day Two, the board enjoyed a great tour of several board-funded sites that demonstrated the work being done to recover salmon in the area, including the Elwha River Weir, Elwha River Engineered Logjam Project, and the Elwha River Dam Re-vegetation Support Project. All of these projects support the removal of the two dams that block fish from spawning up river. In the afternoon, sites included Railroad Bridge Park – and a discussion of projects in the vicinity – and Discovery Bay.

Washington Invasive Species Council

At its September 27 meeting, the council discussed changes to the state noxious weed list, a draft letter to the National Science Foundation on invasive species in school science kits, the second phase of the baseline assessment of priority invasive species in the Puget Sound Basin, and adoption of an online mapping system for Washington.

Staff recently participated in a regional meeting of invasive species experts and state's attorney generals to determine what regulations and policies are effective and needed to better combat the spread of zebra and quagga mussels in the West. One outcome of the meeting was a list of action items, several of which are to be carried out by the western invasive species councils. Staff also is continuing to track the tsunami debris issue, participating in conference calls among the western states and federal agencies. Since June, no invasive species-infested debris is known to have washed up on the West Coast.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The lands group completed with the publication of the *2012 Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast* report. The report gives maps and other information about 40 land acquisition projects proposed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission for the 2013-2015 biennium. Providing project information early in the acquisition planning process will help citizens, legislators, and state agencies make more informed decisions about state land acquisitions and encourage better coordination among state agencies. The report includes proposed project maps, proposed costs, proposed number of acres, proposed funding sources, project descriptions, intended uses, significance, links to plans, partners, and legislative districts. Tables provide quick access to regional information about proposed acquisition and disposal projects.

The report also includes proposed farmland preservation projects for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program in the 2013-2015 biennium, the approved properties planned for transfer through the Department of Natural Resources' Trust Land Transfer Program in the 2011-2013 biennium, and the Department of Transportation's wetland mitigation program.
RCO submitted a budget request on behalf of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to update the inventory of state-owned habitat and recreation lands. If approved for funding, the inventory will be GIS-based and Web-accessible. Legislators and others have requested a tool like this to give a statewide picture of what habitat and recreation land the state owns, including how much money has gone towards acquisitions in areas of the state. The tool will be useful for helping the Legislature and the public decide where investments in land should be directed. It also will help state land managing agencies prioritize future land purchases. We won't know for several months whether OFM will approve or deny this request.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2B**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Management Report: Fiscal Report
Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Periodic update of agency and program budgets, revenues, and expenditures

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Fiscal Reports

The attached financial reports reflect Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) activities as of August 31, 2012.

- Attachment A reflects the budget status of board activities by program.
- Attachment B reflects the budget status of the entire agency by board.
- Attachment C reflects the revenue collections. We are on track to meet our projections.
- Attachment D is a Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) summary. Since the beginning of this program, $596 million of funds appropriated in the WWRP program have been expended.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board - Activities by Program

For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 8/31/2012 (09/17/12) fm 14
Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3%

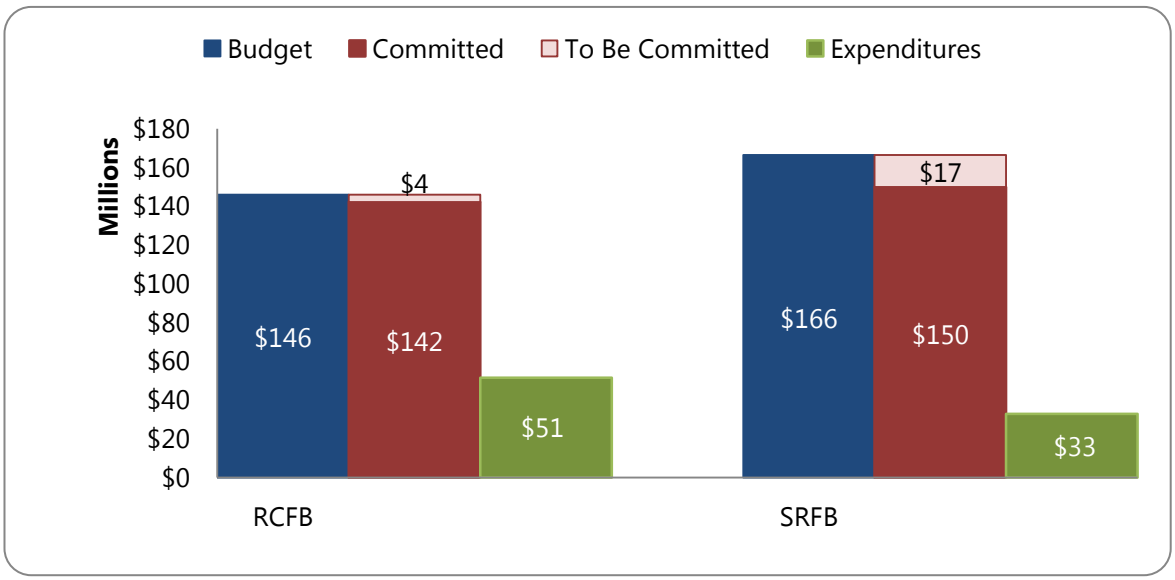
	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	new & reapp. 2011-13	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of committed*
Grant Programs							
WA Wildlife & Rec. Program (WWRP)							
WWRP Reappropriations	$57,695,035	$54,873,336	*95%*	$2,821,699	*4.9%*	$18,609,247	*33.9%*
WWRP New 11-13 Funds	40,740,000	40,674,475	*100%*	65,525	*0.2%*	14,950,110	*36.8%*
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)							
BFP Reappropriations	1,229,967	1,225,431	*100%*	4,536	*0.4%*	890,241	*72.6%*
BFP New 11-13 Funds	8,000,000	7,915,000	*99%*	85,000	*1.1%*	1,593,744	*20.1%*
Nonhighway & Off-Road Vehicle (NOVA)							
NOVA Reappropriations	3,343,066	3,146,831	*94%*	196,235	*5.9%*	920,841	*29.3%*
NOVA New 11-13 Funds	6,461,782	6,361,219	*98%*	100,562	*1.6%*	627,206	*9.9%*
Land & Water Conserv. Fund (LWCF)							
LWCF Reappropriations	3,082,701	3,082,701	*100%*	0	*0%*	2,070,556	*67.2%*
LWCF New 11-13 Funds	535,667	535,667	*100%*	0	*0%*	0	*0.0%*
Aquatic Lands Enhan. Account (ALEA)							
ALEA Reappropriations	3,866,016	3,866,016	*100%*	0	*0.0%*	1,171,558	*30.3%*
ALEA New 11-13 Funds	6,806,000	6,608,000	*97%*	198,000	*2.9%*	3,015,520	*45.6%*
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)							
RTP Reappropriations	1,831,778	1,831,778	*100%*	0	*0.0%*	1,831,778	*100.0%*
RTP New 11-13 Funds	2,624,325	2,624,325	*100%*	0	*0.0%*	305,758	*11.7%*
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)							
YAF Reappropriations	686,973	686,973	*100%*	0	*0.0%*	459,606	*66.9%*
Firearms & Archery Range Rec (FARR)							
FARR Reappropriations	616,194	218,489	*35%*	397,705	*65%*	143,767	*65.8%*
FARR New 11-13 Funds	365,000	334,715	*92%*	30,285	*8%*	184,307	*55.1%*
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)							
BIG Reappropriations	1,447,532	1,447,532	*100%*	0	*0%*	1,302,779	*90.0%*
BIG New 11-13 Funds	200,000	200,000	*100%*	0	*0%*	0	*0.0%*
Sub Total Grant Programs	139,532,034	135,632,487	*97%*	3,899,547	*3%*	48,077,019	*35.4%*
Administration							
General Operating Funds	6,455,280	6,455,280	*100%*	0	*0%*	3,379,894	*52.4%*
Grant and Administration Total	**145,987,314**	**142,087,767**	***97%***	**3,899,547**	***3%***	**51,456,913**	***36.2%***

Note: The budget column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Recreation and Conservation Office – Entire Agency Summary by Board

2011-13 Budget Status Report, Capital + Operating the Agency
For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 8/31/2012 (09/17/12) fm 14
Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3%

	BUDGET			COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New	Reapp.	new and reapp. 2011-13	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of committed*
Board/Program									
RCFB	$71,077,067	$74,910,247	$145,987,314	$142,087,767	*97.3%*	$3,899,547	*2.7%*	$51,456,913	*36%*
SRFB	$60,917,194	$105,508,039	$166,425,233	$149,889,453	*90.1%*	$16,535,780	*9.9%*	$32,880,555	*22%*
Invasive Species Council	$216,000	$0	$216,000	$216,000	*100.0%*	$0	*0.0%*	$81,232	*38%*
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	$601,705	**$0**	$601,705	$601,705	*100.0%*	$0	*0.0%*	$307,048	*51%*
Total	**$132,811,966**	**$180,418,286**	**$313,230,252**	**$292,794,925**	***93%***	**$18,498,007**	***6%***	**$84,725,748**	***29%***



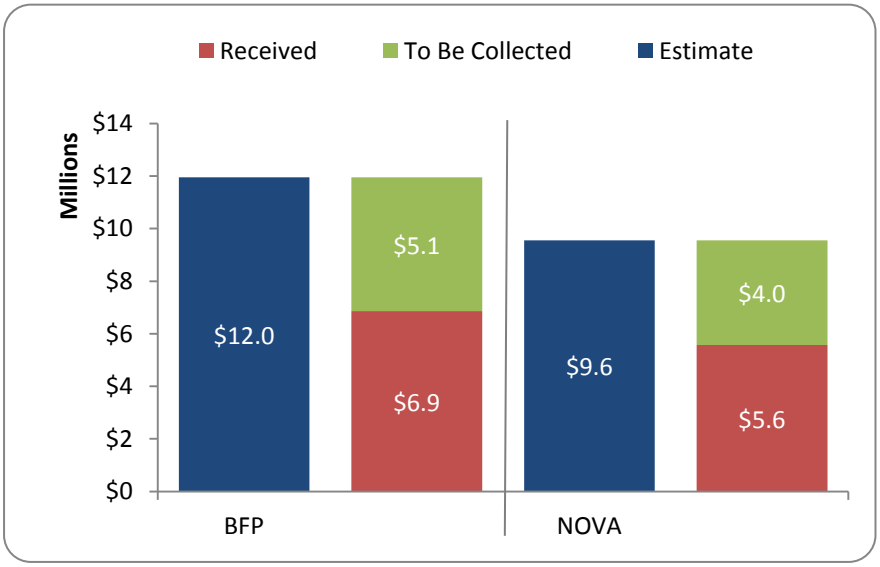
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board – Revenue Report

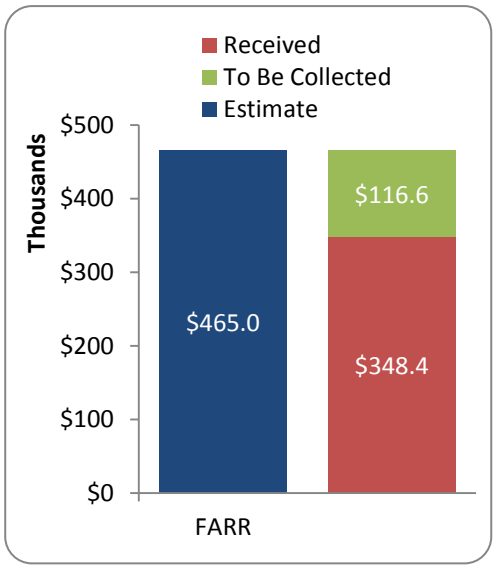
For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 8/31/2012 (09/17/12) fm 14

Percentage of biennium reported: 58.3%

We are on track to meet our projections.

Revenue	Biennial Forecast Estimate	Collections Actual	Collections % of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	$11,951,071	$6,859,265	57%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	9,558,944	5,568,113	58%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	465,000	348,384	75%
Total	**21,975,015**	**12,775,762**	**58%**





Revenue Notes:

Boating Facilities Program (BFP) revenue is from the unrefunded marine gasoline taxes.

Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA) revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of ORVs and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by ORV use permits.

Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR) revenue is from $3 each concealed pistol license fee.

This reflects the most recent revenue forecast of September 2012. The next forecast is due in November 2012.

RCFB – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Summary

1990 through September 17, 2012

History of Biennial Appropriations

Biennium	Appropriation
89-91 Biennium	$53,000,000
91-93 Biennium	61,150,000
93-95 Biennium	65,000,000
95-97 Biennium*	43,760,000
97-99 Biennium	45,000,000
99-01 Biennium	48,000,000
01-03 Biennium	45,000,000
03-05 Biennium	45,000,000
05-07 Biennium **	48,500,000
07-09 Biennium ***	95,491,955
09-11 Biennium ****	67,344,750
11-13 Biennium *****	40,740,000
Grand Total	**$657,986,705**

Notes to History of Biennial Appropriations:

* Original appropriation was $45 million.

** Entire appropriation was $50 million.
3% ($1,500,000) went to admin.

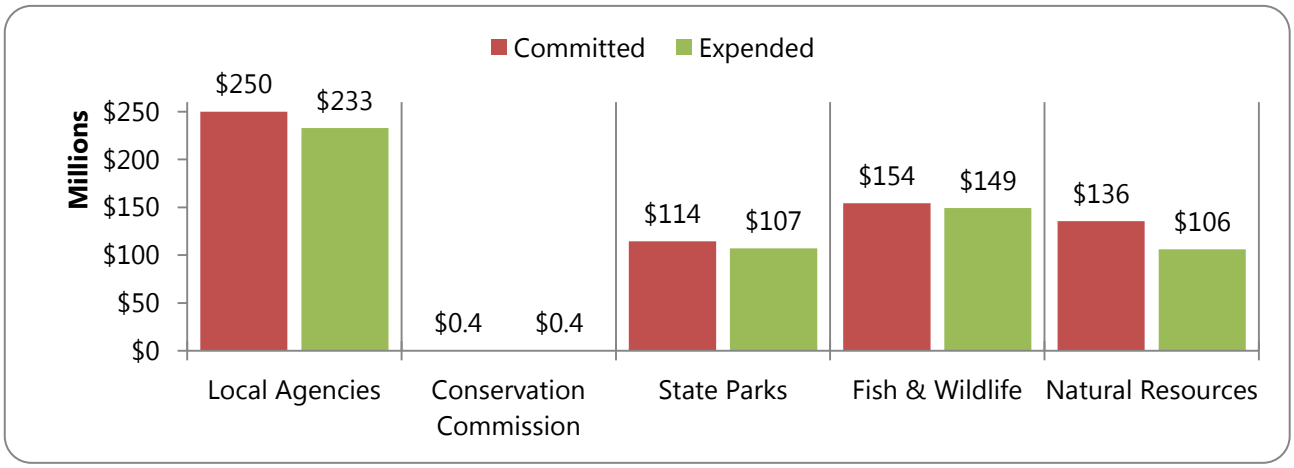
*** Entire appropriation was $100 million.
3% ($3,000,000) went to admin. Removed $981,000 with FY 10 supplemental, removed $527,045 with FY 2011 supplemental.

**** Entire appropriation was $70 million.
3% ($2,100,000) went to admin. Removed $555,250 with FY 2011 supplemental.

***** Entire appropriation was $42 million. 3% or $1,260,000 went to admin.

History of Committed and Expenditures, Since 1990

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	$249,864,150	$232,717,277	93%
Conservation Commission	$356,783	$356,783	100%
State Parks	$114,276,112	$107,126,150	94%
Fish & Wildlife	$154,232,146	$149,217,005	97%
Natural Resources	$135,635,279	$105,890,497	78%
Riparian Habitat Admin	$185,046	$185,046	100%
Land Inventory	$549,965	$549,965	100%
Sub Total Committed	**$655,099,481**	**$596,042,723**	**91%**



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2C**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Policy/Legislative Report

Prepared By: Steve McLellan, Policy Director and Legislative Liaison

Approved by RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

Periodic update of work being done by agency policy section

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Included in this report

- Legislative/Budget update
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Puget Sound Action Agenda
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group
- Invasive Species Council
- Boating "App"

Legislative/Budget Update

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) budget proposal, including funding for recreation and conservation grants as approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, was submitted to the Office of Financial Management on September 5. The Governor is due to release her budget proposal in mid-December with a review and revision by the incoming Governor in January. The November 15 revenue forecast update will determine the final levels of operating budget revenue and capital budget bonding capacity that will be used to develop the Governor's proposal. Staff will provide any applicable updates at the board meeting.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Update

RCO staff has been working with our consultant (Responsive Management) on a variety of issues related to developing the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which is due by June 2013.

- Surveys of recreation providers and participants are being implemented statewide. Both types of surveys should be completed by early November.
- To engage the public in developing the plan, Responsive Management is developing a web site for an internet town hall meeting at which the public can discuss outdoor recreation policy topics, and a web forum through which SCORP Advisory Group members can review documents, ask questions, and discuss the plan's development.
- Two members with a focus on trails have been added to the SCORP Advisory Group: Jon Knetchtel from the Pacific Northwest Trails Association and Bryan Phillippe from the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance have accepted the invitation to participate.
- Responsive Management hosted a meeting with RCO staff and is planning two external workshops – one for GIS experts and one for users of a GIS-based inventory – to develop the plan for using GIS to inventory recreation supply.

Trails Component

The RCO is scheduled to update its Trails Plan in the near future. To accomplish this, RCO has asked for federal funding from the National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program to add a trails component to the SCORP. Since time and funds are limited, this component will analyze the state's progress on trails since the last plan in 1991 and will set the stage for a more comprehensive plan in the future.

In the future, RCO wants to update the state trails plan on a regular cycle that would coincide with the SCORP schedule. Doing so would allow us to reduce costs by using the participation, supply, satisfaction and other data collected as part of the SCORP process. We also would conduct trail-focused research and outreach. A regularly updated trails plan that is connected to SCORP will bring more attention to the trails plan, help decision-makers better understand the most important trails issues in Washington State, and support strategic investments in trails statewide.

Puget Sound Action Agenda

The Puget Sound Partnership welcomed a new Executive Director, Col. Anthony Wright, in July. On August 9, the Puget Sound Leadership Council adopted the 2012 Action Agenda. The document emphasizes three strategic initiatives:

- Prevent pollution from urban stormwater runoff
- Protect and restore shorelines and salmon habitat
- Restore and re-open shellfish beds

The 2012 update of the Action Agenda is seen by the Puget Sound Leadership Council and others as a major improvement to the earlier document. The new document is more comprehensive and action-focused. Some noted improvements are:

- Regional recovery targets have been adopted to guide action
- Performance measures have been established and assigned to "owners" responsible for tracking progress
- Regional strategies and actions are aligned with recovery targets—incorporating progress, lessons learned, and new information since 2009
- Peer-reviewed, scientific information has been synthesized and incorporated

RCO staff has also provided information to the Partnership in preparation for the next State of the Sound report, which is due this month. Cost estimates for implementing the two-year actions in the Action Agenda will be included in the report. The Partnership expects the cost estimates to be used by the Ecosystem Coordination Board to conduct a funding gap analysis for the three strategic initiatives in the Action Agenda.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Lands Group has published the second Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast online at http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/hrlcg/2012BiennialStateLandAcquisitionForecast.pdf. The report compiles maps and other information about the habitat and recreation land acquisition projects proposed for funding by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff is now beginning work on the annual report that is submitted to the Office of Financial Management and the legislature.

RCO has submitted a budget proposal to the Office of Financial Management to fund an update to the state's public land inventory, as well as a web-based interface to allow easier access to this information for policymakers and citizens. This proposal directly addresses one of the statutory tasks of the Lands Group that was made optional last session due to budget cuts.

Invasive Species Council

The Washington Invasive Species Council has begun working on the second phase of its baseline assessment project. This work focuses on understanding the distribution, management and impacts of 15 priority invasive species or species groups in the Puget Sound Basin. Some of the species to be included are Eurasian watermilfoil, parrotfeather, invasive knotweeds, and infectious salmon anemia. While much of the focus is on the effect of invasive species on salmon recovery, the analysis will also consider the risks posed by invasives to broader habitat conservation efforts.

Boating "App"

Earlier this year, the RCO received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to update the agency's boating website, which lists facilities available to boaters, and to create a mobile "app" to provide boaters with the information. Policy staff is leading an agency work team on this project, and doing significant outreach to the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA), the Washington Boating Alliance (WBA), and state providers of boating facilities (e.g., the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and the Department of Natural Resources). Local government and port-managed facilities will also be included. Staff anticipates data will be collected this fall with a "beta" version of the mobile "app" available for testing by spring 2013.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2D**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Management Report: Grant Management Report
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary
Periodic update of work being done by the agency's Recreation and Conservation Section and the Compliance Specialist.

Board Action Requested
This item will be a:
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Included in this Report
- 2012 Grant Cycle Comes to an End
- Technology Update
- Federal Grant Program News
- Compliance Update
- Trails Conference
- Project Administration

2012 Grant Cycle Comes to an End

Project Evaluation

Staff members have been working with applicants to ready their proposals for the following programs:

Grant Programs	Number of Projects	Grant Requests	Applicant Match	Total
Boating Facilities Program	30	$11,223,692	$5,098,031	$16,321,723
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	92	$10,931,820	$5,497,221	$16,429,041
Recreational Trails Program	77	$5,339,302	$7,161,827	$12,501,129
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	13	$913,446	$820,506	$1,733,952

Evaluations took place the weeks of September 24 and October 1. These projects will come to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) for approval in June 2013.

These evaluations complete the 2012 grant cycle. This cycle saw more than 140 applicants submit over 500 applications; 427 of these applications were ultimately evaluated and ranked for funding (others were withdrawn for a variety of reasons). The total amount of money requested for these 427 projects was $167.6 million. With match, their total value was $296.4 million.

Technology Update

The design and development of a new online application workbench is nearly complete. This feature will guide applicants through the application process in a step-by-step fashion and allow them to pinpoint their project on a map (a time consuming step now done by RCO staff). Staff is testing the system, and final modifications of this feature will take place in October and November. It will be rolled out for use by applicants to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in early 2013, with the rest of the RCO grant programs using the new system in the following year.

RCO fiscal staff has added their reimbursement workshops to our online training tools. Now sponsors can go online to the RCO website at their convenience to view the presentations and contact fiscal staff if they have questions. More information is in the Director's Report (Item #2A).

Federal Grant Program News

Recreational Trails Program Grants

A few weeks ago, we received word that Congress had authorized more than $440,000 in additional funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). As a result, on September 20, the director approved grant awards to finish funding several partially funded projects and to fund additional alternate projects on the list the board approved in November 2011. There are now a total of 51 projects funded with 2012 RTP grant funds (Attachment A).

The additional funding supports program administration and grants for development, maintenance, and education projects associated with trails that provide a backcountry experience. The total RTP funding for federal fiscal year 2012 is $1.9 million.

Compliance Update

Staff completed the May Creek Trail conversion in the City of Renton. This conversion was a result of widening of Coal Creek Parkway. It was a minor conversion approved by the director a few years ago. The City of Renton worked to finish the conversion process to avoid being penalized in the scoring for its current Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application, which would replace the pedestrian bridge at Riverview Park.

Project Administration

This table summarizes the outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects currently being administered by staff:

- Active projects are under agreement.
- Staff is working with sponsors to place the "Board Funded" and "Director Approved" projects under agreement.[1]

In addition, staff has several hundred funded projects that they monitor for long-term compliance.

Program	Active Projects	Board Funded Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	14	0	0	**14**
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	25	0	1	**26**
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	3	0	0	**3**
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	6	0	0	**6**
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	8	0	3	**11**
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	66	0	14	**80**
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	83	0	0	**83**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	129	0	1	**130**
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	3	0	0	**3**
Total	**337**	**0**	**19**	**356**

Attachments

A. Recreational Trails Program Grants

[1] When the board approves ranked lists of projects, it also delegates authority to the director to approve contracts for eligible project alternates as funds become available.

Recreational Trails Program Grants

The following symbols highlight the projects that received funds from the recent federal authorization:

- ✶ Project was partially-funded and will receive full funding.
- ✚ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved full funding.
- ▪ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved partial funding.

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
Recreational Trails Program – General Category					
✶11-1217M	EarthCorps	Dutch Miller Gap Trail Maintenance	$31,975	$10,860	$42,835
✶11-1233M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Snoqualmie Pass to Blewett Pass SM Trail Grooming	$49,910	$199,643	249,553
✚11-1325D	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Tiger Mountain Trail Footbridge Development	$75,000	$225,000	$300,000
✚11-1409M	USFS WNF Entiat RD	Entiat & Lake Wenatchee Snowmobile Trail Maintenance -2012 & 2013	$64,800	$159,200	$224,000
✚11-1218M	EarthCorps	Backcountry Site Maintenance	$38,294	$33,376	$71,670
✚11-1234M	State Parks	I-90 Corridor Nordic Ski Trail Grooming	$21,889	$87,556	$109,445
✚11-1374M	King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks	Tolt-MacDonald Trail Rehabilitation	$26,300	$36,707	$63,007
✚11-1235M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Mt. Spokane Nordic Ski Trail Grooming	$7,423	$29,695	$37,118
✚11-1189M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Mt. Baker Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$15,744	$62,979	$78,723
✚11-1230M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Taneum-Manastash Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$19,768	$79,074	$98,842
✚11-1194M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Okanogan Highlands Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$8,398	$33,594	$41,992
✚11-1231M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Stemilt-Colockum Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$8,227	$32,912	$41,139
✚11-1232M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Chelan Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$18,563	$74,253	$92,816
▪11-1345D	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District	Lake Serene Trail Rehabilitation	$53,562	$23,282	$76,844
11-1308M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Front Country Trail Maintenance	$75,000	$375,000	$450,000
11-1307M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Backcountry Trail Teams	$75,000	$223,000	$298,000

✶ Project was partially-funded and will receive full funding.
✚ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved full funding.
▪ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved partial funding.

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
11-1253M	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	Pacific Northwest Trail North Cascades Youth Crew: 2012	$70,089	$72,500	$142,589
11-1420M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Nason Ridge Trail System	$42,000	$42,200	$84,200
11-1326M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Chelan Uplake Trails 12	$75,000	$66,000	$141,000
11-1255M	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Mountains to Sound Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$75,000	$150,000
11-1328M	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Walker Valley ORV Maintenance and Operation 2012	$69,500	$39,000	$108,500
11-1305M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Youth Trail Maintenance Support	$25,000	$50,300	$75,300
11-1324M	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Anderson Lake State Park Trails 2012	$15,000	$17,000	$32,000
11-1404M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Entiat Ranger District - Wilderness Non-Motorized Trails 2012-13	$73,000	$71,740	$144,740
11-1287M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District	Methow Valley Ranger District Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$75,000	$73,720	$148,720
11-1437M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Multi-Use Trails Maintenance	$60,000	$62,300	$122,300
11-1223M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Darrington Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$50,000	$50,000	$100,000
11-1254M	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	Pacific Northwest Trail Olympic Youth Crew: 2012	$70,911	$72,000	$142,911
11-1259M	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Volunteer Trail Maintenance 2012	$29,000	$82,500	$111,500
11-1432M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Wildhorse and Whitepine Trails Maintenance and Operation	$38,000	$49,100	$87,100
11-1293M	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Snoqualmie-White River Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$115,000	$190,000
11-1186M	EarthCorps	2012-13 EarthCorps Wilderness Trail Maintenance	$35,425	$35,456	$70,881
11-1288M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Sawtooth Backcountry Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$12,050	$8,250	$20,300
11-1221M	Nooksack Nordic Ski Club	Salmon Ridge Ski Trail Maintenance 2011-2013	$21,300	$19,900	$41,200
11-1249M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$64,805	$139,805

✶ Project was partially-funded and will receive full funding.
✚ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved full funding.
▪ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved partial funding.

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
11-1196M	Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District	Gifford Pinchot National Forest Wilderness Trails Maintenance 2012	$39,757	$39,768	$79,525
11-1294M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Evans Creek ORV Maintenance and Operation 2012	$75,000	$69,000	$144,000
11-1222M	Northwest Glacier Cruisers	Mt Baker Trail Grooming and Maintenance	$62,000	$9,959	$71,959
11-1342M	Jones Creek Trail Riders Association	Jones Creek ORV Trail Maintenance	$20,000	$10,000	$30,000
11-1229M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Greenwater-Naches-Ahtanum Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$50,484	$201,938	$252,422
11-1226M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	South Cascades Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$20,304	$81,218	$101,522
		Sub-Total General	**$1,843,673**	**$3,164,785**	**$5,008,458**
Recreational Trails Program – Education Category					
✶11-1412E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	USFS Snoqualmie Pass Winter Education Patrol	$10,000	$10,111	$20,111
+11-1279E	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Minimum Impact Recreation 2012	$10,000	$2,500	$12,500
+11-1212E	Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mt Adams Ranger District	Gifford Pinchot National Forest Snow Ranger 11-12	$10,000	$13,385	$23,385
11-1248E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Snoqualmie Volunteer Ranger Program 2012	$10,000	$36,835	$46,835
11-1382E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Winter Trail Patrol 2012-2013	$10,000	$26,000	$36,000
11-1188E	Washington Water Trails Association	Water Trail SEA Kayaker Team Educators	$5,000	$7,500	$12,500
11-1338E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt Baker Ranger District	Mountain Stewards 2012	$10,000	$13,500	$23,500
11-1339E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt Baker Ranger District	Mt. Baker Climbing Rangers 2012	$10,000	$8,594	$18,594
11-1281E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Wilderness Education 2012	$10,000	$10,500	$20,500
11-1408E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Lake Wen - Entiat Snow Ranger 2012	$10,000	$19,720	$29,720
		Sub-Total Education	**$95,000**	**$148,645**	**$243,645**
		TOTAL	**$1,938,673**	**$3,313,430**	**$5,252,103**

✶ Project was partially-funded and will receive full funding.
+ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved full funding.
▪ Project was a board alternate; the director has approved partial funding.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2E**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: RCO Performance and Applicant Survey Approach

Prepared By: Rebecca Connolly, Accountability Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Highlights of agency performance related to the projects and activities funded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

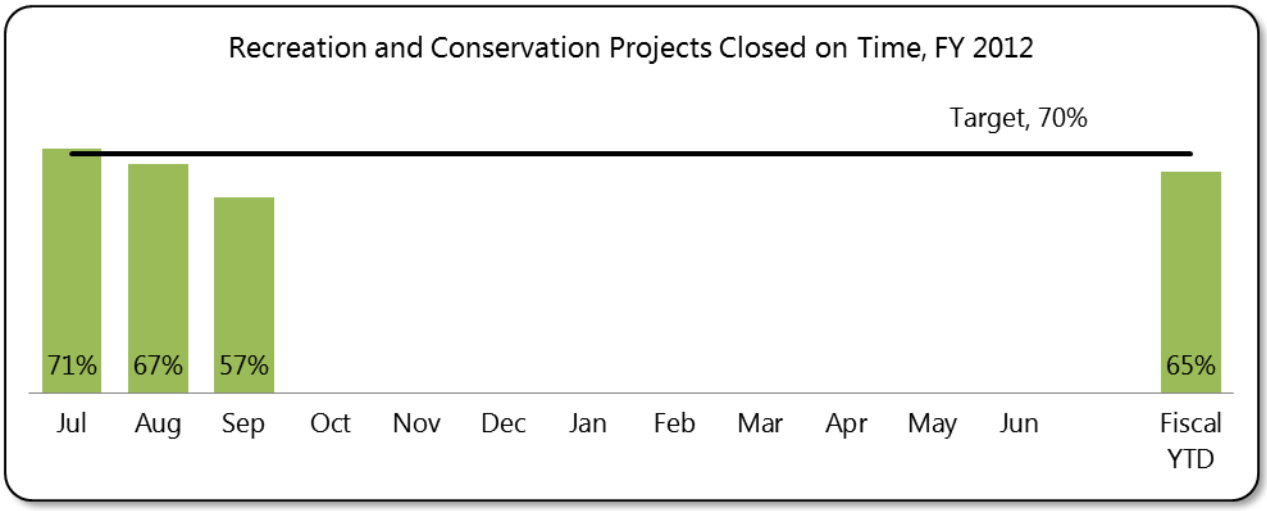
Grant Management Measures

All data are for recreation and conservation grants only. Data are as of October 1, 2012.

Measure	Target	FY 2013	Indicator
1. Percent of recreation/conservation projects closed on time	70%	57%	🟡
2. Percent of project agreements issued within 120 days after the board funding date	75%	94%	🟢
3. Percent of projects under agreement within 180 days after the board funding date	95%	100%	🟢
4. Fiscal month expenditures, recreation/conservation target *(target 60% expenditure for 40% reappropriation)*	33% As of FM 14	31% As of FM 14	🟢
5. Bills paid within 30 days: recreation/conservation projects	100%	58%	🔴

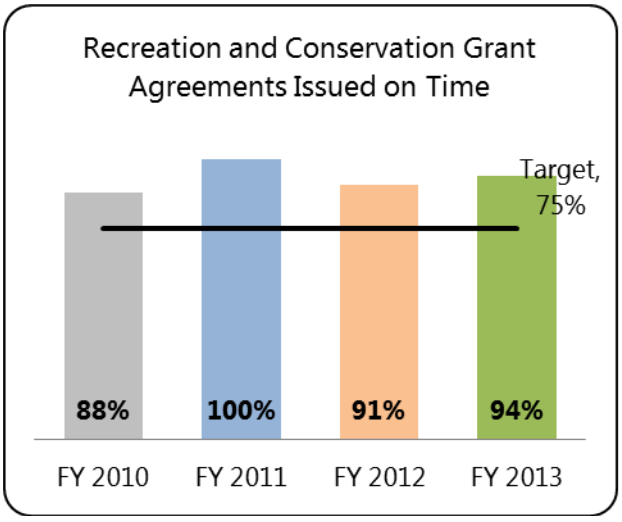
Notes and Analysis

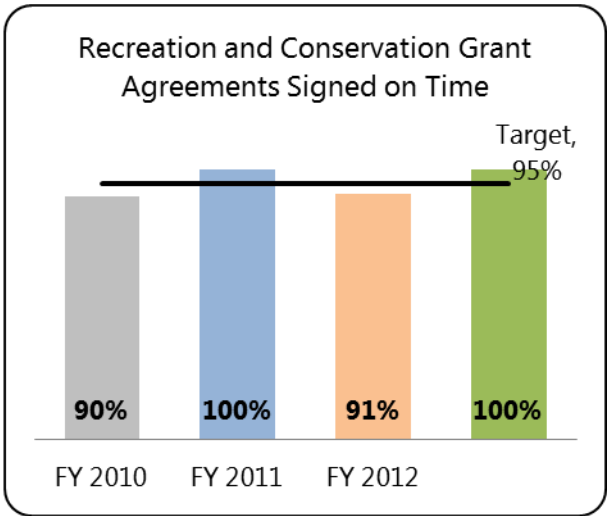
Projects Closed On Time



The data reflect 17 projects due to close in this fiscal year; seven in July, three in August, and seven in September. Of the seventeen, eleven closed on time and one closed late. The other five remain active for a variety of reasons. Sponsors have begun the final reports for three of the five projects. This performance, while below our stretch target, is typical of performance during an application and evaluation cycle.

Project Agreements Issued and Signed on Time

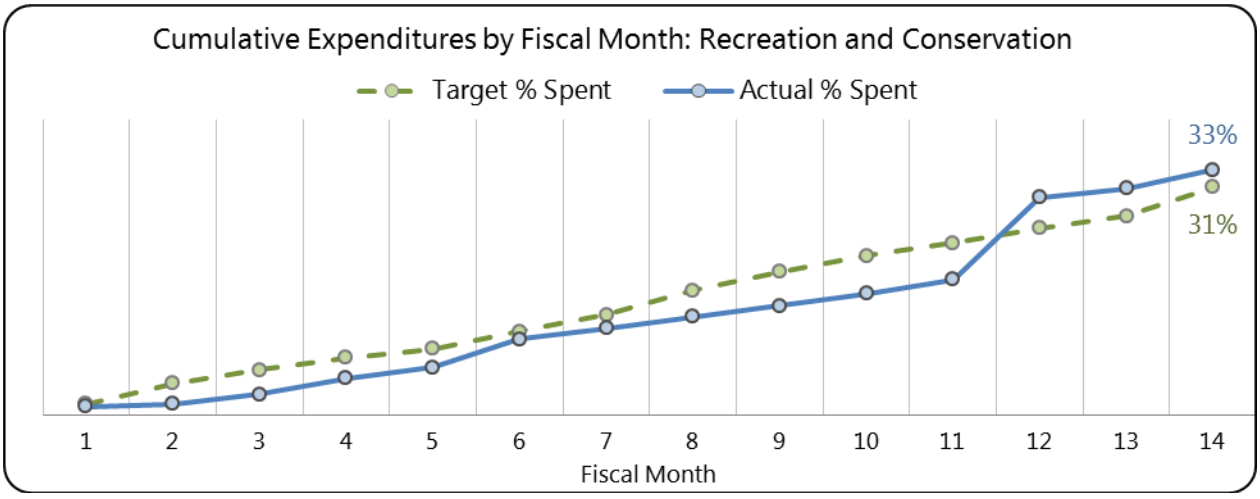




Staff members make a strong effort to place grants under agreement. The measure for fiscal year 2013 reflects Recreational Trails Program grants that were approved by the director in May following federal funding authorization[1]. The board approved these projects in November 2011.

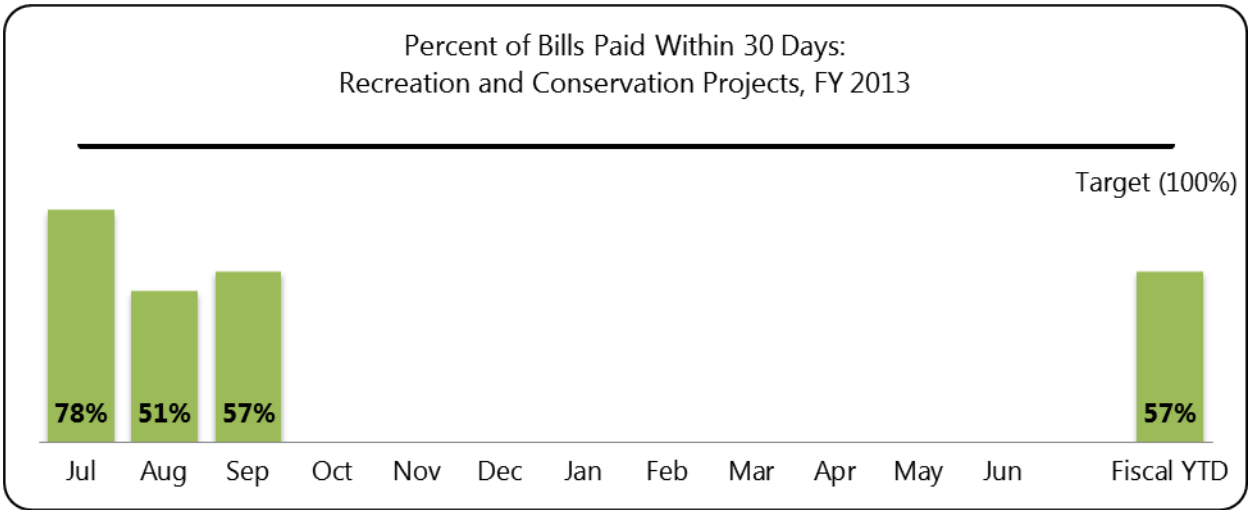
[1] The measure includes director-approved RTP grants. The board had previously approved the list of projects pending federal grant funding.

Fiscal Month Expenditures



The agency has set a stretch target of expending 60 percent of its allotments in this biennium; the previous target was only 50 percent. Expenditures for recreation and conservation grants are ahead of the target as of fiscal month 14 for recreation and conservation programs, although the gap between the target and actual figures has narrowed in the last two fiscal months. The same is true for the agency overall.

Bills Paid within 30 days



Paying bills on time continues to be a challenge. Between July 1 and October 1, there were 246 invoices due for recreation and conservation projects; of those, 141 were paid on time and 52 were paid late. Fifty-three are outstanding. Some require additional documentation. Forty-one of the invoices are from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks. The end of the fiscal year typically results in these agencies sending a large number of invoices to the RCO for processing. Grant managers are balancing their review of invoices with project evaluation. The average number of days to pay a bill is 19; the median is 15.

Time Extensions

The board's adopted policy for progress on active funded projects requires staff to report all requests for time extensions and subsequent staff actions to the board.

Time Extension Requests – Director Approved

Since the beginning of the biennium, the RCO has received some requests to extend projects. Staff reviewed each request to ensure compliance with established policies. The following table shows information about the time extensions granted by quarter, as of September 25, 2012.

Quarter	Extensions Approved	Number of Repeat Extensions	Average Days Extended	Number Closed to Date
Q1	15	9	275	5
Q2	21	11	183	6
Q3	15	7	199	2
Q4	9	5	159	1
Q5	12	6	218	0

Reviewing the Grant Application and Evaluation Process

In 2012, RCO staff implemented a number of changes to the grant application and evaluation process. These changes were intended to streamline the process for both applicants and staff. Changes included the use of online tools, replacing some in-person reviews and evaluations with written reviews/evaluations, and shortening the timeframes. All of the changes were discussed with the board in 2011, and staff conducted considerable outreach to affected stakeholders before the grant round.

The RCO will evaluate those changes by surveying three groups: applicants, evaluators, and grant managers.

- The applicant survey will use questions that are fundamentally similar to the questions used in the 2010 applicant survey. Doing so will allow the RCO to compare applicant satisfaction more accurately. The survey will, however, also include questions that target the changes made in the 2012 process. The survey focuses on the ease and objectivity of the process, the availability and clarity of information, our use of technology, and overall experience.
- The evaluator survey will ask our volunteer evaluators about their experience. The survey will focus on the clarity of the criteria, the scoring tools, the process for evaluating projects, and the evaluation format.
- The staff survey will focus on the internal processes and systems needed for the grant round.

Data will be collected and analyzed in the fall of 2012 so that changes can be considered and developed during 2013.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **3**

Meeting Date: September 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Framework

Prepared By: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director

Approved by the Director:

Summary

At its October meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) will be asked to adopt the ranked lists of projects for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). Per RCW 79A.15, the board must submit these lists to the Governor by November 1, 2012. This memo summarizes the WWRP grant process and outlines the decisions that the board must make.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

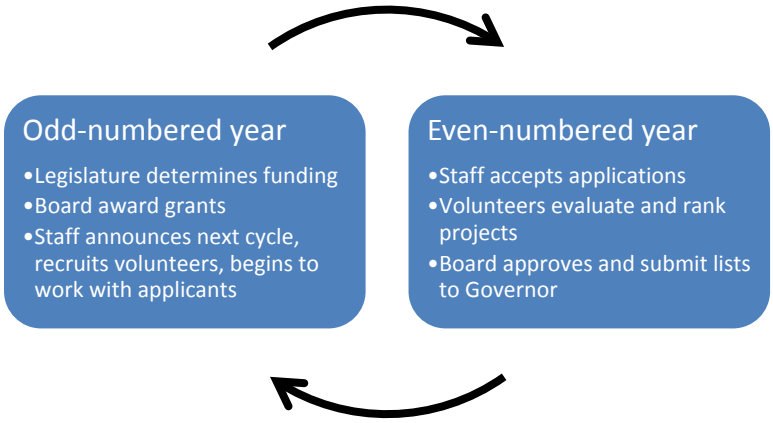
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grants are used to purchase, develop, renovate, and/or restore parks, open space, farmland, and habitat areas. The program is divided into four accounts and eleven categories, as shown in Attachment A.

WWRP grants are made to state agencies, local governments, and tribes. Qualified conservation non-profit organizations and salmon recovery lead entities also are eligible in some categories.

The WWRP grant process can be summarized as shown in the graphic. The process is described in detail below.



Preparing for the 2012 Grant Cycle

In early 2011, staff sent notices to potential applicants reminding them that they needed to update their comprehensive plans to establish eligibility for the WWRP grant round.

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteer recruitment began in fall 2011 with emails, press releases, personal phone calls, and information on RCO's web site. Stakeholders and other interested organizations supported our efforts by including the notices in their newsletters and other publications. Staff spent a considerable amount of time recruiting volunteers to conduct project reviews and evaluations, and fill vacancies on our Farmland Advisory committee. In addition, RCO created four new advisory committees for categories within the Outdoor Recreation Account[1].

Altogether, RCO recruited 190 volunteers to help with the 2012 cycle. Volunteers included federal, state, and local agency representatives, citizens, scientific experts, and representatives of organizations interested in parks, recreation, and habitat conservation.

The time and expertise our volunteers commit to reviewing and evaluating grants helps to ensure a fair and open process.

Announcement of 2012 WWRP Grant Cycle

In August 2011, RCO staff began advertising the 2012 grant cycle. Press releases were developed and information was posted on the agency web site. The director and section managers spoke to many groups, and potential applicants were notified via email and personal contact by their grant manager.

In December 2011, staff announced the date for the RCO grant information workshop. Staff posted the announcement on the RCO web site and sent it to thousands of individuals, agencies, and organizations.

Application and Evaluation Process

Application Workshops

On January 31, 2012, staff conducted an online grant workshop. During the 2 hour workshop, staff outlined the types of grants available, described the application, review, and evaluation processes, and answered questions. More than 325 individuals attended the virtual workshop.

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[1] The September 2011 *Streamlining the Grant Application Process* memorandum, describes the plan to create standing advisory committees for the Local Parks, State Lands Development, Trails, and Water Access categories.

It is estimated that RCO saved about $25,000 by conducting the workshop online rather than traveling to various locations around the state.

Grant Manager Site Visits

From fall 2011 until the project review meetings in May/spring 2012, grant managers met with many applicants on site to review their projects, conduct pre-award inspections, and discuss eligibility and grant program requirements.

Application Deadline

The RCO received 184 WWRP applications requesting more than $127 million by the May 1, 2012 deadline. Nine projects were later withdrawn by applicants or terminated by RCO staff because they were either ineligible or missed established deadlines. The board will be considering 175 projects on the ranked lists.

Project Review Meetings

RCO staff and teams of volunteers held 16 WWRP project review meetings in May and June. Project review was available to 153 projects in nine WWRP categories[2]. Although participation remained optional, applicants submitted 148 projects for review. These meetings gave applicants an opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback on the technical merits of the proposal and suggestions about ways to refine the project scope, design, cost estimates, and presentation. Staff once again offered a web-based system of review to reduce or eliminate travel costs for applicants.

After project review, grant mangers sent their comments and those of the reviewers to each applicant outlining application items that needed additional work, along with a schedule of key deadlines. Most applicants revised their grant proposals based on comments and recommendations made during the project review meeting. All changes were completed by the technical completion deadline, which varied by category.

Project Evaluation Meetings

During the months of June, July, and August, volunteer teams evaluated 175 proposed WWRP projects.

Evaluations in four WWRP categories (State Lands Development and Renovation, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, Natural Areas and Urban Wildlife Habitat) were conducted through a written process. All others were in-person. At the in-person evaluations, applicants

[2] Project review is not done in the Natural Areas and Urban Wildlife Habitat categories.

had 20 to 30 minutes to present their project, respond to the board adopted evaluation criteria, and answer evaluators' questions. Evaluators scored each criterion for each project.

After the evaluations, staff tabulated the overall scores for each project, reviewed the results with the evaluation teams and advisory committees, and made the preliminary ranked lists available to applicants and the public via the web.

Comments

RCW 79A.15.110 requires state and local agencies to review proposed acquisitions with the county or city legislative authority that has jurisdiction over the project area[3]. The local legislative body may submit a letter to the board stating its position about the project. Staff will make these letters available to the Governor and Legislature.

The opportunity for the public to comment occurs at the October board meeting. Any public correspondence received by the RCO in advance of the board meeting will be provided to the board.

Board Action Required in October 2012

In October, staff will ask the board to approve the ranked list for each category. By law, the board must approve ranked lists of WWRP projects for each of the eleven funding categories and submit the lists to the Governor no later than November 1.

Ranked Lists and Alternates

Items 4A through 7E present a preliminary ranked list of projects for each WWRP category, information about the category and evaluation, and a brief summary of each proposal. The ranked lists include the project number, name, applicant, total score, grant request, match amount, and total amount. The far right column of the list shows the cumulative grant amount.

Policy states that the board will submit alternate projects for each account. The alternates must total 50 percent of the dollar amount requested for each category, with no fewer than six alternates when possible. The amount of funding for 2013-15 is still unknown, so projects are not marked as alternates on the ranked list.

To help ensure an adequate list of alternates at the $90 million level requested by the board, staff recommends that the board submit the complete ranked list of approved projects for each category.

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[3] A state or local agency shall review the proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under RCW 79A.15.120, 79A.15.060, and 79A.15.070.

Next Steps

Legislative Approval

The Governor submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add to or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation level and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the Governor, but cannot add to or re-order the list.

Final Approval

The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Until the WWRP appropriation is known, it is difficult to predict exactly which projects will receive funding. For example, statute requires that the Local Parks category allocate 50 percent of the funds in that category for acquisition projects, which may result in skipping higher-ranked development projects to meet the acquisition requirement. All parties are cautioned to not consider the lists approved by the board at the October 2012 meeting to be final.

Attachments

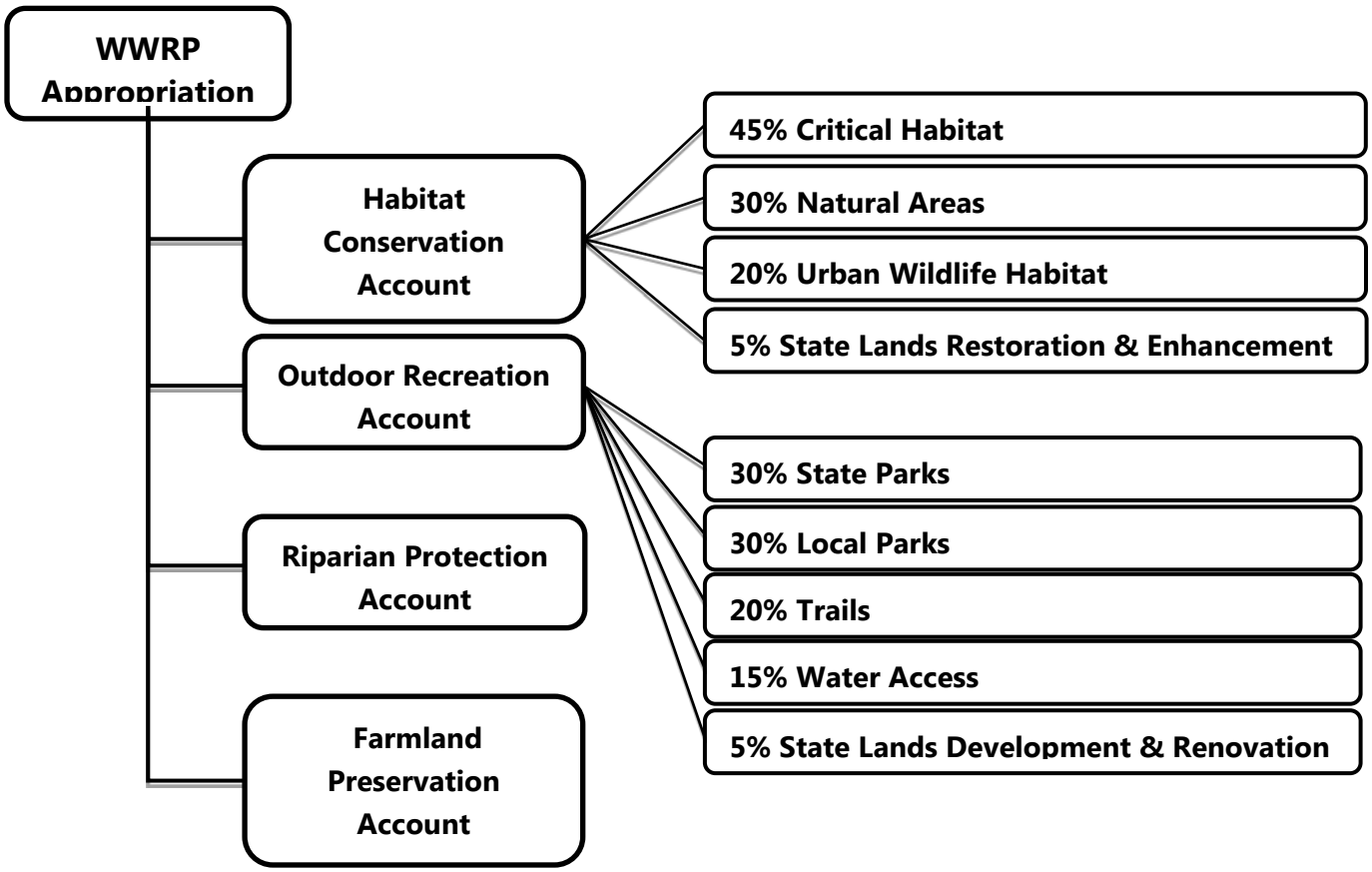
A. Allocation of WWRP Funds
B. Letters Regarding Project Proposals

Allocation of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Funds

Allocation by Account (Set by Statute)

ACCOUNT	***WWRP APPROPRIATION***		
	Under $40 million	**$40 - $50 million**	**Over $50 million**
Habitat Conservation Account	50%	$20M *plus* 10% of amount over $40M	$21M *plus* 30% of amount over $50M
Outdoor Recreation Account	50%	$20M *plus* 10% of amount over $40M	$21M *plus* 30% of amount over $50M
Riparian Protection Account	0%	40% of amount over $40M	$4M *plus* 30% of amount over $50M
Farmland Preservation Account	0%	40% of amount over $40M	$4M *plus* 10% of amount over $50M

Allocation by Category within Accounts (Set by Statute)



Letters Regarding Project Proposals

These attachments include only letters addressed to the board or evaluation committees, and may reflect support or opposition to a project.

Local Parks Category

- Cougar Creek Woods Park Acquisition
- John Ball Park Acquisition
- Cashmere Riverside Park Improvements (2 letters)

Trails Category

- Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2

Water Access Category

- Cedar Grove Road Acquisition and Development

FELIDA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O.BOX 61552, VANCOUVER, WA 98666

April 16, 2012

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

The Felida Neighborhood Association (Felida NA) Board of Directors, Felida NA Parks Committee, and Cougar Creek Woods Community Park Committee, fully support the **Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation**'s (VCPR) application for a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant -- for reimbursement of acquisition of the Cougar Creek Woods Community Park located within Felida NA. This grant would provide funding for acquisition, conservation and proactive preservation of diminishing land suitable for public parks for current and future generations in Clark County.

Suitable land for parks within developed areas is rapidly diminishing. Felida NA Board, Felida NA Parks and Cougar Creek Woods Community Park Committees congratulate VCPR and Clark County for seizing a rare opportunity for a strategic, economical, and effective investment in land now identified as Cougar Creek Woods Community Park. The value added and benefits to the public are hard to quantify. However, this land provides: suitable terrain for active play; enhances connectivity and trail access; open space, outdoor recreation; volunteer opportunities; and community gathering place for many generations. The purchase of this site demonstrates professional expertise, strategic planning, and efficient and effective public service performance.

The Felida NA Board, Committees, and a network of volunteers and stakeholders encourage you to award the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant to VCPR. Felida NA encompasses a large geographic area with 17,000 members. Felida NA belongs to the Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County (NACCC) and partners with stakeholders from private, public, and nonprofit sectors countywide. Approximately 1,500 Felida NA members actively volunteer to build, maintain, conserve, and protect public parks countywide.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me: (360)573-4030, e-mail at gaudeamus@earthlink.net, or P.O. Box 61552, Vancouver, WA 98666.

Sincerely,

Milada Allen

Dr. Milada Allen, President Felida NA on behalf of:

Felida Neighborhood Association (Felida NA) Board of Directors
Felida NA Parks Committee, Jamie Allen and Becky Lillie Co-Chairs
CCWP Committee, Glen Owen, Karen Owen, and J.R. Ralston Co-Chairs

Hough Neighborhood Association

18 April 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding board members:

Historic Hough Neighborhood is a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly part of the city of Vancouver. One of only three neighborhoods on Washington State's Heritage Register, our neighborhood is a living part of the history of Southwest Washington. A great asset to us is John Ball Park, which has evolved from a former school site to a center of activity for the residents of our neighborhood. On any given day, we see children laughing on the playground, elementary aged kids playing soccer, people walking dogs, teens gathering to gossip and play basketball, and business men meeting at lunch to play catch. The park is truly part of our history, and a piece of our legacy to future Vancouver residents.

Hough Neighborhood Association is encouraged by the city's efforts to obtain a grant offered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board that would reimburse a portion of the purchase price to the city. We agree that if the grant is approved, it will encourage further acquisition of open space, halt the spread of urban sprawl, preserve habitat for wildlife, and create safe and dynamic meeting places for citizens. We offer our support of the grant, as it establishes a permanent and productive gathering area for our historic neighborhood. The grant would make it possible for the City of Vancouver to use reimbursed Park Impact Fees to acquire more public land for parks and recreation purposes.

As you well know, green space is very limited in many of our cities. Access to open land has been shown to positively affect the health and vitality of residents who live nearby. We hope you consider the grant for John Ball Park, the City of Vancouver, and all the residents herein.

Thank you.

Eileen Cowen
Melissa Tiefenthaler
Co-Chairwomen, Hough Neighborhood Association

Olympia Office:
316 Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40412
Olympia, WA 98504-4012
Phone: (360) 786-7622
Fax: (360)786-1266

Washington State Senate

Senator Linda Evans Parlette

Senate Republican Caucus Chair
12th Legislative District

District Office:
625 Okanogan, Suite 301
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 663-9702
E-mail: Linda.Parlette@leg.wa.gov
Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

July 3, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members, c/o
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

As the Washington State Senator for the 12th Legislative District, I am writing in support of the City of Cashmere's grant application to the Recreation Conservation Office for improvements to Cashmere's Riverside Park.

Cashmere's Riverside Park is a multi-functional regional park, which serves as a hub of organized and recreational activities for the communities of Cashmere, Monitor, Dryden, Peshastin, Leavenworth, Chelan County and surrounding school districts. The Park supports events such as Founder's Days and Apple Days. This grant would fund several park improvements including a concrete skate park, public restrooms, improved parking lots, playground renovation and two open grass picnic and recreational areas.

Riverside Park is more than a place of recreation; it also provides region-wide economic benefits. The park is a hub for Wenatchee River rafting in North Central Washington and this project will improve access to the River. Rafting trips historically bring 10,000-15,000 users into the region annually who often stay overnight in the area and purchase meals and souvenirs.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of Cashmere's Riverside Park improvement grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, or if I can be of assistance in any way.

Best regards,

Linda Evans Parlette

LINDA EVANS PARLETTE
Washington State Senator
12th Legislative District

Committees: Health & Long-Term Care • Rules • Ways & Means

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
12th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
MIKE ARMSTRONG

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

TRANSPORTATION
RANKING MEMBER

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
APPROPRIATIONS & OVERSIGHT

PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

RULES

July 5, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

As the Washington State Representative for the 12th Legislative District, I am writing this letter in support of the City of Cashmere's application to the Washington State Recreation Conservation Office for grant funding for the improvements to Riverside Park located in Cashmere. In general the project improvements include 2 new public restrooms, a concrete skate park, 2 improved paved parking lots, 2 large grass and recreation areas and other Park support amenities. The proposed improvement will also improve public access to the Wenatchee River.

This proposed project will meet crucial Mid Wenatchee Valley recreational needs. Riverside Park is a community regional Park that provides multi-functional recreational activities such as fishing, rafting, kayaking, picnic and family use, soccer, softball for the communities of Cashmere, Monitor, Dryden and Chelan County. This park is also utilized for community events such as Founder's Day and Apply Days.

Also, Riverside Park provides region-wide economic benefits to North Central Washington. Riverside Park is a hub for Wenatchee River rafting and kayaking. On average 10,000 to 15,000 rafters and kayakers utilize Riverside Park annually. Most of these Park users, who come here, are from Western Washington. These users sometimes stay in local hotels shop in the region and buy souvenirs in the Mid Wenatchee Valley Region.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of Cashmere's Riverside Park improvements grant application. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Mike Armstrong

Mike Armstrong
State Representative
12TH Legislative District

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: 425-B LEGISLATIVE BUILDING • PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7832
TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Fog Horn Ditch Company
PO Box 534
Winthrop, WA 98862

September 23, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Subject: PRISM Project #12-1122D - Susie Stephen's Trail Phase 2

The Fog Horn Ditch (FHD) strenuously objects to RCO's Evaluation Ranking and recommended funding of PRISM Project #12-1122D - Susie Stephen's Trail Phase 2 (SST).

The FHD is a historic irrigation ditch, which has been in constant operation for over 100 years. FHD holds Quit-Claim deeded ownership to land including a 30 foot wide strip of land for the Ditch and maintenance equipment access, in a major section of the SST's planned location. The Quit-Claim deed was executed in 1933 and recorded with the Okanogan County Auditor.

When the Town acquired its trail right-of-way properties, it erroneously acquired land previously deeded by Quit-Claim to FHD. The plan included with the Town of Winthrop (Town) application for grant funding locates a major portion of the SST adjacent to or within FHD's ditch right-of-way due to adjacent steep, rocky terrain. This trail location places the Ditch's operation in jeopardy.

FHD has not given the Town permission to use FHD's deeded right-of-way. FHD does not plan to provide an easement, lease, or non-revocable agreement to the Town given the Town's inability to take substantive and comprehensive measures to mitigate FHD concerns regarding the increased liability risk and operations cost from the construction, maintenance, and use of a public trail adjacent to and crossing the irrigation canal.

The Town has been unable, over a three-year period, to provide substantive evidence of progress in addressing FHD's concerns regarding the economic jeopardy that the SST proximity creates for FHD. There is a lack of evidence that the operation and maintenance of the trail will not interfere with the ability of FHD to operate and maintain its ditch as it has done for the last 100 years.

Given the added construction and maintenance expense of building an ADA compliant public access trail in steep, rocky terrain, and the design and construction expense for two bridges crossing the Ditch, better alternative trail locations exist which have cheaper construction costs, move pedestrian and bike traffic off the highway more effectively, and don't jeopardize FHD's operation.

At a broad level the Town's operating style, characterized by a lack of responsiveness and failure to meet commitments would be disastrous on a trail construction or maintenance issue that interrupts delivery of water to the irrigation shareholders during the growing season. The Town's inability to provide timely, reasonable and substantive responses and the underlying risk of potential serious problems resulting from the Town's casual operational style versus the very immediate needs of FHD during the growing season is of extreme concern to FHD.

> The key issues underlying this project: Property interest conflicts; Unaddressed Ditch operations and maintenance concerns; No substantive evidence regarding the Town's progress in addressing FHD's concerns; and The Town's casual operational style – In aggregate create an untenable situation for FHD.
>
> Therefore, FHD requests that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board remove Project #12-1122D - Susie Stephen's Trail Phase 2 from the WWRP Trail Projects list recommended for fiscal 2014 funding.

Beyond the objection to the RCO Board, FHD will take whatever steps are available to protect the Ditch's economic viability given the property conflicts, liability risks and operational problems caused by the SST proximity to the Ditch.

The detailed narrative of FHD's objection is attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dale Sekijima
Danny Yanarella
Bob Gronninger

Fog Horn Ditch Trustees

Transmitted via email

FOG HORN DITCH COMPANY
OBJECTION TO PHASE 2
OF THE SUSIE STEPHEN'S TRAIL
PROJECT #12-1122D

Summary

The Fog Horn Ditch (FHD) strenuously objects to RCO's Evaluation Ranking and recommended funding of PRISM Project #12-1122D - Susie Stephen's Trail Phase 2 (SST).

With the property interest conflict described in this document, in FHD's opinion the Town of Winthrop (Town) does not have property tenure and control of a trail right-of-way and can not legally complete the SST project under the current contract with RCO or the pending application.

Further, no Agreement exists setting forth the terms, obligations, and responsibilities by which the Town and FHD will work together to accomplish planning, design, construction and maintenance of the SST a multipurpose public access trail, within, adjacent or in close proximity to the FHD irrigation system and FHD's property, right-of-way, and easement.

There has been no substantive evidence of progress by the Town in addressing FHD's concerns regarding the economic jeopardy that the SST proximity creates for FHD. This despite FHD's numerous attempts to engage the Town in addressing these matters over a three year period. Thus FHD has no concrete assurance and commitment from the Town that the operation and maintenance of the trail will not interfere with the ability of FHD to operate and maintain its ditch as it has done for the last 100 years.

At a broad level the Town's operating style, characterized by a lack of responsiveness and failure to meet commitments would be disastrous for a trail construction or maintenance issue that interrupts delivery of water to the irrigation shareholders during the growing season. The Town's inability to provide timely, reasonable and substantive responses and the underlying risk of potential serious problems resulting from the Town's casual operational style versus the very immediate needs of FHD during the growing season is of extreme concern to FHD.

> The key issues underlying FHD's objection to this project: Property interest conflicts; Unaddressed Ditch operations and maintenance concerns; No substantive evidence regarding the Town's progress in addressing FHD's concerns; and The Town's casual operational style – In aggregate create an untenable situation for FHD.
>
> Therefore, FHD requests that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board remove Project #12-1122D - Susie Stephen's Trail Phase 2 from the WWRP Trail Projects list recommended for fiscal 2014 funding.

The FHD Objection is organized in the following sections:

- Property Interest Conflicts
- Trail Design, Construction and Location Conflicts
- Additional Comments

Property Interest Conflicts

FHD is a historic ditch company operating an irrigation system including a main ditch and various laterals that have been in continuous operation for over 100 years, servicing various irrigation needs on land on the west side of the Methow River between Winthrop and a point roughly 5 miles south of Winthrop.

FHD holds Quit-Claim deeded ownership to land including a 30 foot wide strip of land for the Ditch and maintenance equipment access. The Quit-Claim deed was executed in 1933 and is recorded in the office of the Okanogan County Clerk (Vol 81, page 434, #292253)[1]. The section of the Ditch covered by the Quit-Claim extends from the point of intersection of the Ditch with the south boundary of the NE quarter of Section 11, Township 34, Range 21 to the Ditch's intersection with the north boundary of the same quarter section[2].

FHD holds a prescriptive easement in areas of the Ditch system not covered by the right-of-way deed. See, *Chewuch Canal Company v. Schuh and Elden*, Okanogan County Superior Court Cause No. 09-2-00699-9, Decision on Motions for Summary Judgment, Jan. 26, 2011.

Thus, FHD has a 30-foot deeded right-of-way for the ditch section covered by the Quit-Claim deed and a prescriptive easement for sections not covered by the deed. Given the 30-foot express grant, it is reasonable to assign the same width to the prescriptive easement.

FHD wants to ensure its Quit-Claim deeded right-of-way and prescriptive easement for sections not covered by the right-of-way deed are preserved and protected.

The Town plans to locate a portion of phase 2 of the SST specified in the application for funding as a public access, 12-foot wide, asphalt paved, multipurpose, ADA compliant, non-motorized use trail; in close proximity to the Ditch. The SST right-of-way is 20 feet in most sections. The Town's purchased right-of-ways overlap the Ditch's right-of-way and easement in numerous locations along the planned location of the SST. These overlaps include 2 bridge crossings over the ditch, 2 Ditch lateral crossings, and at numerous points along the Ditch due to the adjacent steep, rock terrain[3].

FHD has not given the Town permission to use FHD's deeded right-of-way. FHD does not plan to provide an easement, lease, or non-revocable agreement to the Town.

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[1] Refer to Attachment 1, the Quit-Claim deed.

[2] Refer to Attachment 2, Okanogan Tax sifter map annotated with section line information

[3] Refer to Attachment 3, three page map of Ditch section covered by Quit-Claim deed

These Facts Give Rise To The Following Property Interest Conflicts

1. The Town's acquired right-of-ways for the SST are in conflict with the 30-foot wide strip of land owned by FHD for the Ditch right-of-way in numerous locations. When the Town acquired its SST right-of-way properties, they acquired land previously deeded to FHD.

2. When the Town acquired its trail right-of-way properties on the Akker parcel, the Town took title to land subject to FHD's prescriptive easement along the Ditch[4]. Given the 30-foot right-of-way explicitly defined in the above Quit-Claim Deed, FHD strongly argues that a 30-foot prescriptive easement is appropriate. There are several points on the Ditch, covered by the prescriptive easement, where the trail right-of-way is inside the prescriptive easement and in one area the trail right-of-way reaches to the Ditch center line.

   Conflicts exist to the extent the Trail would have adverse impacts on or would interfere with the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Ditch as these activities have historically been carried out. Under the doctrine of reasonable enjoyment of the easement, the trail cannot interfere with those activities.

3. The Town does not hold a lease or non-revocable use agreement with FHD and the Trail is unable to cross the Ditch in the section covered by the deeded right-of-way.

With the above facts and the property interest conflicts, in FHD's opinion the Town does not have property tenure and control of the trail right-of-way and can not legally complete the SST project under the current contract with RCO or the pending application.

Trail Design, Construction And Trail Location Conflicts

No detailed, trail and bridge design drawings, engineering plans or construction plans are available for Phase 2 of the SST. Therefore, FHD can not be assured that the stability of the irrigation ditch will not be jeopardized by trail construction, use and maintenance.

The Town's purchased right-of-ways overlap the Ditch's right-of-way and easement in numerous locations along the planned location of the SST. These overlaps include 2 bridge crossings over the ditch, 2 crossings of Ditch laterals, and at numerous points due to the adjacent steep, rock terrain.

Normal Fog Horn Ditch operations and maintenance work and unscheduled emergencies, includes any combination of the activities found in the Attachment titled "Operations and Maintenance of the Fog Horn Ditch"[5]. Depending on the condition of the ditch, the time available, the current budget, the critical need for a repair operation and availability of the

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[4] Refer to Attachment 2

[5] Refer to Attachment 4, 'Operations and Maintenance of the Fog Horn Ditch'

needed equipment and resources. Work may occur at any point in the year anywhere in the ditch right of way and easement.

From information available, numerous trees within the FHD right-of-way and easement will be cut down, removed, topped, or trimmed.

From information available, Trail construction will include excavation of the ditch toe in the vicinity of the bridge crossings.

The Town has communicated they have taken reasonable measures to address the Ditch's liability issue: Taking the route of right of way ownership rather than easement, citing RCW 4.24.210, and citing coverage under the Town's insurance policy.

FHD's response to the Town's above communication is: RCW 4.24.210 not withstanding, under the "attractive nuisance doctrine," a landowner may be held liable for injuries to children trespassing on the land if the injury is caused by a hazardous object or condition on the land that is likely to attract children who are unable to appreciate the risk posed by the object or condition. The doctrine can be argued to hold landowners and easement/right of way holders liable for injuries caused by an open irrigation ditch on the property of the landowner. FHD must be assured that all FHD and FHD shareholder liability is eliminated during and at any time following construction for: 1) personal injury of trail users 2) property damage and/or personal injury caused by a ditch failure resulting from construction, presence on, or use of the trail. Subsection (4) of RCW 4.24.210 gives every injured person a chance to get around and avoid the immunity as is clear from the annotations to this Section.

<u>These Facts Give Rise To Design, Construction And Location Related Conflicts</u>

The right-of-way overlap makes it apparent conflicts between the SST and the Ditch exist to the extent the SST would have adverse impacts on or interfere with the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Ditch as these activities have historically been carried out.

Liability:

The proximity of the SST, a public access trail located immediately adjacent to and crossing the Ditch greatly increases the risk of access to the Ditch and potential injury or drowning. Trail construction, use, and maintenance also increases the risk of Ditch failure resulting in property damage and/or personal injury.

The Town has communicated they have taken reasonable measures to address the Ditch's liability issue: Taking the route of right of way ownership rather than easement, citing RCW 4.24.210, citing coverage under the Town's general liability insurance policy and providing fencing and signage.

These are important steps, but not sufficient and/or sufficiently detailed. FHD has requested the following Liability protection from the Town:

1. RCW 4.24.210 may protect the Town but does not shield FHD from liability or the risk of having to defend themselves from a lawsuit. Indemnification and hold harmless language needed is: "Under RCW 4.24.210 for sections of the SST that are within FHD fee land or prescriptive easement, FHD shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to users of the SST. The Town shall also defend, indemnify costs, legal and other expenses, and hold harmless FHD, its trustees, shareholders, successors and assigns from all claims, loss, liability, suits or damages of every kind, nature and description directly or indirectly arising out of the construction, maintenance, use and occupancy of the SST. Provided that this indemnification shall not pertain to any claims, loss, or liability, suits or damages that arise as a direct result of the acts of FHD on FHD's property or within FHD's prescriptive easement".
2. The Town will maintain FHD as a named insured on a liability policy held by the Town.
3. A fence barrier along the entire length of the trail within the side of the SST right-of-way closest to the Ditch. The purpose of the barrier is for reasonable management of trail users and pets. Fencing shall consist of a spit rail fence approximately 6 feet high with 6 gauge 4"x4" galvanized wire mesh or equivalent for the lower 4 feet plus low growing vegetation or a similar barrier as FHD may deem necessary. The fence and vegetation shall not be located within the FHD right-of-way and easement.
4. Legally sufficient signage (RCW 4.24.210(4)). The purpose is to prevent trail users from parking and/or trespassing on FHD property, right-of-way and easement.

SST Is Adjacent To The Ditch In Many Areas And Two Bridges Cross The Ditch:

Trail placement within the Town's right of way but too close to the Ditch may result in construction which significantly weakens ditch integrity if:

- an acceptable trail surface slope were to be achieved by excavation which might undercut the ditch bank; and/or
- large trees, which anchor the ditch wall in the area of the proposed northern footbridge, were cut or removed.

Increased risk of water interruption exists due to material falling into the ditch during Trail construction in close proximity to the ditch or construction steps that weaken the ditch shoulders. Such construction could result in blocking water flow and in a blowout or Ditch wall collapse.

Where the trail is located above the ditch, designs for trail grade, slope and materials are especially important to minimize erosion of trail surface material and soil, as well as to protect against increased water runoff into the ditch.

Where the trail is located below the ditch, the Ditch's structural stability is of concern.

- Cutting or removal of trees on or near the Ditch shoulder and wall and excavation which weakens the Ditch wall can result in substantial leakage and/or failure of the wall. This failure may occur at some time after the initial excavation and construction, particularly in the case where trees have been cut and failure occurs at some point in the future due to diminished Ditch wall integrity resulting from the decaying tree stumps.
- Damage may occur to the trail surface or trail infrastructure due to the seepage of water resulting from excavation for trail construction of the existing sub-irrigated nature of Ditch sections where the surrounding land is below the Ditch. Remedying water seepage may require extensive excavation, installation of drainage systems, or other abatement steps. These conditions create an unknown logistical and financial impact on FHD's ability to maintain and operate the Ditch.

Inadequate SST design, construction or operation creates operational conflicts

- Impedance of water flow and Ditch damage from SST users' ability to enter or throw objects into the Ditch
- Damage to Ditch from plowing snow or other winter debris from the SST into the Ditch, Ditch right-of-way and easement
- Construction that significantly weakens Ditch integrity by creation of a trail surface slope that might undercut the Ditch bank; and/or cutting or removing large trees, which anchor the Ditch wall within the FHD 30-foot right-of-way and easement.
- Increased risk of water interruption due to material falling into the Ditch during SST construction in close proximity to the Ditch or construction steps that weaken the Ditch shoulders. Such construction could result in blocking water flow and in a blowout or Ditch wall collapse.
- Increased water runoff into the Ditch and erosion of trail surface material and soil where the trail is located above the Ditch, and designs for SST grade, slope and materials are insufficient to minimize, as well as to protect against such impacts.
- Bridge design that limits access to the Ditch or impedes maintenance work

Ditch Operations and Maintenance conflicts arise from Trail location and bridge design

Conflicts exist to the extent trail and bridge design or trail construction material does not allow adequate access to the Ditch right-of-way and easement.

Access to the ditch for operations and maintenance work is gained at any point in the work site area which affords reasonable entry and exit of the equipment and resources involved. Access is from and to either side of the ditch, to a height above the ditch needed to accommodate the necessary equipment, and along the ditch right of way and easement. Equipment performing work may be located inside the ditch, on or off the

ditch banks as dictated by the topography, and in some cases beyond the ditch right of way and easement given landowner permission.

Additional Comments

1. Given the added construction and maintenance expense of building the specified 12 foot wide, asphalt paved trail in steep, rocky topography, and the design and construction expense for two bridges crossing the Ditch, better alternatives exist which have cheaper construction costs, move pedestrian and bike traffic off the highway more effectively, and don't jeopardize FHD's operation.

2. FHD strongly recommends consideration of alternative phase 2 trail locations on State Route 20's east side to move people between businesses. All the retail businesses in the area covered by phase 2 are on the East side of Highway 20. Human nature, being what it is, will result in people continuing to walk on the highway shoulder, the shortest distance, between businesses rather than crossing the highway at one of the two access points to a trail located on the highway's west side, following the trail to the other access point, crossing the highway a second time and walking to the destination business.

3. To FHD's knowledge:
   - There is no long term budget or plan for funding SST maintenance.
   - There is no contingency plan in the Town's RCO application if funding is inadequate to finish Phase 2 of the SST.

   Incomplete construction or a poorly maintained trail has potentially serious negative impacts on FHD's ability to operate and maintain the ditch.

4. At a broad level the Town's operating style, characterized by a lack of responsiveness and failure to meet commitments would be disastrous for a trail construction or maintenance issue that affects delivery of water to the irrigation shareholders for even a small number of days. Water interruption during critical parts of the growing season will cause crop failure which, in this fragile economy, may well put an agricultural operation out of business.

   The Town's inability to provide timely, reasonable and substantive responses and the underlying risk of potential serious problems resulting from the Town's casual operational style versus the very immediate needs of FHD during the growing season is a major concern for FHD and its shareholders.

QUIT-CLAIM DEED

Vol 81 p. 434
292263

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 26th day of May A. D. 1933

between A. Hutchison and Laura Hutchison, husband and wife,

of the County of Okanogan and State of Washington

part.ies of the first part, and The Fog Horn Ditch Company, a Corporation

of the County of Okanogan and State of Washington

part.y of the second part;

WITNESSETH, That the said part.ies of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten and 00/100 - DOLLARS, Gold Coin of the United States, to them in hand paid by the said part.y of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, by these presents remise, release, and forever quit-claim unto the said part.y of the second part, and to their ~~heirs and~~ assigns the following described tract, lot, or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Okanogan State of Washington, particularly bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

A strip of land 30 feet wide for right-of-way for the Fog Horn Ditch in its present location, across the following described property: ~~The NE¼ of Section 11, Township 34, North of Range 21, E.W.M.~~ The parties of the first part retain the right to pasture said land.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances hereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, All and singular, the said premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said part.y of the second part, and to their ~~heirs and~~ assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said part.ies of the first part ha.ve hereunto set their hand.s and seal.s the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Alonzo Hutchison [SEAL]

Laura Hutchison [SEAL]

[SEAL]

[SEAL]

Attachment 2

Okanogan County Washington

Self Service Government MapSifter

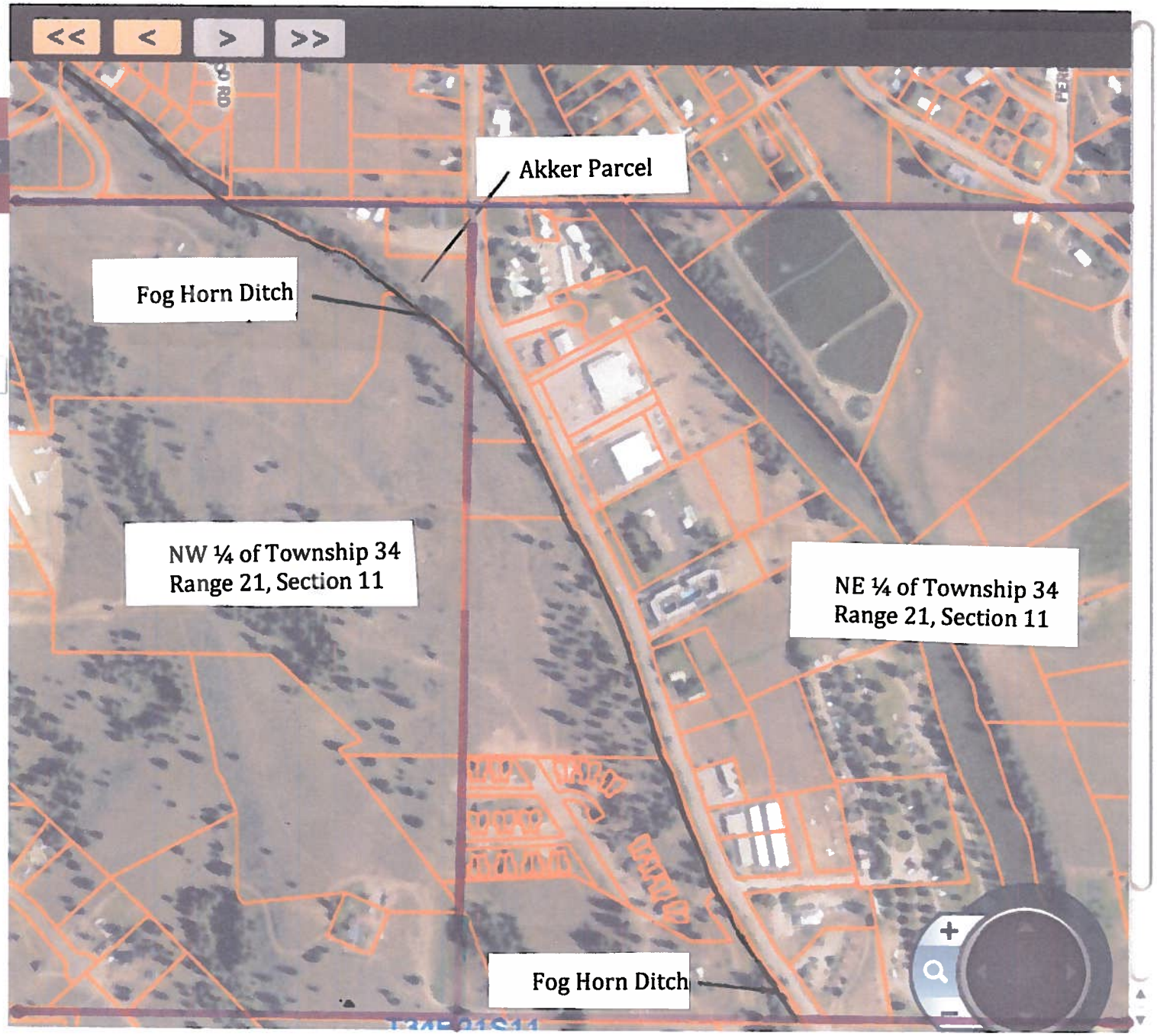
Search

Examples:

Parcel: 1250110000

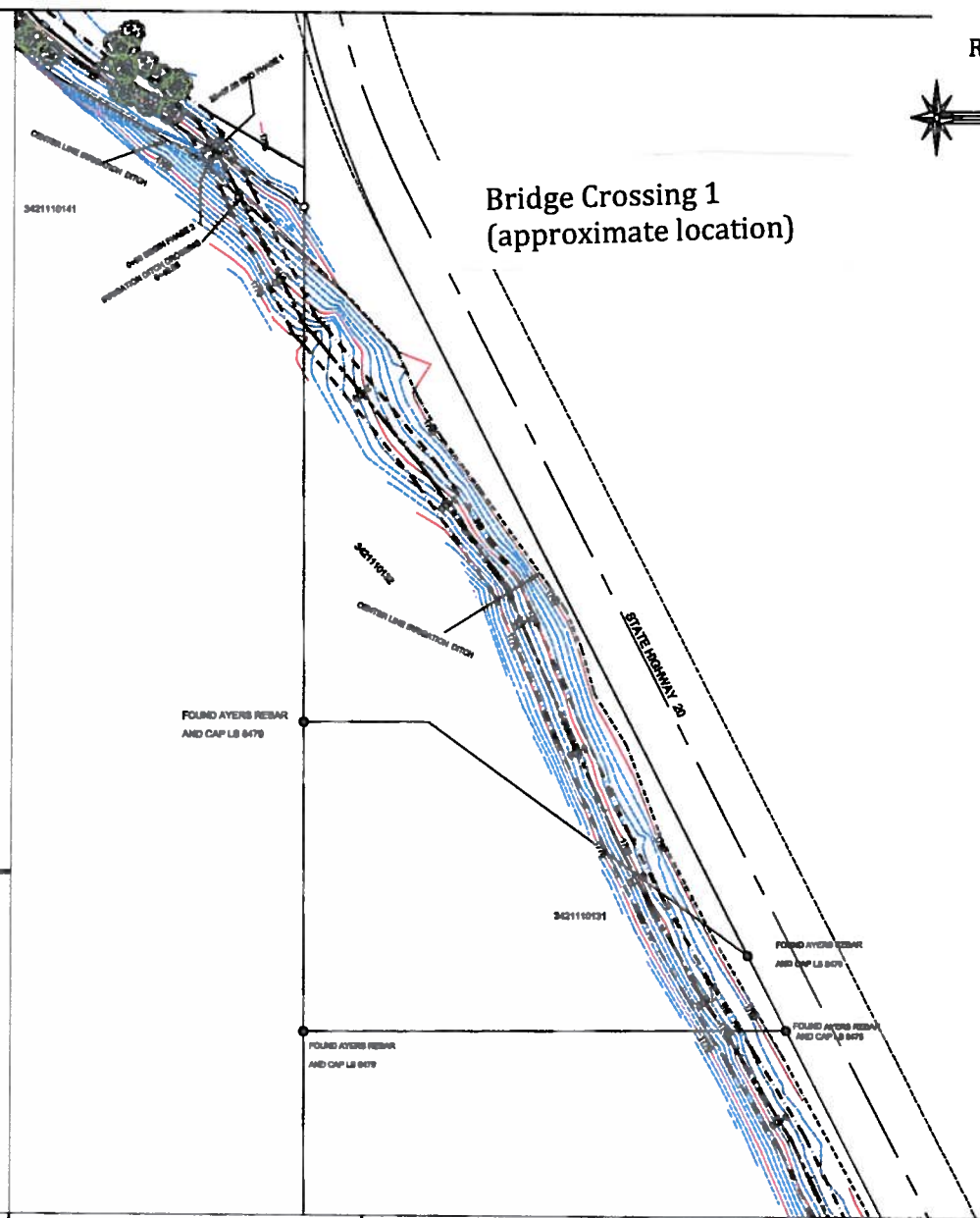
Address: 149 3rd Ave

Owner: Jackson



RIGHT OF WAY EXHIBIT FOR CITY OF WINTHROP

PHASE 2



LEGEND

- SET 5/8" REBAR AND CAP LS 37608
- FOUND REBAR AS NOTED
- FOUND MONUMENT AS NOTED
- CALCULATED, NOT SET

EQUIPMENT & PROCEDURES

EQUIPMENT: GTP 8200A TOPCON ROBOTIC TOTAL STATION

PROCEDURES: INITIAL CONTROL ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTIONAL TRAVERSE METHODS. PROCEDURES MEET OR EXCEED W.A.C. 332-130-090.

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE A.F.N. _____

FILED FOR RECORD THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 200_,
AT _____ M. IN BOOK ____ OF SURVEYS AT PAGE(S) _____
AT THE REQUEST OF TACKMAN SURVEYING PLLC.

INDEX LOCATION

SECTION 11
T.34N. R.21E., W.M.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

THIS MAP CORRECTLY REPRESENTS A SURVEY PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECTION IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SURVEY RECORDING ACT AT THE REQUEST OF CITY OF WINTHROP IN NOV OF 2009.

WILLIAM R. TACKMAN
STATE OF WASHINGTON
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
EXPIRES _____

TACKMAN SURVEYING
LAND SURVEYING - CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT
LAND DEVELOPMENT
1112 HWY. 20
P.O. BOX 631 WINTHROP, WA. 98862
PH. (509) 996.3409

CLIENT: CITY OF WINTHROP
DATE: 02/01/2010
DWG:
PROJECT:09-108

SHT 1 OF 3

RIGHT OF WAY EXHIBIT FOR CITY OF WINTHROP

PHASE 2

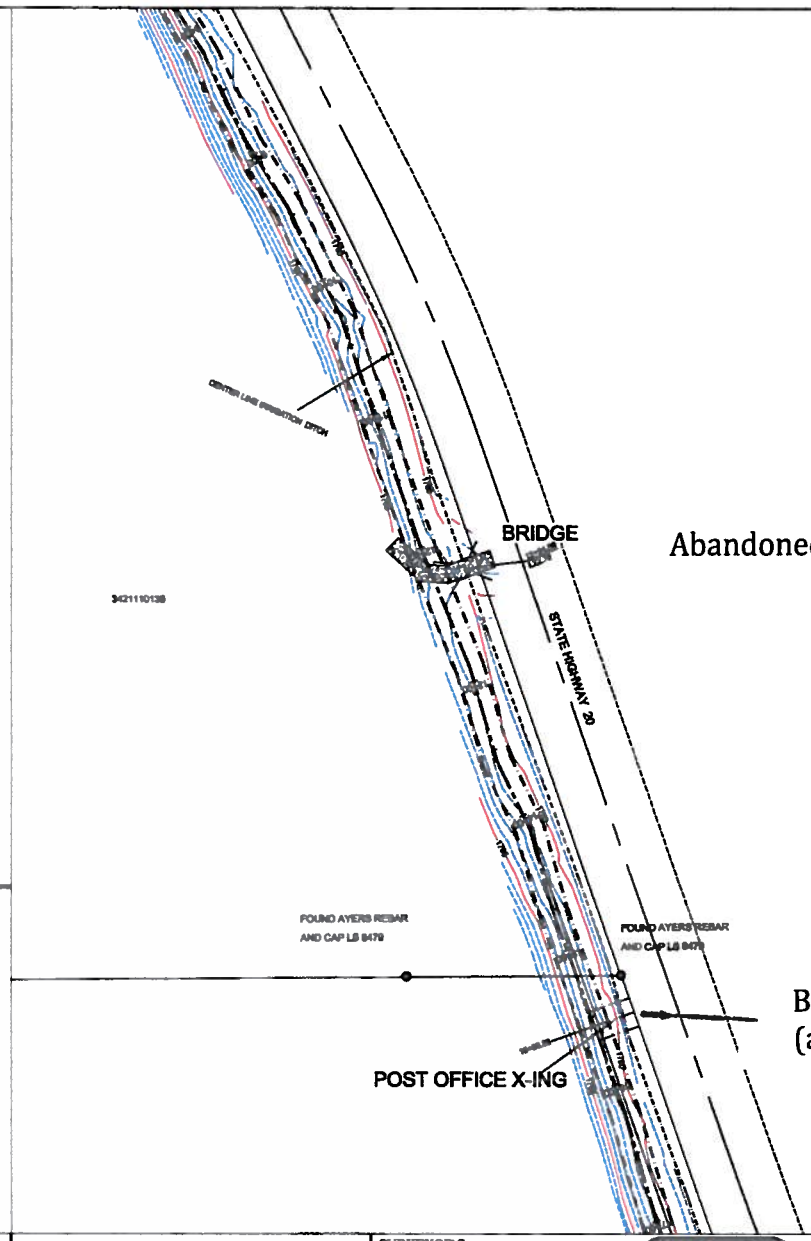
LEGEND

- SET 5/8" REBAR AND CAP LS 37666
- FOUND REBAR AS NOTED
- FOUND MONUMENT AS NOTED
- CALCULATED, NOT SET

EQUIPMENT & PROCEDURES

EQUIPMENT: GTP 6208A TOPCON ROBOTIC TOTAL STATION

PROCEDURES: INITIAL CONTROL ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTIONAL TRAVERSE METHODS, PROCEDURES MEET OR EXCEED W.A.C. 332-130-090.



AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE A.F.N.	INDEX LOCATION	SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE
FILED FOR RECORD THIS ____ DAY OF ____ 200__ AT ____ M. IN BOOK ____ OF SURVEYS AT PAGE(S) ____ AT THE REQUEST OF TACKMAN SURVEYING PLLC.	SECTION 2 T.34N. R.21E., W.M.	THIS MAP CORRECTLY REPRESENTS A SURVEY PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECTION IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SURVEY RECORDING ACT AT THE REQUEST OF CITY OF WINTHROP IN NOV OF 2009.

WILLIAM R. TACKMAN — STATE OF WASHINGTON — REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR — DATE

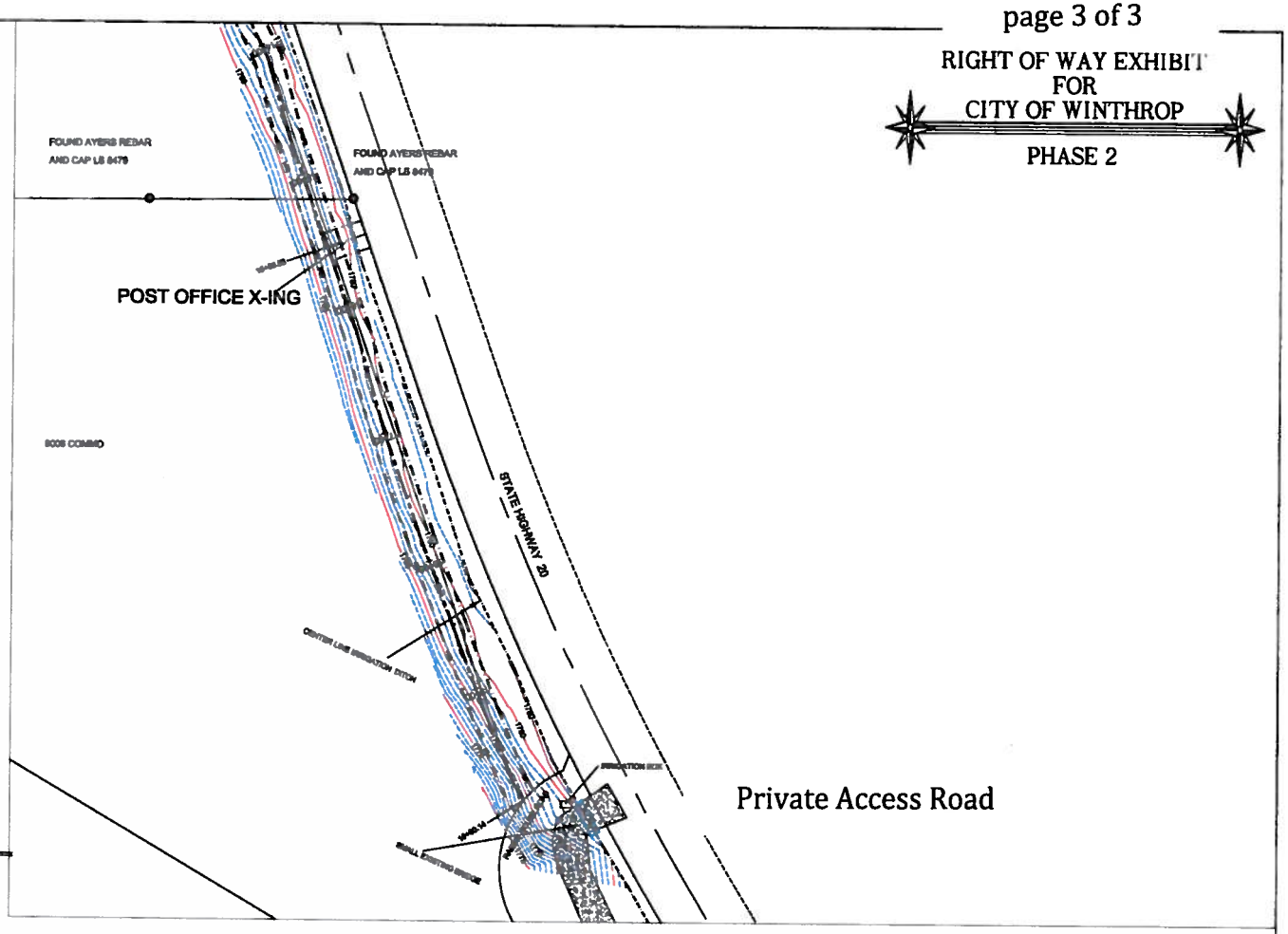
TACKMAN SURVEYING
LAND SURVEYING - CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT
LAND DEVELOPMENT
1112 HWY. 20
P.O. BOX 631 WINTHROP, WA. 98862
PH. (509) 996.3400

CLIENT: CITY OF WINTHROP	DWG:
DATE: 02/01/2010	PROJECT:09-108

SHT 2 OF 3

RIGHT OF WAY EXHIBIT FOR CITY OF WINTHROP

PHASE 2



LEGEND

- SET 5/8" REBAR AND CAP LS 37508
- FOUND REBAR AS NOTED
- FOUND MONUMENT AS NOTED
- CALCULATED, NOT SET

EQUIPMENT & PROCEDURES

EQUIPMENT: GTP 8203A TOPCON ROBOTIC TOTAL STATION

PROCEDURES: INITIAL CONTROL ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTIONAL TRAVERSE METHODS, PROCEDURES MEET OR EXCEED W.A.C. 332-130-090.

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE A.F.N.	INDEX LOCATION	SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE		TACKMAN SURVEYING	SHT
FILED FOR RECORD THIS ____DAY OF_____200__, AT_____ M. IN BOOK ____ OF SURVEYS AT PAGE(S) _____ AT THE REQUEST OF TACKMAN SURVEYING PLLC.	SECTION 2 T.34N. R.21E., W.M.	THIS MAP CORRECTLY REPRESENTS A SURVEY PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECTION IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SURVEY RECORDING ACT AT THE REQUEST OF CITY OF WINTHROP IN NOV OF 2009.	WILLIAM R. TACKMAN STATE OF WASHINGTON 37508 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR EXPIRES _____	LAND SURVEYING - CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT LAND DEVELOPMENT 1112 HWY. 20 P.O. BOX 631 WINTHROP, WA. 98862 PH. (509) 996.3409 CLIENT: CITY OF WINTHROP DATE: 02/01/2010 DWG: PROJECT:09-108	2 OF 3

Operations and maintenance of the Fog Horn Ditch

Normal Fog Horn Ditch operations and maintenance work and unscheduled emergencies, includes any combination of the following activities depending on the condition of the ditch, the time available, the ditch's current budget, the critical need for a repair operation and availability of the needed equipment and resources.

Work may occur at any point in the year anywhere in the ditch right of way and easement. Types of work may include but are not limited to any combination of the following:

Normal Annual

- Widening/narrowing ditch sections, regrading to adjust fall and water flow.
- Repair of slumping inside ditch walls; erosion on outside ditch walls; and removal of large obstructions, trees where their health or condition is problematic; removal of silt, dirt, overhanging vegetation and debris from the ditch channel or elsewhere in the right of way and easement.
- Rebuild, repair and reinforce weak or problematic ditch walls.
- Installation, repair, or removal of ditch liners.
- Removal of silt, debris, and excess dirt in the ditch channel.
- Ditch monitoring, cleaning and maintenance during the irrigation season.

As Needed

- Installation, repair, or removal of closed and open culverts, either pipe or precast concrete culvert. Pipes and culverts may be buried or open.
- Pouring concrete for footings, foundation, diversions, ditch wall repair, culverts.
- Burning of vegetation in the ditch right of way and easement.
- Rebuild, repair and reinforce diversions, including modification of the height of a diversion relative to the ditch floor and adjacent ditch wall.
- Repair and maintain ditch laterals, both above ground and buried pipe.

This work may is done by equipment dictated by the task and may range from hand work to a small mini excavator (e.g., Hitachi zx14-3) to a medium excavator (e.g., Hitachi zax-ix70). Dump trucks, front loaders, back hoes, concrete trucks with boom attachments and other supporting equipment may also be used.

Access to the ditch for any of the above work is gained at any point in the work site area which affords reasonable entry and exit of the equipment and resources involved. Access is from and to either side of the ditch, to a height above the ditch needed to accommodate the necessary equipment, and along the ditch right of way and easement. Equipment performing work may be located inside the ditch, on or off the ditch banks as dictated by the topography, and in some cases beyond the ditch right of way and easement given land owner permission.

Director Correspondence
Regarding Project #12-1122,
Phase 2 of Susie Stephens Trail in Winthrop

Austin, Marguerite (RCO)

From: dale sekijima <dale@innosys.com>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 5:07 PM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Cc: Mary Mccrea; danny yanarella; Austin, Marguerite (RCO); Barker, Myra (RCO); Robinson, Scott (RCO)
Subject: Re: PRISM Project #12-1122-Phase 2 of Susie Stephens Trail in WInthrop

Ms. Kaleen Cottingham

Thanks for your prompt reply.

The Fog Horn's principal concern is that RCO funding will proceed to a point where the Town of Winthrop feels they have carte blanche in addressing our issues without due consideration of their seriousness. These issues center around property interest conflicts, assumption of liability, and operations cost.

Under separate cover to Ms. Austin, I've listed specific questions and concerns of key interest to the Fog Horn Ditch. I've done this in an effort to use your time and resources efficiently.

I appreciate your willingness to look into this matter. I assure you our concerns are not unreasonable, bizarre, or inconsistent with other historic irrigation ditches which are in close proximity to public access trails. The Ditch is supportive of a trail to move pedestrians off SR20, however, we should not be forced to take on increased operations costs and liability risks in the process, particularly when other more cost efficient trail locations are available.

Dale Sekijima

Fog Horn Ditch Trustee

On Aug 13, 2012, at 12:09 PM, Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO) wrote:

Mr. Sekijima: Thanks for bringing this to my attention. I understand that you have spoken with Marguerite Austin in my office. We will be sorting through the issues you've raised and Marguerite will get back to you. Let us know if you have additional questions or concerns.

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
kaleen.cottingham@rco.wa.gov
360-902-3003
<image001.jpg>

From: dale sekijima [mailto:dale@innosys.com]
Sent: Friday, August 10, 2012 4:04 PM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Cc: Austin, Marguerite (RCO); Mary Mccrea
Subject: PRISM Project #12-1122-Phase 2 of Susie Stephens Trail in WInthrop

Fog Horn Ditch Company

PO Box 534
Winthrop, WA 98862

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
Kaleen.Cottingham@rco.wa.gov
360-902-3003

Friday August 10, 2012

Subject: PRISM Project #12-1122 - Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail in Winthrop
Ms. Cottingham,

The Foghorn Ditch (FHD) ownership is in conflict with the planned Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail (SST) location in numerous areas. This has resulted in a very complicated set of property ownership and control issues. I have been unable to reach Section Manager - Marguerite Austin for a conversation, and due to the upcoming project evaluations next week, I feel it is important to communicate our concerns to you.

From information available to us it appears the Town of Winthrop's (Town) acquired right-of-way for the SST is in conflict with the 30-foot wide strip of land owned by FHD for Ditch right-of-way in numerous locations (My letter to Ms. Austin contains relevant detail). When the Town acquired its trail right-of-way properties, they acquired land previously deeded by quit claim to FHD. The Town has never obtained any easements from FHD.

At the August 1st Winthrop Town Council meeting, a resolution was passed to proceed with condemnation of a right-of-way for the Trail across two privately owned parcels (Fodor) when funds are available. The Ditch runs through these Fodor parcels and the proposed Trail location is within the FHD deeded right-of-way in various locations in the parcels. Therefore, it appears FHD is affected by condemnation proceedings.

FHD has been unsuccessful on several occasions over the last two years in an effort to engage the Town in serious, fact based consideration of the above property interest conflict as well as numerous other major concerns.

Given these facts, FHD brings the following issues to your attention.

1) In FHD's opinion the Town can not complete the SST project under the current contract or the pending application scheduled for evaluation on August 14 as the Town does not have clear property rights.

2) Review of the Title Report covering various trail right of way deeds purchased by the Town show 'Exceptions from Coverage' in favor of the Fog Horn Ditch. These exceptions, in addition to the quit claim deeded 30 foot right of way, bring the issue of the Town's property control and ownership of their purchased right of way's into clear question.

3) Can RCO development funds be used for projects involving condemned property?

FHD requests that RCO consider the seriousness of our concerns. From information available to us; outside of our previous letters to Ms. Barker and Ms. Austin, no mention of FHD's unresolved issues has been communicated to RCO. Please provide the enclosed the attachments, which detail our concerns, to the trails

evaluation committee before August 14 so our concerns can be factored into the SST Phase 2 Project's assessment and ranking.

Due to the complexity of the property interest issue, feel free to discuss this issue with us in more detail. We would also greatly appreciate RCO's acknowledgment of this letter and the action taken, if any. Please respond to Dale Sekijima via phone or email. We are also quite willing to answer any questions you have and address any issues that need to be clarified.

Thank you for your attention to this matter; and our apologies for contacting you on short notice.

Dale Sekijima
Email – Dale@innosys.com
Phone: 509 996 2017
Cell: 509 699 9922
Danny Yanarella - danyan@methownet.com
Bob Gronninger

Fog Horn Ditch Trustees

Transmitted via E-Mail

CC: Marguerite Austin
Mary McCrea - mmccrea@cascadialaw.com

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

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

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

September 12, 2012

Dale Sekijima
Fog Horn Ditch Company
PO Box 534
Winthrop, WA 98862

Re: Town of Winthrop, Susie Stephens Trail, Phase 2, RCO #12-1122D

Dear Mr. Sekijima:

This is in response to your August 10 letter, expressing the Fog Horn Ditch Company's concerns with the Town of Winthrop's Susie Stephens Trail, Phase 2. It appears the Ditch Company supports the trail but is concerned with potential impacts from future trail construction for the portion of Phase 2 that is adjacent to the ditch; with additional concerns about liability of a public trail located near the ditch.

I understand that Marguerite Austin from my office spoke with you about these concerns. My staff has also discussed the concerns you identified in your July 31 and August 7 correspondence with Town of Winthrop staff.

We have been informed that the Town planner met with you and Mr. Yanarella recently to discuss phase 2 of the trail project. We also understand the Town is currently working on a Memorandum of Agreement to address your concerns.

In the letter you identified possible solutions to your concerns, including installing fencing and signage. Fencing is included in the scope of the grant application. Signs, an eligible component, are also included in the application and may include rules and regulations, directional, and interpretive signage. You also asked if development could occur on land acquired through condemnation. Grant funds may not be used to acquire property through the condemnation process. However, subsequent development may be funded with grant funds if the land was acquired via condemnation with other funding sources.

I encourage the Ditch Company trustees and the Town to continue to work together to resolve the concerns.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staff. Marguerite Austin may be reached at (360) 902-3016 or marguerite.austin@rco.wa.gov. Myra Barker can be reached at (360) 902-2976 or myra.barker@rco.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Kaleen Cottingham
Director

cc: Rocklynn Culp, Town of Winthrop
Marguerite Austin, RCO
Myra Barker, RCO

Austin, Marguerite (RCO)

From: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 4:59 PM
To: dale sekijima
Cc: Austin, Marguerite (RCO); danny yanarella
Subject: RE: Your letter of Sep. 12 to Dale Sekijima-Fog Horn Ditch

Mr. Sekijima:

I received your email September 21, which included a copy of your September 19 letter to the Town of Winthrop. After reading it I had a conversation with my Recreation Section Manager (Marguerite Austin) and she shared with me your plan to address the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) at its upcoming October meeting. Marguerite also told me she made you aware that project funding is contingent upon Legislative appropriation and board approval in June 2013.

In the mean time I encourage you to continue to work with Winthrop and Marguerite to find a resolution to this issue. If necessary I would be happy to help facilitate a conversation between the Fog Horn Ditch Company and the Town of Winthrop. If this is an option that interests you, let me know so I can check my calendar and talk to the town staff. That would, however, likely be after the board meets in mid October.

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
kaleen.cottingham@rco.wa.gov
360-902-3003

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office

From: dale sekijima [mailto:dale@innosys.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Cc: Austin, Marguerite (RCO); danny yanarella
Subject: Your letter of Sep. 12 to Dale Sekijima-Fog Horn Ditch

Kaleen,

Pls refer to the attached (filename RCO-Kaleen Cottingham 9.21.12.pdf) as a followup on your letter to me. I have attempted to communicate the most recent events, the Fog Horn's resulting decisions, and the reasons behind those decisions.

Thanks.

Dale Sekijima

Fog Horn Ditch Company
PO Box 534
Winthrop, WA 98862

September 21, 2012

Ms. Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: PRISM Project #12-1122 - Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail in Winthrop

Thank you for your September 12th letter responding to the Fog Horn's (FHD) concerns regarding Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail. I sincerely appreciate your interest in addressing this matter and your staff's efforts to raise our concerns as a priority for Winthrop's management (Town).

However, progress by the Town has been unsatisfactory and FHD's patience is exhausted.

FHD earlier informed the Town we would not allow the clock to run out on our ability to file a formal objection with RCO should we not complete an MOA by September 19th. This date was the last point at which FHD had enough time to prepare an objection, get material into the October RCO board book and receive any consideration at the October RCO board meeting approving recommended trail projects for fiscal 2014. The Town clearly understood the time constraint.

Most recently, I personally prepared and drafted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), incurring both time and legal expense, in an effort to expedite addressing FHD's concerns; particularly given the upcoming October RCO Board meeting. This MOA was discussed with Town management on August 28th, and a machine readable version provided for their ease of input.

To date, the Town has failed to provide written comments, reflecting Town input or legal counsel review, on the draft MOA. By itself, failure to respond to the MOA is frustrating, however this most recent incident comes after FHD's numerous attempts to engage the Town over a three year period. FHD has been consistently met with the Town's failure to respond, indifferent and superficial communication, and refusal to address issues.

The result, despite our best efforts, is that FHD is left without any substantive evidence regarding the Town's progress in addressing FHD's concerns regarding the economic jeopardy that the SST proximity creates for FHD.

At a broader level the Town's operating style, characterized by a lack of responsiveness and failure to meet commitments would be disastrous on a trail construction or maintenance issue that affects delivery of water to the irrigation shareholders for even a small number of days. Water

interruption during critical parts of the growing season will cause crop failure which, in this fragile economy, may well put an agricultural operation out of business.

The Town's inability to provide timely, reasonable and substantive responses and the underlying risk of potential serious problems resulting from the Town's casual operational style versus the very immediate needs of FHD during the growing season leaves FHD no alternative but to file an objection to PRISM Project #12-1122, the Town of Winthrop's application for funding of Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail.

Beyond the objection to the RCO Board, FHD will take whatever steps are available to protect the Ditch's economic viability given the property conflicts, liability risks and operational problems caused by the SST proximity to the Ditch.

It also bears noting that a majority of FHD's shareholders support this effort. If necessary, FHD will hold a special shareholders meeting to formally adopt a resolution communicating the following points:

- The Fog Horn Ditch shareholders do not want the SST adjacent to the Ditch.
- FHD has not given the Town permission to use FHD's deeded right-of-way.
- FHD does not plan to provide an easement, lease, or non-revocable agreement to the Town for access to the Ditch's right-of-way or prescriptive easement for the purpose or SST construction or bridge crossings.

I informed Marguerite Austin, under separate cover, Friday of FHD's decision to move ahead with a funding objection.

For completeness and transparency, I have attached my letter of September 19th to the Town informing them FHD is moving ahead with an objection to their application for funding.

I can be reached at 509 996 2017 if you or your staff have questions or want to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Dale Sekijima
Fog Horn Ditch Trustee

cc:
Danny Yanarella - Fog Horn Ditch Trustee
Bob Gronninger - Fog Horn Ditch Trustee
Marguerite Austin

Transmitted via email

FOGHORN DITCH COMPANY
PO BOX 534
WINTHROP, WA 98862

September 19, 2012

Honorable Mayor Dave Acheson
Town of Winthrop
PO Box 459
Winthrop, WA 98862

RE: Susie Stephens Trail (SST)

The Fog Horn Ditch (FHD) has received your email stating the Town of Winthrop (Town) is not prepared to respond by today to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which FHD provided the Town regarding phase 2 of the SST.

FHD prepared the MOA, incurring both time and legal expense, in an effort to expedite the process of addressing FHD's concerns; particularly given the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) deadline for public comment on the Town's phase 2 SST funding application.

FHD repeatedly cautioned the Town about this deadline and is disappointed the Town has failed to provide comments on the draft MOA for our review in a timely manner. This leaves FHD without any substantive evidence regarding the Town's progress in addressing FHD's concerns regarding the economic jeopardy that the SST proximity creates for FHD. This despite FHD's numerous attempts to engage the Town in addressing these concerns over a two and a half year period.

The Town's inability to provide timely, reasonable and substantive responses leaves FHD no alternative but to take whatever steps are available to protect the ditch's economic viability given the liability risks and operational problems caused by the SST proximity to the ditch.

FHD will be providing comments and objections to RCO shortly for the Board's consideration in October. We request that you send us the revised draft MOA when you receive it from your legal counsel, with the understanding that the Town's insurance carrier will also be reviewing the document.

Sincerely,

Dale Sekijima
Danny Yanarella
Bob Gronninger

Foghorn Ditch Trustees
Transmitted via Email

Fog Horn Ditch Company
PO Box 534
Winthrop, WA 98862

September 28, 2012

Ms. Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office

Subject: PRISM Project #12-1122 - Phase 2 of the Susie Stephen's Trail (SST) in Winthrop

Thank you for your September 26th email encouraging the Fog Horn Ditch Co. (FHD) to continue to work with the Town of Winthrop and Marguerite Austin and also offering to facilitate a discussion with the Town regarding Susie Stephen's Trail issues.

Your email points out that project funding is still contingent on Legislative appropriation (though I assume the fourth place ranking of the Winthrop project would be sufficient to obtain appropriation funding later this year) and that FHD and the Town have until June 2013 to resolve outstanding issues. FHD considered this alternative before filing our formal objection to the Town's project proposal earlier last week. However, as I tried to convey in our objection letter, based on our three year history with the Town, FHD no longer has confidence or trust that the Town can respond in a timely fashion to address (and take responsibility for solutions to) issues that are important to the Ditch's operation and financial stability.

I believe the best opportunity at this point, for all parties, is to closely examine an alternative trail route that would avoid most, though not all, of the problems affecting FHD. All the businesses in the area of greatest concern in Phase 2 are on the east side of Highway 20. Human nature being what it is, people will continue to walk and ride bikes on the highway shoulder – the shortest distance between businesses and Post Office – rather than cross the highway to and back from a trail on the west side of the highway. A logical alternative trail placement would cross Highway 20 only once, to Pardners' Mini Mart, then run east toward the Methow River, then turn South to run along the river, behind various businesses, and terminating at the Post Office.

That alternative route would have significant advantages over the currently planned route and would substantially reduce the involvement of and risks to the ditch. Two major trail objectives are to move pedestrians and bikes off the highway shoulder and to provide access to businesses and the Post Office on the highway's east side. With the alternate route:

1. Pedestrians and bikes could move between businesses without walking/biking along the highway shoulder or having to cross back and forth in crosswalks on Highway 20, to and from a trail on the west side.

2. Design, construction and maintenance costs would be substantially lower for a trail built on flat ground east of the highway than for one built west of the highway involving rocky hillside terrain.

3. There would be no bridge crossings over the Ditch, eliminating the costs for design, construction and maintenance of the two bridges in the currently proposed plan.

4. The Town has invested in right-of-way deeds for the planned west-side route. However, in the broad picture, the east-side alternative's lower design, construction and maintenance costs, as well as the reduction in impacts and risks to FHD, would probably outweigh the Town's investment in purchased rights-of-way.

The alternative I've described would still require that FHD and the Town resolve numerous issues; however, it would eliminate that area of the currently planned trail where the rocky hillside adjacent to the Ditch makes construction and maintenance issues most difficult and where liability exposure is more pronounced.

It should be noted that I have tried to discuss this and other alternatives with the Town at various times, but they declined to look at them in detail or explain why they would not be feasible options.

I would be happy to meet with you, Kaleen, before October 17th to discuss FHD's issues, our experience in trying to deal with the Town, and our conclusions. In order to use your time efficiently, I can be at your office in Olympia on relatively short notice and I'm open to meeting before or after business hours if that would be easier on your schedule.

We are also willing to meet with you and the Town after October 17th, but we will not withdraw the objection to the RCO Board at this time.

You can reach me by E-mail or at 509 996-2017.

Sincerely,

Dale Sekijima
Fog Horn Ditch Trustee

cc:
Danny Yanarella - Fog Horn Ditch Trustee
Bob Gronninger - Fog Horn Ditch Trustee

Transmitted via email

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed
201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Recreation and Conservation Office
ATTN: Laura Moxham
1111 Washington St, Fl 2 East
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

June 22, 2012

Dear Review Committee,

I am writing in support of King County Park's application to WWRP for the acquisition of the Cedar Grove Rd. parcel and parking lot improvement for safe water access to the Cedar River. Having specific, safe, and secure access to and from the water not only protects the general public, but also protects the shoreline from unnecessary erosion caused from rogue trails. The Cedar River is home to Chinook salmon which are listed under the Endangered Species Act as well as other species of salmon and other fish and wildlife.

As populations continue to increase in King County, so does the demand on the water and land. More traffic on the river deserves more control. By focusing users to specific locations, such as the proposed take out, environmental impacts will be minimized and lead to a healthier and more sustainable river system for all. We support King County Park's management for both human and wildlife interests in this project.

This project is at a key location in the Cedar River. There is a planned salmon restoration project immediately downstream of the Cedar Grove Road bridge, the Rainbow Bend levee removal and floodplain restoration project. This project will make it easier for King County to manage recreational use of the river while the river is adjusting to its new floodplain once the levee is removed.

I encourage your committee to fund this application. It will improve recreational access to the Cedar River while reducing the environmental impacts of increasing use of the river. It will also help King County in accommodating recreational use of the Cedar River and restoring it for salmon.

Sincerely,

Jean E. White

Jean E. White
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Coordinator

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 3424 Meridian Street Bellingham, WA 98225
Telephone (360) 778-7000 ◆ FAX (360) 778-7001

October 16, 2012

State of Washington Recreation & Conservation Office
Attn: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subject: Project Number 12-1041D - Squalicum Creek Park Phase Three

Greetings,

This letter concerns the ranking of the City of Bellingham's application for grant funding for Squalicum Creek Park, Phase 3. The project was ranked #28 out of 44 projects submitted for evaluation. On October 12, 2012 we received the *Evaluation Report by Project* from the RCO, which included a breakdown of the scores submitted by all the evaluators. Evaluator #527 scored zeros for evaluation criterion #1, #2, #3, #9, and #11. The average score of all other evaluators for these criterion are 3.5, 3.125, 4.25, 4, and 1.625 respectively. The evaluator uses his/her own discretion in determining the threshold for any score.

We are concerned about the scoring of the subject project by evaluator #527. We concluded the scores entered by evaluator #527 are aberrant, out of line with other evaluator's scores, and had a significant effect on the project's overall ranking. We believe a score of zero means the criteria was not addressed in any manner.

The following is a summary of the evaluation criterion and our responses. Again, each of these evaluation criteria were scored zero by evaluator #527:

- **Criteria #1 Public Need** – What is the need for the facility? We clearly defined how many ballfields were available to the target youth baseball and to a lesser extent, adult softball league. We showed the apparent inverse relationship of trends in Bellingham's population growth and the simultaneous loss of ballfields available to the targeted leagues. We indicated two lighted ball fields would meet the immediate need of little league teams.
- **Criteria #2 Project Scope** – Does the project meet the deficiency in recreational opportunity? We showed the project provided the same number of lighted ball fields as the stated need.
- **Criteria #3 Project Design** – Does the project make best use of the site? The project site was purchased precisely for the proposed project use. The park use is in the City's adopted Parks, Recreation Open Space Master Plan, the Squalicum Creek Park Master Plan, and the Birchwood Neighborhood Plan. Appropriate use of the site and consideration for sustainability was addressed in the application and the presentations.
- **Criteria #9 Expansion/Renovation** – Does the project expand or renovate the an existing recreation area or facility? The grant package is renovation of an existing ball field with the addition of lighting, and the expansion of supporting facilities such as parking, the paving and extending of an existing gravel path to the ball fields.

- **Criteria #10 Cost Efficiencies** - Does the project document reduction of costs to the government through use of volunteers, etc. We showed how volunteers labor reduces our costs to maintain the park in terms of forest restoration and weed control, and freeing up park staff to perform more technical duties relating to facility maintenance.

We think evaluator #527 did not follow the direction of RCO Staff. During the Technical Review session on May 14, 2012 and the final presentation on August 15, 2012, an evaluator made an issue of the City's substantial match to the grant request of $500,000. The evaluator didn't believe the City needed grant money when it had so much of its own funding. At the time RCO staff reminded the evaluator that sponsor match is not a consideration in the scoring of projects. We believe the scores for this project are prejudiced and invalid.

To illustrate the effect of a flawed score on the project's overall ranking: if every zero evaluator #527 submitted became a one, the project ranking would increase three ranking points moving it up to a level more likely to receive funding. If the scores were more in line with the average of other evaluators, we believe this project would certainly receive grant funding.

We are obviously disappointed that this project was ranked lower than expected due to one evaluator's belief that 5 out of 6 ranked criteria merited zero points. We would like to recommend the RCO consider adopting a policy throwing out high and low evaluation scores for all projects. Removing high and low scores will moderate the ranking and will reduce the likelihood of the type of scoring that occurred during the evaluation process of this project.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Schilk, RLA
City of Bellingham, Parks and Recreation Department

Frank, Leslie (RCO)

Subject: FW: Rocky Reach Trail (Trails Category)

Hello Rebecca:

I had planned to be at the RCO meeting today to speak on behalf of the Rocky Reach Trail, which I understand from State Parks, finished 10th out of 20 in the trails category and will not likely be "in the money" for this round of grants.

I want the Board to know a little history on this most important trail. When, in 1992, the Complete the Loop Coalition here in Wenatchee finished the Eastside trail on the Columbia River to make a continuous 11 mile Loop trail, I went to the Mayor of the City of Wenatchee and suggested that we extend this trail to Lincoln Rock State park so that all parks on the Columbia River in the vicinity of Wenatchee could be linked by this same trail system that would never cross a city street or county road. Little did I know this would turn in to a 20 year ordeal. Washington State Parks under the capable leadership of Cleve Pinnix agreed to step up and be the lead agency for such a project. By the late 1990's we had the construction of the trail fully funded with two ALEA grants, a Chelan PUD grant, an IAC grant, two DOT grants and approximately $190,000 of local contributions from the Complete the Loop Coalition. The cost estimate at that time we were given by State Parks was (from memory) somewhere between $1.4 million and $2 million. If there was to be any shortfall we committed to raising locally the necessary funds to fill any deficiency.

Shortly thereafter, two farmers sued the Douglas County, Chelan PUD, and WA State Parks claiming that the permits issued by the county violated .... just about everything they could think of. While I was confident we would eventually prevail in the courts, the lawsuit took, I am sorry to say, over seven years to resolve. Eventually the Washington Supreme Court ruled in a 9 to 0 decision in favor of the county and State Parks.

We are eternally grateful to Washington State Parks for hanging in there with the local citizens who desperately want this trail constructed. Sadly, the delay caused by the interminable lawsuit caused us to lose most of our grant funding. Now we find ourselves in an entirely in a new financial condition. My wife continually reminds me that the State of Washington has huge budgetary problems, and that we as a state, can't print money like the federal government.

The project desperately needs the current RCO grant to keep the project going. Currently the project, which is "shovel ready", has available the remainder of a DOT grant, a commitment of $580,000 from Chelan PUD, $400,000 from a direct grant from the legislature, and $190,000 from the Complete the Loop Coalition. The real problem is that the estimated cost to finish the entire 5 miles of the trail is now estimated to be around $4 million. The project now has been divided into three phases: the north mile, the south mile; and the intermediate three miles. State Parks is working on getting a firmer estimate for the cost to build the entire trail, and I am working on getting the Chelan PUD to step up and fund the entire north mile irrespective of the cost.

I was a citizen member of the IAC Commission for many years and I remember how understandably reluctant the commission was to re-rank projects. But I also know that it can be done for valid reasons. I ask the RCO to consider some mechanism to put the Rocky Reach trail "in the money" for the following reasons: (1) the trail previously was placed in the money in the ranking system in the mid-1990's and credit should be given for this history (I have always felt once in the money a project should stay in the money for subsequent rounds); (2) by assuring this trail receives some money from this round of funding State Parks will be able to

initiate construction on the south portion of the trail which does join the incredibly popular 11 mile Apple Capital Loop trail (which has been described as the crown jewel of Wenatchee); (3) I believe the board has an obligation to spread the limited RCO funding as broadly as possible geographically and not let most of it get sucked up in a single project.

Once the local residents see that a portion of the trail is indeed going to be built extending the existing Loop Trail I believe that our fund raising efforts will stand a much better chance of being successful. I believe the community will step up and fund the balance of the construction costs to complete the intervening three mile gap between the North mile and that which is started on the south mile. I am committed to leading this fund raising effort. I firmly believe in self help, and think this community can raise the necessary funds to complete the entire trail.

I am truly sorry that I cannot be present to present this statement to the RCO Board and I appreciate your willingness to share this with the Board members.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Parlette
Chairman, Complete the Loop Coalition

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4A**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Critical Habitat Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Six projects in the Critical Habitat projects have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-09

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Critical Habitat category projects provide habitat for wildlife including game and non-game species. These habitats include freshwater, salt-water, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, winter range, etc. Acquisitions often provide protection of habitat for both federal and state endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

The Critical Habitat category is eligible to receive 45 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.

Eligible Applicants	Local, state agencies and Native American Tribes may apply for funding
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition • Restoration • Habitat enhancement or creation • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, wildlife blinds, interpretive signs, parking and restrooms
Funding Limits	No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project
Match Requirements	• No match required for state agencies • Local agency applicants must provide a minimum 50% matching share
Public Access	• Public use for both consumptive and non-consumptive activities is allowed. • Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Six Critical Habitat category projects requesting $14.65 million were evaluated on June 26, 2012 in an open public meeting in Olympia, Washington. A team of eight evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank each project. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat enhancement and conservation:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Pene Speaks	Dept. Natural Resources
Elizabeth Rodrick	Dept. Fish and Wildlife
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Chris Parsons	WA State Parks
Lora Leschner	Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Darcy Batura	Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
Rich Carlson	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Robinson	The Nature Conservancy

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-09.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-09

- Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects

B. Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Critical Habitat Category Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-09
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Critical Habitat Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, six Critical Habitat category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP); and

WHEREAS, these Critical Habitat category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all six Critical Habitat category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account,* including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15,* and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Critical Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

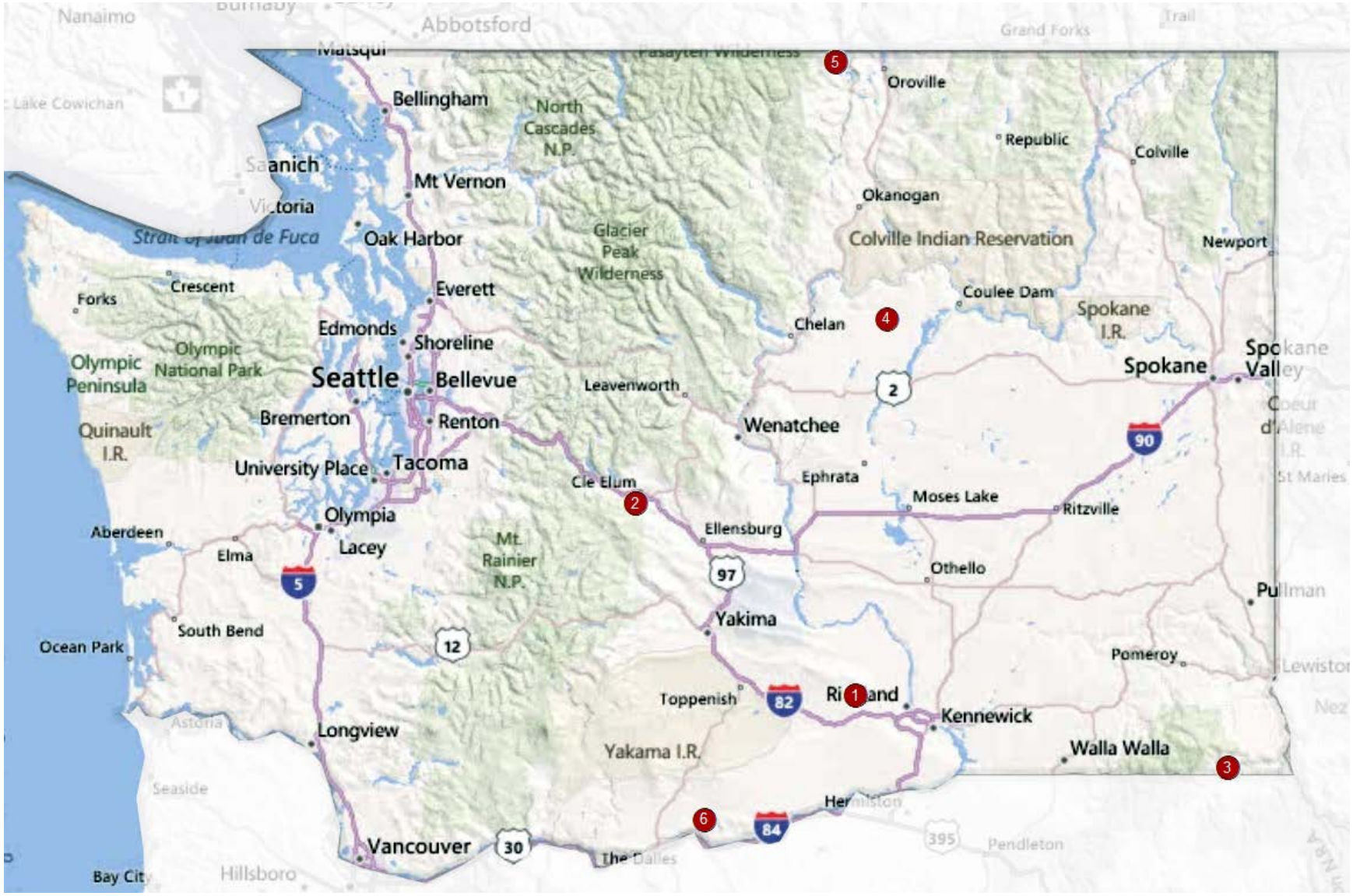
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Critical Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 6	44.88	12-1133A	Rattlesnake Mountain 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$4,500,000	$4,500,000
2 of 6	41.75	12-1132A	Heart of the Cascades 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,500,000	$6,000,000
3 of 6	39.63	12-1125A	Mountain View 4-0 and Hanson Ridge	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$4,600,000	$10,600,000
4 of 6	39.00	12-1478A	Mid-Columbia 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$950,000	$11,550,000
5 of 6	34.63	12-1127A	Okanogan Similkameen 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$3,100,000	$14,650,000
6 of 6	33.88	12-1137A	Rock Creek 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,000,000	$15,650,000
					$15,650,000	

State Map for Critical Habitat Category Projects



Critical Habitat Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

"Critical Habitat means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat and habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species" RCW 79A.15.010

Critical Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	**Evaluation Elements**	**Possible Points**
Project Introduction	• Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement]	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	• The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	• Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity	10
3. Manageability and Viability	• Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship	15
4. Public Benefit	• Project support • Educational and/or scientific value	5
	Total Points Possible	**50**

Critical Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

1. **Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
   Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation? RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)

2. **Species or Communities with Special Status**
   What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (iv, ix, xiii).

3. **Manageability and Viability**
   What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, IV, viii, x)

4. **Public Benefit**
   To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (I, xii).

Critical Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

	Question	1	2	3	4	
Rank	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Species and Communities with Special Status	Manageability and Viability	Public Benefit	Total
1	Rattlesnake Mountain 2012	17.75	8.63	13.75	4.75	44.88
2	Heart of the Cascades 2012	16.50	8.88	12.50	3.88	41.75
3	Mountain View 4-0 and Hanson Ridge	15.88	8.13	11.75	3.88	39.63
4	Mid-Columbia 2012	15.75	8.50	11.25	3.50	39.00
5	Okanogan Similkameen 2012	14.75	6.75	10.00	3.13	34.63
6	Rock Creek 2012	13.00	7.38	10.50	3.00	33.88

Evaluators Score Questions 1-4

Critical Habitat Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $4,500,000
Protecting Rattlesnake Mountain

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to protect a nearly 14,000-acre, ecologically unique, shrub steppe property on Rattlesnake Mountain. Conserving this much land offers a rare opportunity to protect habitat connectivity and buffer existing conservation lands. Hanford Reach National Monument and a department wildlife area protect the north side of the mountain and this purchase will protect a substantial portion of the south side. The land is home to Ferruginous hawks, which are listed by the state as threatened with extinction. The hawks live mostly in southeastern Washington, with less than 40 breeding pairs remaining. Wind turbines, houses, and vineyards are being built on the ridges and fields the hawks need for nesting and foraging. The land is home to other wildlife that are considered at risk of extinction, including burrowing owl, long-billed curlew, Townsend's ground squirrel, American badger, black- and white-tailed jackrabbit, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, elk, and mule deer. Project support is diverse and includes Benton County, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Richland Rod and Gun Club, and Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. (12-1133)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $1,500,000
Conserving the Heart of the Cascades

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 5,496 acres of forest and water habitat on the east slope of the central Cascade Mountains. The site is about 20 miles southwest of Ellensburg, between the LT Murray Wildlife Area to the east and the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest to the west. The objective of the project is to buy a large swath of land rather than individual, separated parcels to make the property easier to manage and more beneficial to wildlife. The land provides breeding and foraging habitat for northern spotted owls and supports several large carnivore species. Conservation of these lands will protect the forests and water bodies in the central Cascades from damage caused by development. The first two phases of the project have purchased 10,386 acres, and this phase will secure a critical, remaining gap. (12-1132)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $4,600,000
Protecting Hanson Ridge

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 3,669 acres of critical habitat in southern Asotin County. The land is adjacent to a U.S. Forest Service roadless area to the north and Bureau of Land Management land to the south. Completion of this project will connect protected land in the lower Grande Ronde watershed, from low elevation canyons to high elevation forests. Healthy, fully functioning habitat supports a large suite of animals, such bull trout, Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Rocky Mountain tailed frogs, golden eagle,

Lewis' woodpecker, flammulated owls, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, gray wolf, ruffed grouse, and dusky grouse. The land also has a diverse array of intact upland habitat, eastside grasslands, ponderosa pine, aspen stands, curlleaf mahogany, wetlands, basalt cliffs, and talus slopes. This is the second phase of the project. The first phase protected 2,180 acres. The total project includes portions of Wenatchee Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Cougar Creek, and shorelines of the Grande Ronde River. (12-1125)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $950,000
Conserving Land for Sage Grouse and other Wildlife

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 3,405 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in Douglas County containing historic courtship areas, called lek sites, for sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. One of the most active sage grouse leks is a quarter-mile from the site, while an active sharp-tailed grouse lek is 3 miles away. Located in the heart of both statewide grouse populations, this project maintains a critical pathway connecting the two populations. Habitat connectivity is critical for the continued existence of not only these grouse species, but a wide variety of animals dependent on shrub steppe. These include Brewer's sparrow, sage thrasher, sage sparrow, white-tailed jackrabbit, and Washington ground squirrel. The land includes cliffs, talus, and seasonal wetlands. While the area is dominated by shrub-steppe habitat, there is a great diversity within that type: bunchgrass dominated expanses, dense sage cover, lithosol sites, and three-tip sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass associations. This project will provide the long-term protection of the quality habitats necessary for shrub-steppe dependent animals. (12-1478)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $3,100,000
Conserving the Similkameen River and Okanogan River Watershed

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve about 700 acres of wildlife habitat including 1 .5 miles of Similkameen River waterfront. The land will be either purchased directly or protected through voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements. The goal is to maintain the only low-elevation corridor linking the Columbia Basin with the remaining endangered shrub-steppe and grassland habitats in Canada. Connecting blocks of public land will ensure that wildlife can travel farther distances unimpeded. The land is home to 100 internationally recognized species at-risk of extinction. The purchase also enables the department to offer more areas for fishing, hunting, and watching wildlife. (12-1127)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $1,000,000
Protecting Rock Creek for Wildlife

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 1,400 acres of the total 13,565 acres of upland and riparian habitats along Rock Creek project in east Klickitat County. Rock Creek is the largest tributary of the Columbia River in Washington between the Klickitat and Walla WallaRivers. The Rock Creek drainage represents one of the most diverse fish and wildlife habitats in south central Washington. The property supports a variety of species at risk

of extinction, including steelhead, Chinook salmon, western gray squirrels, Lewis' woodpecker, mule and black-tailed deer, black-tailed jackrabbit, burrowing owl, golden eagle, western toad, white alder, etc. The Rock Creek Basin is a mosaic of shrub-steppe, interior grassland, Oregon white oak and ponderosa pine. The drainage is unique with the eastern edge of Oregon white oak habitat transitioning into interior shrub steppe and grassland. The project is surrounded by large blocks of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, Washington State, Yakama Nation, Western Pacific Timber Company, and The Nature Conservancy. This project is a unique opportunity to acquire a large, intact landscape from a single, willing seller to maintain riparian and upland habitat connectivity from the Columbia River to the crest of the Simcoe Mountains. (12-1137)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4B**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Eight projects in the Natural Areas category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-10

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Projects in the Natural Areas category protect high quality, representative native ecosystems, or unique plant or animal communities. Species protected on these habitats often are classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive at the federal or state level. Rare geological features or features of scientific or educational value also are considered.

The Natural Areas category is eligible to receive 30 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Habitat Conservation Account. [1]

[1] Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(a) RCW

Eligible Applicants	WA State Parks, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. of Natural Resources, Department of Enterprise Services (formerly known as General Administration)
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition, fee simple or lesser interests • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, interpretive signs, parking and restrooms
Funding Limits	No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project
Match Requirements	No match required
Public Access	Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Areas must be managed primarily for resource preservation, protection and study

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Eight Natural Areas category projects requesting $14.9 million were evaluated between June 20 and July 11, 2012.

A team of eight evaluators used a written evaluation process and criteria adopted by the board to rank each project through a written evaluation process. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat preservation and conservation:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Pene Speaks	Dept. Natural Resources
Elizabeth Rodrick	Dept. Fish and Wildlife
Mark Sheehan	Former DNR Natural Heritage Program Manager
Karen Bergeron	King County
Dyanne Sheldon	Board Member Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Bill Robinson	The Nature Conservancy
Carey Smith	Pacific Coast Joint Venture
David Lindley	Biologist-Yakima Nation

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15.*

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as

well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-10.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-10

- Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Natural Areas Category projects

B. Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Natural Areas Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-10
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Areas Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, eight Natural Areas category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Natural Areas category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all eight Natural Areas category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account,* including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of critical habitat needs and their evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species; and maintain fully functioning ecosystems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Natural Areas category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Natural Areas Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 8	43.25	12-1173A	Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,862,700	$1,862,700
2 of 8	41.13	12-1182A	Wanapum Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,921,500	$3,784,200
3 of 8	41.00	12-1181A	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$2,739,712	$6,523,912
4 of 8	40.25	12-1183A	Washougal Oaks Natural Area 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,590,225	$8,114,137
5 of 8	39.25	12-1177A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,750,350	$9,864,487
6 of 8	38.38	12-1174A	Dabob Bay Natural Area 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$2,130,450	$11,994,937
7 of 8	36.38	12-1180A	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$604,800	$12,599,737
8 of 8	35.75	12-1135A	Merrill Lake Natural Area	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$2,300,000	$14,899,737
					$14,899,737	

State Map for Natural Areas Category Projects

Natural Areas Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

"Natural Areas means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value." RCW 79A.15.010

Natural Areas Evaluation Summary

Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	• Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement]	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	• The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	• Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness	10
3. Manageability and Viability	• Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship	15
4. Public Benefit	• Project support • Educational and/or scientific value	5
	Total Points Possible	**50**

Natural Areas Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

1. **Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
   Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation? RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)

2. **Species or Communities with Special Status**
   What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (iv, ix, xiii).

3. **Manageability and Viability**
   What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, iv, viii, x)

4. **Public Benefit**
   To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (i, xii).

Natural Areas Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question Project Name	1 Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2 Species and Communities with Special Status	3 Manageability and Viability	4 Public Benefit	Total
1	Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve 2012	18.38	9.13	12.50	3.25	43.25
2	Wanapum Natural Area Preserve 2012	17.50	8.63	11.38	3.63	41.13
3	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve 2012	17.13	9.00	11.75	3.13	41.00
4	Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve	16.50	8.38	11.13	4.25	40.25
5	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area 2012	16.50	8.00	10.63	4.13	39.25
6	Dabob Bay Natural Area 2012	15.50	7.75	11.13	4.00	38.38
7	Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve 2012	15.25	7.00	11.00	3.13	36.38
8	Merrill Lake Natural Area	14.13	6.88	10.75	4.00	35.75

Evaluators Score Questions 1-4

Natural Areas Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $1,862,700
Protecting the Camas Meadows

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 171 acres of meadow, ponderosa pine forest, streams, and riparian habitat to protect rare plant populations within the Camas Meadows Natural Area Preserve. The site contains the largest known populations of the endangered Wenatchee mountain checker-mallow and Wenatchee larkspur, which the state has designated as threatened with extinction. The land, which is in Chelan County, 12 miles southeast of Leavenworth, is privately owned land within the preserve. Securing more protection of the Wenatchee mountain checker-mallow population will contribute significantly to the recovery plan for this species, which calls for the conservation of all stable, self-sustaining populations in protected sites secure from threats. Acquiring this land will protect other habitat in the preserve by protecting the streams that create the seasonally wet conditions needed by the Wenatchee mountain checker-mallow and Wenatchee larkspur. (12-1173)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $1,921,500
Conserving Sand Dunes at the Wanapum Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 2,237 acres near Vantage and include it in the proposed Wanapum Natural Area Preserve. The project will protect the most critical striped whipsnake habitat within the preserve, the dune system and shrub-steppe communities, as well as 13 other priority species and ecological systems. The proposed preserve contains the only two known extant striped whipsnake occurrences in Washington. The Washington Natural Heritage Advisory Council has recommended approval of the preserve design, which maintains the connection between the two occurrences. Inclusion in the preserve will give the agency a chance to manage the protection of the population. The dune system on the site covers more than 1,000 acres and is one of only eight dune systems in Washington with high conservation value. The preserve design will accommodate the migration of the sand dunes, allowing natural, dynamic processes associated with this ecological system. (12-1182)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $2,739,712
Expanding the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy up to 2,560 acres to expand the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve, near Wenatchee, in Chelan County. The project will protect a rare, endemic plant species, Whited's milkvetch. The plant is known to exist nowhere else in the world except within a narrow band extending for 3 miles between Colockum Creek and the existing upper dry gulch preserve. The Washington Natural Heritage Program has designated the plant as endangered and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has classified it as a Species of Concern. A secondary objective of the project is to protect shrub-steppe habitat, one

of the most threatened ecosystems in Washington. A recent proposal for a large housing development that would include room for horses in the upper dry gulch area has increased the immediacy of the threat to the milkvetch and its habitat. (12-1181)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $1,590,225
Conserving the Washougal Oaks Woodlands

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 303 acres east of Washougal at the western edge of the Columbia River Gorge in Clark County to help protect the largest, high-quality native oak woodland remaining in western Washington. This woodland is important to conserve because most of it has been lost or is being damaged. In addition, a fish-bearing stream inside a steep forested ravine runs through the heart of the site. The site supports two state sensitive plant species, and two rare or threatened animal species: Slender-billed nuthatch, and lower Columbia River steelhead. The land would be included in a combination of a Natural Resource Conservation Area and Natural Area Preserve, complementing conservation work within the project area by the department's partners, which include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge), U.S. Forest Service (Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area), and the Columbia Land Trust. These acquisitions are part of a multi-phased project with the long-term objective of protecting the oak woodland and associated species from future residential development, other incompatible uses, and exotic plant species. (12-1183)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $1,750,350
Conserving the Lacamas Prairie

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 608 acres to protect the Willamette Valley wet prairie northeast of Vancouver, the only example of its size and quality in Washington. These ecosystems are threatened by habitat destruction and degradation in one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in the state. This land supports the second largest of 20 known populations of Bradshaw's lomatium, a globally critically imperiled, endangered plant. It also contains habitat for five state sensitive plant species and one rare animal species, the slender-billed white breasted nuthatch. The land purchase would constitute the second phase of a multi-phased and multi-agency effort to protect a larger area of wet prairie and oak woodland. Other partners in the effort to protect these rare communities and species include the Columbia Land Trust, Washington Nature Conservancy, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Clark County. (12-1177)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $2,130,450
Conserving Land in the Dabob Bay Natural Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 65 acres to protect some of the most ecologically important and highly threatened private shoreline and uplands in the 6,287-acre Dabob Bay Natural Area in Hood Canal. Dabob Bay is one of the most intact, estuarine bays remaining in Puget Sound, and protection of it is important because much of these tidal wetlands have been lost or are being damaged. The land is threatened by increasing waterfront

development in eastern Jefferson County. This project would protect coastal bluffs, shorelines, and other wildlife habitats, including those used by species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, such as orca, marbled murrelet, Hood Canal summer chum salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The department is working with The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Watershed Institute, U.S. Department of Defense, and Jefferson Land Trust to provide long-term protection of an intact coastal estuarine system. (12-1174)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $604,800
Conserving Land in the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 320 acres in the Trombetta Canyon Natural Area Preserve. Trombetta Canyon is a striking geological feature, consisting of a dry cliff-sided canyon incised in a raised limestone formation, with no apparent source of flowing water to have formed it. The canyon is isolated by cliff walls, extensive wetlands at the north end, and a single, narrow entry point from the south. Trombetta Canyon cuts through a large, uncommon limestone and dolomite formation, ultimately vulnerable to quarrying. The site provides habitat for several rare plant species, including yellow mountain avens (state sensitive), hoary willow (state threatened), and Steller's rockbrake (state sensitive). Other species typically found only on limestone also were present, including smooth cliffbrake. (12-1180)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $2,300,000
Conserving the Merrill Lake Natural Area

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 882 acres lying between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River in Cowlitz County. The land has many unique features including lava beds with tree casts, high volume springs feeding the Kalama river, small old growth tree stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities. The purchase would allow the department to provide long-term protection of habitat and ensure public access to the lake and river shorelines. The site connects with a national forest to the north and one of the department's natural resource conservation areas to the south. A diverse suite of species will benefit from the overall project including steelhead, coho, elk, marten, Chinook, western toad, spotted owl, and osprey. If acquired, the site will be available to the public, with some limitations to protect the natural features. (12-1135)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4C**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Sixteen projects in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-11

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects allow for restoration and enhancement of habitats on existing state lands. These habitats may include salt or freshwater areas, forests, riparian zones, shrub-steppe, wetlands, and other native ecosystems or habitats native to Washington State. Restoration brings the site back to its original function through activities that can reasonably be expected to result in a site that is, to the degree possible, self-sustaining. Enhancement improves the ecological functionality of the site.

The State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category is eligible to receive five percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Habitat Conservation Account.

Eligible Applicants	• Department of Natural Resources • Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Types	Habitat enhancement or creation
Funding Limits	• Minimum of $25,000 per project • Maximum of $500,000 per multi-site project • Maximum of $1,000,000 per single site project
Match Requirements	None
Public Access	Public use may be excluded if needed to protect habitat and species
Other Program Characteristics	Properties must be state owned and managed primarily for resource preservation and protection

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Sixteen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects requesting $2.99 million were evaluated between July 23 and August 13, 2012.

A team of eight evaluators used a written evaluation process and newly adopted criteria to review and rank the projects. The evaluation team includes the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Tom Ernsberger	Washington State Parks
Steve Erickson	Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration
Lincoln Bormann	San Juan County Land Bank
Bill Koss	Citizen, Retired State Parks Manager
Laurie Vigue	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Drivdahl	Citizen, Retired Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Rebecca Post	Department of Ecology
Deborah Nemens	Department of Natural Resources

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15 shows the results of the evaluations.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as

well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-11.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-11

- Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category projects

B. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-11
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-15 biennium, sixteen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all sixteen State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account,* including public benefit and relationship to other plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects restore existing state lands to self-sustaining functionality, and their evaluation included the quality and function of the habitat, longer-term viability, and demonstrated need, thereby supporting the board's objectives to help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and to fund projects that maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15;* and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

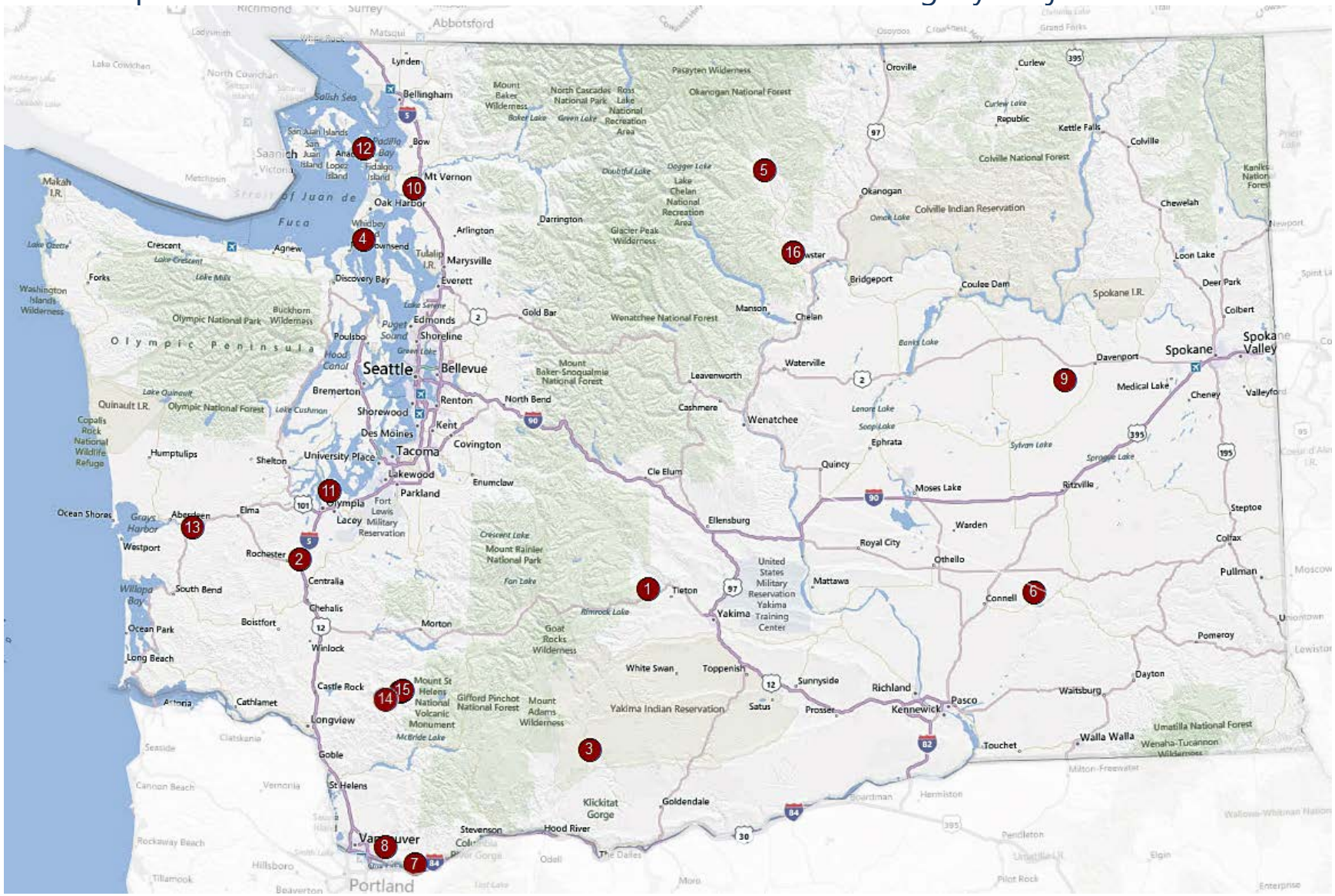
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 16	50.50	12-1226R	Oak Creek Forest Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$380,000	$25,000	$405,000	$380,000
2 of 16	50.25	12-1527R	South Puget Sound Prairie and Oak Woodland	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$324,500		$324,500	$704,500
3 of 16	49.00	12-1349R	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Forest and Meadow Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$72,500		$72,500	$777,000
4 of 16	46.88	12-1561R	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Restoration Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$150,000		$150,000	$927,000
5 of 16	46.38	12-1606R	Methow Forest Restoration Project Phase 1	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$500,000	$29,000	$529,000	$1,427,000
6 of 16	45.63	12-1560R	Kahlotus-Marcellus Natural Area Preserve Shrub Steppe Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$71,600		$71,600	$1,498,600
7 of 16	45.38	12-1534R	Washougal Oaks Natural Area Restoration Phase 3	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$98,000		$98,000	$1,596,600
8 of 16	45.13	12-1612R	Lacamas Prairie Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$135,000		$135,000	$1,731,600
9 of 16	44.50	12-1116R	Welch-Anderson Shrub Steppe Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$30,000		$30,000	$1,761,600
10 of 16	44.38	12-1852R	Lower Cottonwood Slough	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$56,274		$56,274	$1,817,874
11 of 16	43.75	12-1119R	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Wetland and Shoreline Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$97,700	$7,000	$104,700	$1,915,574
12 of 16	42.63	12-1046R	Secret Harbor Estuary and Salt Marsh Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$480,207	$100,000	$580,207	$2,395,781
13 of 16	42.50	12-1253R	Chehalis River Surge Plain Ecosystem Restoration	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$87,400		$87,400	$2,483,181
14 of 16	41.38	12-1316R	Toutle River Enhancement Phase 5	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$336,000		$336,000	$2,819,181
15 of 16	40.50	12-1315R	Bear Creek Riparian Enhancement	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$46,500		$46,500	$2,865,681
16 of 16	26.88	12-1259R	Methow-Okanogan Habitat Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$131,500		$131,500	$2,997,181
					$2,997,181	**$161,000**	**$3,158,181**	

State Map for State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects



State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Project Introduction	• Project goals and objectives • Statewide, vicinity, and site maps	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	• Bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance • Target species and communities	15
2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	• The problem to be addressed • Threat	15
3. Project Design	• Details of project design • Best management practices	15
4. Planning	• Consistency with existing plans • Puget Sound Partnership guidelines	5
5. Public Benefit	• Public educational or scientific value	5
	Maximum Possible Score	**55**

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

1. **Ecological and Biological Characteristics**
   Describe why the site is worthy of long-term conservation.

2. **Need for Restoration or Enhancement**
   Describe why this restoration or enhancement project needs to be completed.

3. **Project Design**
   Describe how the proposed project will address the problem(s) identified earlier.

4. **Planning**
   Specifically describe how the project is consistent with planning efforts occurring in the area.

5. **Public Benefit**
   Describe the degree to which communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project.

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

	Question	1	2	3	4	5	
Rank	Project Name	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	Need for Restoration and Enhancement	Project Design	Planning	Public Benefit	Total
1	Oak Creek Forest Restoration	13.75	13.63	14.38	4.50	4.25	50.50
2	South Puget Sound Prairie and Oak Woodland	13.63	13.50	14.25	4.75	4.13	50.25
3	Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area Forest and Meadow Restoration	13.50	13.25	13.88	4.25	4.13	49.00
4	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Restoration Phase 2	12.88	13.00	13.13	4.00	3.88	46.88
5	Methow Forest Restoration Phase 1	12.38	12.75	12.63	4.50	4.13	46.38
6	Kahlotus-Marcellus Natural Area Preserve Shrub Steppe Restoration	13.00	12.00	13.13	4.00	3.50	45.63
7	Washougal Oaks Natural Area Restoration Phase 3	13.00	12.38	11.88	4.00	4.13	45.38
8	Lacamas Prairie Restoration	12.25	12.25	12.88	4.00	3.75	45.13
9	Welch-Anderson Shrub Steppe Restoration	11.38	12.25	12.88	4.13	3.88	44.50
10	Lower Cottonwood Slough	12.50	12.00	12.88	3.63	3.38	44.38
11	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Wetland and Shoreline Restoration	11.50	11.75	12.63	4.00	3.88	43.75
12	Secret Harbor Estuary and Salt Marsh Restoration	11.00	11.38	12.75	4.13	3.38	42.63
13	Chehalis River Surge Plain Ecosystem Restoration	11.38	11.75	11.63	4.00	3.75	42.50
14	Toutle River Enhancement Phase 5	10.63	11.38	12.38	3.63	3.38	41.38
15	Bear Creek Riparian Enhancement	10.63	10.50	12.38	3.63	3.38	40.50
16	Methow-Okanogan Habitat Restoration	8.38	7.88	6.25	2.13	2.25	26.88

Evaluators Score Questions 1-5

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $380,000
Restoring Oak Creek Forest through Logging and Fire

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore the Oak Creek forest by thinning and burning 940 acres owned by the agency in the Tieton unit of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The Tieton unit consists of 10,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat, oak woodlands, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests, cliffs and talus slopes, and nearly 8 miles along the Tieton River. The department will thin 500 acres and burn 440 acres. The lands proposed for treatment are interspersed with U.S. Forest Service lands. The department will contribute $25,000 from a private grant. (12-1226)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $324,500
Restoring South Puget Sound Prairie and Oak Woodland

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore several prairies and oak woodlands by collecting seeds and replanting the areas. Scatter Creek, Mima Mounds, Bald Hill, Rocky Prairie, and West Rocky Prairie are home to rare plants, animals, and plant communities. They are being degraded by invading species. The department will acquire native seeds and transplants, prepare areas for seeding by removing trees and burning the areas, plant seeds or plugs, and control exotic grasses and forbs. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, Joint Base Lewis McChord, and the Center for Natural Land Management have built a partnership to provide a diversity of native species for direct seeding in grassland and oak woodland restoration in south Puget Sound. (12-1527)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $72,500
Restoring the Klickitat Canyon Forest and Meadow

The Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program will use this grant to restore meadow and dry forest habitats in the Klickitat Canyon Natural Resources Conservation Area to benefit three plant and animal species. The conservation area is 3 miles northeast of Glenwood and includes a 3-mile stretch of the free-flowing Klickitat River, talus habitats, a unique meadow and ponderosa pine complex, and mixed coniferous forest. The department will restore about 55 acres of meadow and riparian habitat and 250 acres of open ponderosa pine forest used by greater sandhill cranes and the mardon skipper butterfly, both state endangered species. One of only five sandhill crane nesting areas within Washington is near the project site, which provides important foraging habitat during the nesting season. The open forest and meadow habitats are used by the mardon skipper, and the forested area supports a population of the state sensitive plant, long-bearded sego lily. Areas within these habitats have been degraded in the past by ditching, road building, logging, livestock grazing, and invasions by non-native species. (12-1349)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $150,000
Restoring the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore a rare type of prairie on Whidbey Island. The Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve on the island is one of 12 known sites in the world for castilleja levisecta (CALE), a plant species that is listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction and by the state as endangered. The preserve also has the largest remnant of a rare, undescribed mesic prairie type, unique to Whidbey and nearly extirpated in the Puget Sound region. The department will mow, burn, control invasive species, and plant up to 60,000 plugs of native prairie species. Wildlife trees will be created for raptor roosts. The north trail will be moved to protect the restoration area. The prairie area was cleared of shrubs and trees and part of the cleared area was planted with CALE and native prairie species. Failure to follow-up with plantings in the unplanted area will reverse previous restoration efforts and allow invasion of weeds. (12-1561)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $500,000
Restoring the Methow Forest through Thinning

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to thin ponderosa pine and aspen forests in Okanogan County to restore them to health. The restoration targets 3,604 acres in the department's Methow Wildlife Area. Fire plays a primary role in maintaining ponderosa pine and aspen forest. Stopping fires for the past century has brought these forests to the brink of collapse. Historically, these forests had 5 to 30 trees per acre and now have 600-1,300 trees per acre. Conifers are driving aspen from the land. Delaying implementation increases risk of catastrophic fire like the 178,000-acre Tripod fire that burned the edge of the project area in 2006. The project area lies between national forest and developed private lands. The Methow River and tributaries flowing through the wildlife area are used by steelhead, spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, all listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The wildlife area also lies in an area for wolf conservation and is the winter range for the largest mule deer herd in Washington. This project will improve forest viability and provide abundant educational opportunities in forest ecology as well as family wage jobs. The department will contribute $29,000. (12-1606)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $71,600
Restoring Shrub-Steppe in the Kahlotus and Marcellus Natural Area Preserves

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore grassland and shrub-steppe habitat in two natural area preserves in eastern Washington. Kahlotus Natural Area Preserve in Franklin County supports the largest known, intact example of Palouse grassland vegetation in Washington. This site also contains a large population of the rare plant Piper's daisy. Marcellus Natural Area Preserve in Adams County contains three plant communities that are representative of the shrub-steppe ecosystem. This site also contains alkali vernal ponds. The project goals are to restore 36 acres of native plant communities in altered areas within each

preserve and to protect the remaining high quality areas found on these preserves. The department will remove non-native grasses and forbs and plant these areas with native vegetation. At one time, the Palouse prairie and shrub-steppe plant communities covered most of eastern Washington and extended into Oregon and Idaho. During the past 150 years, many of these areas have been converted to farms, cattle grazing, or development leaving very few good quality plant communities. (12-1560)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $98,000
Restoring Washougal Oaks

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to continue the restoration of 152 acres of an imperiled oak ecosystem in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area, which is about 3 miles east of Washougal in southeastern Clark County. The Washougal Oaks Natural Area was established in 2003 to protect the largest, high-quality oak woodland remaining in western Washington as well as the habitat for several rare plants and animals. It provides habitat for the rare small-flowered trillium, tall bugbane, slender-billed nuthatch, and Larch mountain salamander. Newly acquired lands that were cleared for farming will be restored to oak savannah with a native shrub layer. In the oak forest, trees that are shading native oaks, will be topped or girdled and left standing as wildlife trees. Native forb and shrub communities that were displaced by the now-controlled Himalayan blackberry and English ivy, will be replanted with native plants. The department also will install 40 starling-proof birdhouses to enhance nesting options for the slender-billed nuthatch and other cavity nesting species. Local school groups will continue to help with planting and weed control efforts. This project is vital to protecting and reconnecting imperiled oak forest at this site. This is the third phase of restoration. (12-1534)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $135,000
Restoring Lacamas Prairie

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore an imperiled wet prairie and Oregon white oak-ash-snowberry forest in Clark County, north of Lacamas Lake and Camas. The Lacamas Prairie Natural Area was established in 2009 to protect the last remaining example of Willamette Valley wet prairie in the state as well as habitat for five rare plants and one bird of conservation concern. The department will remove invasive weeds and encroaching woody vegetation both mechanically and by using herbicides. The department also will install water control structures to restore the water flow. By restoring these plant communities, this project also will protect habitat for rare species like Hall's aster, Oregon coyote thistle, slender-billed nuthatch, small-flowered trillium, and the endangered Bradshaw's lomatium. (12-1612)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $30,000
Restoring Welch-Anderson Shrub-Steppe

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore shrub-steppe habitat on 120 acres of retired wheat fields in the Welch-Anderson unit of Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area.

These fields are 8 miles south of U.S. Highway 2 in central Lincoln County, and 70 miles west of Spokane. The fields are 1 mile apart from each other. Decadent, non-native, crested wheatgrass will be converted to a mix of native and native-like forbs and native grasses, improving the ecological integrity and biological diversity of this upland habitat, and reducing habitat fragmentation. Shrub-steppe habitat, the amount of which has been greatly reduced in the past 100 years, is listed as a state priority habitat. This area also hosts several priority wildlife species, including Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, mule deer, and white-tailed jackrabbit. Restoration of these 120 acres builds upon more than 1,000 acres of shrub-steppe and grassland habitat that already has been restored by Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area staff, in the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area and the adjacent U.S. Bureau of Land Management Twin Lakes Recreation Area. (12-1116)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $56,274
Restoring Lower Cottonwood Slough

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to remove road fill blocking Cottonwood Slough. The slough is an historic side channel and backwater area of the Skagit River in the department's Skagit Wildlife Area. The slough is isolated from the river most of the time by a road built decades ago for logging Cottonwood Island. The department will remove the road fill at the downstream end of Cottonwood Slough, about 200 feet from the confluence of the slough with the Skagit River. This will open 2 acres of isolated, back-watered area, improving habitat for Skagit River Chinook salmon, which are threatened with extinction. The department also will replant the area. (12-1852)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $97,700
Restoring Woodard Bay Wetlands and Shoreline

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the wetlands and shoreline in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area. The 867-acre conservation area is north of Olympia, on Henderson Inlet, in Thurston County. It contains important shoreline, an estuary, freshwater wetlands and streams, a small lake, and habitat for many wildlife species. The department will restore the saltwater shoreline and enhance degraded and poorly buffered wetlands and shorelines. The department also will rebuild forested wetlands and the banks of a lake. On Weyer Point, disturbance from the historic log dump created areas dominated by invasive species along the shoreline. The department will control invasive species on 26 acres, and plant native species on 26 acres. Large portions of Weyer Point already have been restored; this project will complete the restoration. The conservation area is used by bats, migratory waterfowl, and Neotropical, migratory birds. The department will contribute $7,000 from donations of labor and materials. (12-1119)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $480,207
Restoring Secret Harbor Estuary and Salt Marsh

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore a continuum of estuarine, salt marsh, wetland, stream, and forest habitat at Secret Harbor, in the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area and Aquatic Reserve in Skagit County. The department will remove 300 feet of dike, which disrupted salt marsh habitat, and remove the fill behind the dike to allow the saltwater to return. The work will provide critical habitat for migrating salmon species as well as marine birds and waterfowl. Work will include filling irrigation ditches to restore ground water flow to freshwater ponds and wetlands, removing two culverts, and replanting. The project will restore hydrologic connection and near-shore processes to the estuary and adjacent freshwater wetlands and streams. The project area covers about 28 acres in Secret Harbor. Cypress Island supports communities of marbled murrelet, Pacific salmon, crabs, marine birds, and bald eagles to name a few. Restoration of this site will expand and improve the habitat to support them. The department will contribute $100,000 from a federal grant and cash. (12-1046)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $87,400
Restoring Chehalis River Surge Plain Ecosystem

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to remove invasive plants and replant part of the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve. The preserve is an extraordinary wetland near the mouth of the Chehalis River, between Aberdeen and Montesano, in Grays Harbor County. The primary wetland community is a Sitka spruce-dominated forest, with wide gaps created by wind-thrown trees, numerous winding channels, and dense native vegetation. The department will protect the preserve from invasive species and plant native, surge plain species in disturbed or non-native dominated sites. (12-1253)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $336,000
Enhancing the Toutle River for Elk

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to protect critical elk winter range and improve the banks of the north fork of the Toutle River in the department's Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area. The department will install log structures to slow bank erosion and allow the forest on the riverbanks to recover. The department will install lateral log wall structures to move the main channel away from eroding banks and small logjams to increase floodplain roughness, fostering a more stable river channel. Most of the work will be done upstream of previous work. The department also will plant shrubs, alder, and other trees to speed recovery of habitat and further increase bank stability. Reducing erosion will improve water quality, both on site and downstream. (12-1316)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $46,500
Enhancing the Banks of Bear Creek

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 3.1 miles of Bear Creek in the department's Mount Saint Helens Wildlife Area in Cowlitz County. The department will remove invasive plants, establish tree cover, and plant the banks of the creek. The creek is used by coho salmon, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, and steelhead. Currently adult fish in the north Toutle have to be trucked around a sediment retention facility. Annually, 60 percent or more of these trucked fish are released into Bear Creek as their spawning grounds, making the tributary one of the most critical for recovery in the watershed. Fish are not the only animals that benefit from healthy and diverse creek banks. Elk that winter in the area can feed on creek bank plants when their normal food is buried in deep snow. Although fish and elk are the primary animals helped by this project, other animals, such as western toads, northern alligator lizards, and yellow-rumped warblers also will benefit from improved creek banks. (12-1315)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $131,500
Restoring Methow-Okanogan Habitat

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to help restore former agricultural lands to native vegetation in department wildlife areas along the Methow and Similkameen Rivers. The land had been grazed and farmed in years past, and now is a mix of weeds and desirable species. The department will remove the weeds, including Siberian elms (that draw large amounts of groundwater), and replace them with desirable native species such as ponderosa pine and cottonwood. Work will be done on the Driscoll-Eyhott Islands and the old Judd Ranch on the Methow River. (12-1259)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4D**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Habitat Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Fourteen projects in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-12

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects provide habitat for fish and wildlife in close proximity to a metropolitan area. These habitats may include forests, riparian zones, and wetlands, and may serve as a corridor for wildlife movement in existing populated areas.

To be eligible for consideration in this category, a project must be:

- Within the corporate limits of a city or town with a population of at least 5,000 or within five miles of such a city or town (or its adopted Urban Growth Area boundary), or
- Within five miles of an adopted Urban Growth Area in a county that has a population density of at least 250 people per square mile.

Eligible Applicants	Native American Tribes, local government, and state agencies
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition • Restoration • Habitat enhancement or creation • Where appropriate, development of public use facilities such as trails, viewing blinds, restrooms, and parking
Funding Limits	No minimum or maximum grant request limit per project
Match Requirements	• No match required for state agencies • Local agency applicants must provide a 50% matching share.
Public Access	May include and encourage public use for wildlife interpretation and observation
Other	Projects involving renovation of an existing facility are ineligible

Funding Allocation

The Urban Wildlife Habitat category is eligible to receive not less than 20 percent of the WWRP Habitat Conservation Account funds.[1]

The board allocates urban wildlife habitat funding as follows:

- 40 percent to the top local agency projects
- 40 percent to the top state agency projects
- 20 percent distributed as follows:
    - Fully fund partially funded local agency projects,
    - Fully fund partially funded state agency projects, and then
    - Fund the next highest ranked projects, regardless of sponsor.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fourteen Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects requesting $17.1 million were evaluated between June 20 and July 11, 2012 using a written process. A team of nine evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to rank projects. The evaluation team included the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat enhancement and conservation:

[1] Chapter 79A.15.040(1)(c) RCW

Evaluator	Affiliation
Nadia Gardner	Columbia Land Trust
Patricia Powell	Whidbey Camano Land Trust
Cindy Swanberg	Biologist, Tacoma Power
John Howard	Citizen, Citizens for a Healthy Bay
Pene Speaks	Department of Natural Resources
Chris Anderson	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mike Kaputa	Chelan County Natural Resources
Alexander Hallenius	Citizen
Wendy Harris	Citizen

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-12.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-12

- Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Urban Wildlife Habitat Category projects

B. Urban Wildlife Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-12
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Urban Wildlife Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, fourteen Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects are eligible for funding from the Habitat Conservation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all fourteen Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10b, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Accounts,* including criteria regarding public benefit and relationship to established plans; and

WHEREAS, the projects address a variety of Urban Wildlife habitat needs, and the evaluation included information about the quality and function of the habitat and the demonstrated need to protect it for fish and/or wildlife, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity, protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Urban Wildlife Habitat category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

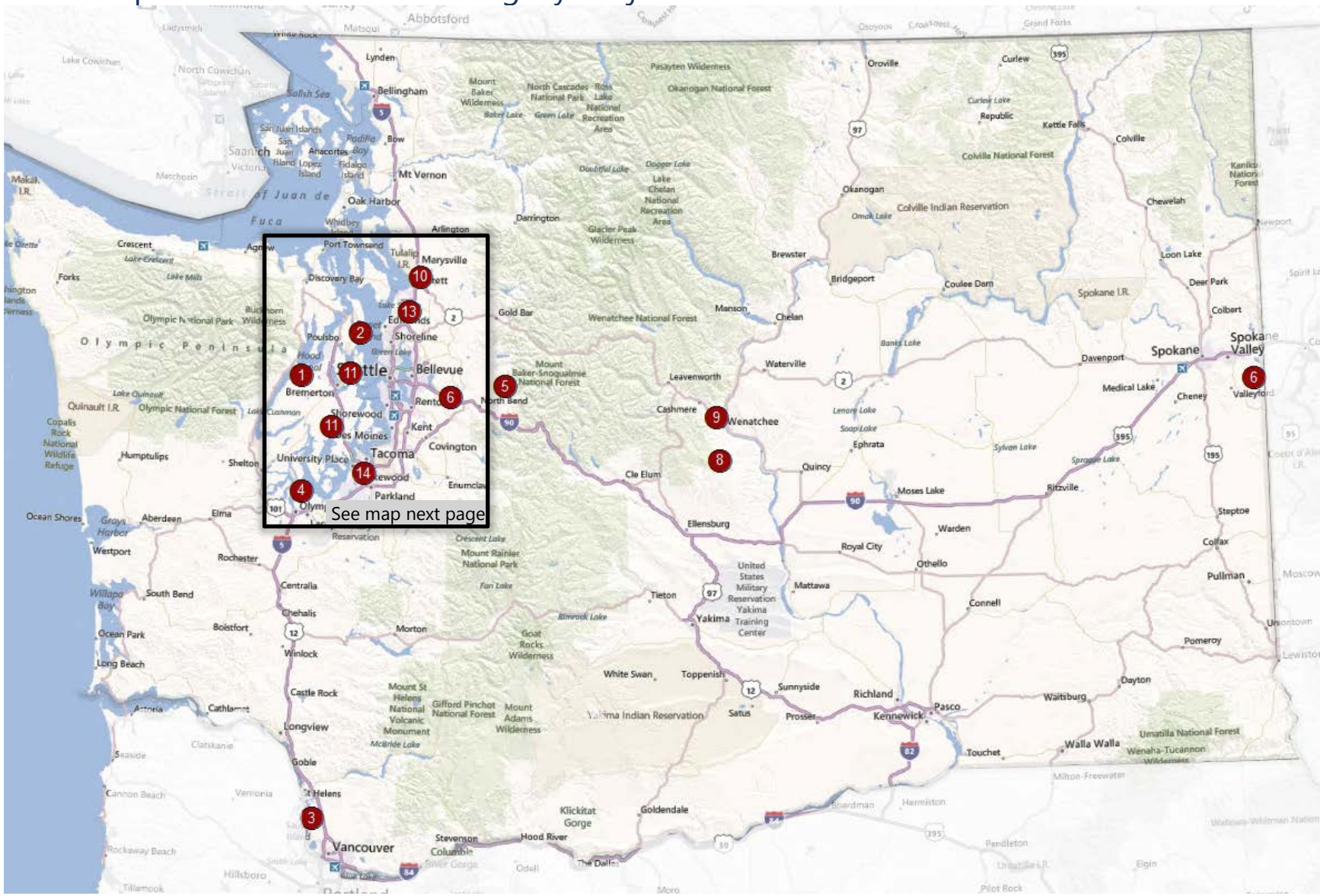
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 14	60.11	12-1179A	Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area-Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,428,525		$1,428,525	$1,428,525
2 of 14	60.00	12-1255A	North Kitsap Heritage Park Phase 2	Kitsap County	$392,000	$1,267,500	$1,659,500	$1,820,525
3 of 14	59.67	12-1504A	Flume Creek Habitat Area	Clark County	$1,105,925	$1,105,925	$2,211,850	$2,926,450
4 of 14	59.56	12-1185A	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$2,143,785		$2,143,785	$5,070,235
5 of 14	56.78	12-1178A	Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Areas 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$2,610,510		$2,610,510	$7,680,745
6 of 14	56.11	12-1184A	West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$1,112,895		$1,112,895	$8,793,640
6 of 14	56.11	12-1124A	Mica Peak 2012	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,852,000		$1,852,000	$10,645,640
8 of 14	54.67	12-1510A	Stemilt Basin Phase 2	Chelan County	$1,250,000	$1,250,000	$2,500,000	$11,895,640
9 of 14	54.22	12-1042A	Wenatchee Foothills North Acquisition Phase 1	Wenatchee	$1,050,000	$1,226,000	$2,276,000	$12,945,640
10 of 14	49.11	12-1426R	Smith Island Everett Estuarine Restoration	Snohomish County	$3,043,884	$3,044,126	$6,088,010	$15,989,524
11 of 14	45.11	12-1435A	West Gazzam Lake Phase 6	Bainbridge Island Park District	$364,000	$364,000	$728,000	$16,353,524
11 of 14	45.11	12-1198A	Cramer and McCracken Acquisition	Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	$185,000	$186,000	$371,000	$16,538,524
13 of 14	42.78	12-1600D	Northwest Stream Center Interpretive Trail	Snohomish County	$109,750	$430,000	$539,750	$16,648,274
14 of 14	41.11	12-1550A	South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area Expansion	Tacoma	$500,000	$1,660,000	$2,160,000	$17,148,274
					$17,148,274	**$10,533,551**	**$27,681,825**	

State Map for Urban Wildlife Category Projects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Bellingham
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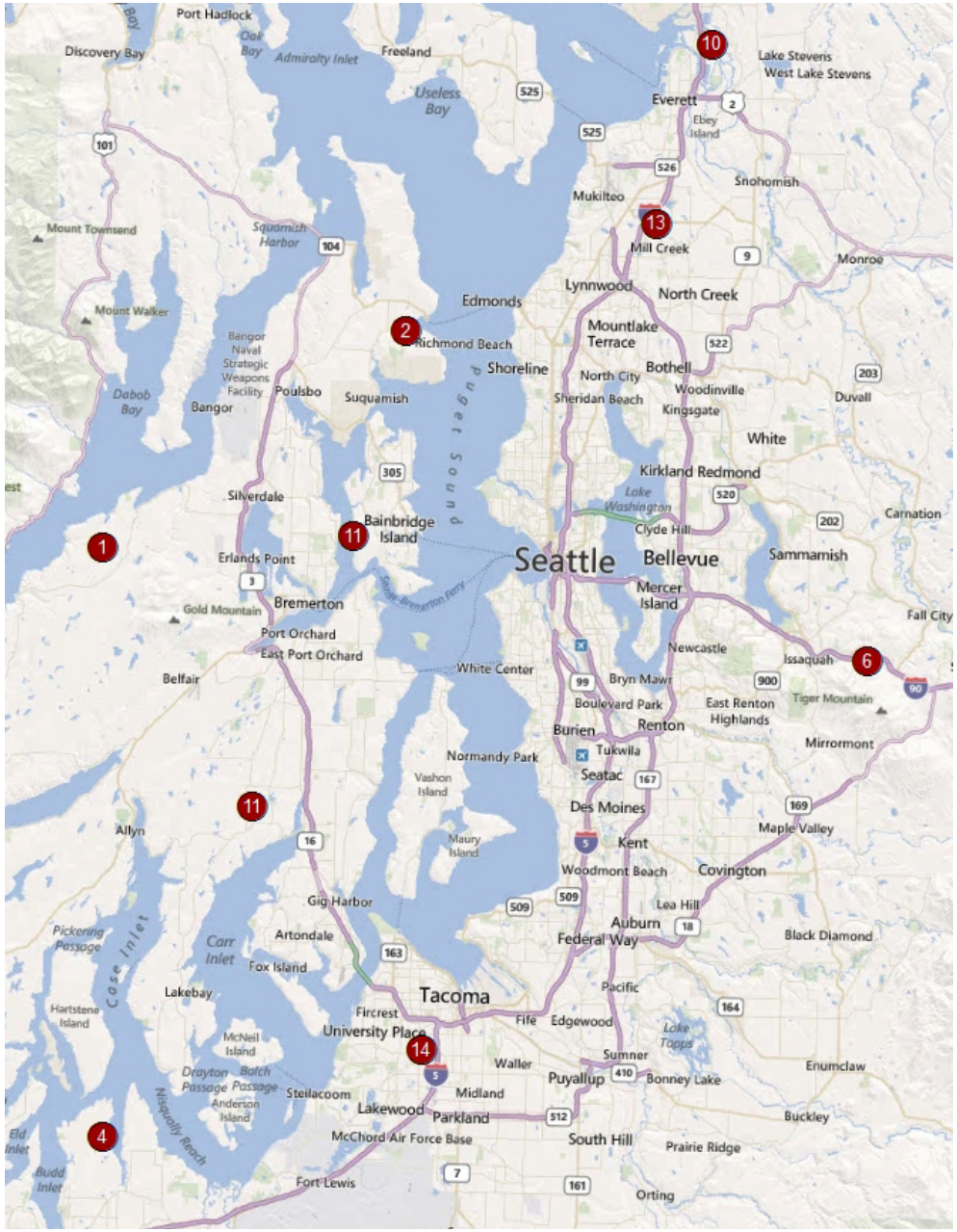
Marysville
Bremerton
Seattle
Bellevue
Shoreline
Tacoma
Kent
Covington
Wenatchee
Spokane
Spokane Valley
Vancouver
Olympia
Longview
Kennewick
Pasco
Richland
Yakima
Walla Walla
Pullman
Moses Lake
Ellensburg
Leavenworth
Chelan
Okanogan
Omak
Colville
Kettle Falls
Curlew
Oroville
Republic
Ephrata
Quincy
Othello
Connell
Pomeroy
Dayton
Waitsburg
Prosser
Sunnyside
Toppenish
White Swan
Goldendale
Hood River
Stevenson
Columbia
Aberdeen
Hoquiam
Ocean Shores
Westport
Raymond
Centralia
Chehalis
Rochester
Olympia
Port Townsend
Sequim
Forks
Lynden
Ferndale
Blaine
Anacortes
Friday Harbor
Darrington
Gold Bar
Brewster
Bridgeport
Coulee Dam
Waterville
Cashmere
Davenport
Medical Lake
Cheney
Deer Park
Colfax
Steptoe
Warden
Royal City
Mattawa
Tieton
Cle Elum
Goldendale
Klickitat
Boardman
Hermiston
Pendleton
Milton-Freewater
Umatilla
Touchet
Satus
Toppenish
Yakima Indian Reservation
United States Military Reservation Yakima Training Center
Olympic Peninsula
Olympic National Park
Olympic National Forest
Quinault I.R.
Copalis Rock National Wildlife Refuge
Mount Baker Wilderness
North Cascades National Park
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
Pasayten Wilderness
Okanogan National Forest
Colville National Forest
Colville Indian Reservation
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Glacier Peak Wilderness
Wenatchee National Forest
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Mount Rainier National Park
Goat Rocks Wilderness
Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mount Adams Wilderness
Umatilla National Forest
Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness
Spokane I.R.
Colville I.R.
Yakima I.R.
Umatilla I.R.
Quinault I.R.
Lake Chelan
Banks Lake
Lake Roosevelt
Sprague Lake
Soap Lake
Lake Cushman
Lake Quinault
Lake Crescent
Lake Mills
Lake Sammamish
Lake Washington
Puget Sound
Strait of Juan de Fuca
Salish Sea
San Juan Islands
Abbotsford
Matsqui
Lake Cowichan
North Cowichan
Saanich
Victoria
Maple Ridge
Langley
Surrey
Delta
Richmond
Vancouver
Burnaby
Coquitlam
Port Coquitlam
Pitt Meadows
Mission
Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Hope
Princeton
Osoyoos
Grand Forks
Trail
Castlegar
Nelson
Kaslo
Revelstoke
Golden
Invermere
Cranbrook
Kimberley
Fernie
Creston
Nelson
Salmon Arm
Kamloops
Merritt
Ashcroft
Lillooet
Pemberton
Squamish
Whistler
Bella Coola
Prince Rupert
Terrace
Kitimat
Smithers
Prince George
Quesnel
Williams Lake
100 Mile House
Clinton
Cache Creek
Ashcroft
Lytton
Boston Bar
Yale
Hope
Chilliwack
Abbotsford
Mission
Maple Ridge
Langley
Surrey
Delta
Richmond
Vancouver
Burnaby
Coquitlam
Port Coquitlam
Pitt Meadows
Port Moody
West Vancouver
North Vancouver
Bowen Island
Gibsons
Sechelt
Powell River
Lund
Campbell River
Courtenay
Comox
Cumberland
Qualicum Beach
Parksville
Port Alberni
Tofino
Ucluelet
Port Hardy
Alert Bay
Sointula
Port McNeill
Port Alberni
Nanaimo
Ladysmith
Duncan
Chemainus
Lake Cowichan
Victoria
Sooke
Metchosin
Saanich
Oak Bay
Esquimalt
Colwood
Langford
Sidney
Saanich
Victoria


10
Lake Stevens
West Lake Stevens
Port Hadlock
Discovery Bay
Oak Bay
Admiralty Inlet
Freeland
Useless Bay
525
Everett
Ebey Island
2
101
526
Snohomish
Mukilteo
13
Mill Creek
9
Monroe
Mount Townsend
Squamish Harbor
104
Lynnwood
North Creek
Edmonds
Mount Walker
2
Richmond Beach
Mountlake Terrace
522
Bangor Naval Strategic Weapons Facility
Shoreline
North City
Bothell
203
Dabob Bay
Bangor
Poulsbo
Suquamish
Puget Sound
Sheridan Beach
Woodinville
Kingsgate
Duvall
White
305
Kirkland Redmond
Lake Washington
520
Silverdale
Bainbridge Island
11
Clyde Hill
202
Carnation
1
Erlands Point
Seattle
Bellevue
Sammamish
3
Bremerton
Mercer Island
Gold Mountain
Fall City
Port Orchard
East Port Orchard
Newcastle
Issaquah
6
Belfair
White Center
99
Bryn Mawr
900
Boulevard Park
East Renton Highlands
Tiger Mountain
90
Burien
Renton
Mirrormont
Normandy Park
Tukwila
Vashon Island
Seatac
167
11
Des Moines
169
Allyn
16
Maury Island
Kent
Maple Valley
Woodmont Beach
Covington
Gig Harbor
509
509
Lea Hill
Pickering Passage
Case Inlet
Carr Inlet
Artondale
Auburn
18
Black Diamond
Federal Way
163
Fox Island
Pacific
Lakebay
Tacoma
164
Hartstene Island
Fircrest
Fife
Edgewood
Lake Tapps
University Place
McNeil Island
14
Sumner
Waller
Enumclaw
Drayton Passage
Balch Passage
Puyallup
410
Bonney Lake
Steilacoom
Midland
Anderson Island
Lakewood
Parkland
512
Buckley
Nisqually Reach
4
McChord Air Force Base
South Hill
Prairie Ridge
Eld Inlet
Budd Inlet
Fort Lewis
7
161
Orting

Urban Wildlife Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

"Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area." RCW 79A.15.010

Urban Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Summary		
Criteria	**Evaluation Elements**	**Possible Points**
Project Introduction	• Locate the project on statewide, vicinity, and site maps • Brief summary of the project [goal(s) and objective(s) statement]	Not scored
1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	• The bigger picture • Uniqueness or significance of the site • Fish and wildlife species and or communities • Quality of habitat	20
2. Species and Communities with Special Status	• Threat to species or communities • Importance of acquisitions • Ecological roles • Taxonomic distinctness • Rarity	10
3. Manageability and Viability	• Immediacy of threat to the site • Long-term viability • Enhancement of existing protected land • Ongoing stewardship	15
4. Public Benefit	• Project support	10
5. Educational Opportunities	• Educational and scientific value	5
6. Public Use	• Potential for, and appropriate level of, public use	10
7. GMA	• Growth Management Act Planning Requirement	0
8. Population	• Population of, and proximity to, the nearest urban area	10
	Total Points Possible	**80**

Urban Wildlife Habitat Detailed Scoring Criteria

Team Scored

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

Why is the site worthy of long-term conservation? RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(a) (iii, v-vii, xi, xiv); (6)(b)(ii)

2. Species or Communities with Special Status

What is the significance of each species or community listed on your species and communities status table? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (IV, ix, xiii).

3. Manageability and Viability

What is the likelihood of the site remaining viable over the long-term and why is it important to secure it now? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (ii, IV, viii, x)

4. Public Benefit

To what degree do communities, governments, landowners, constituent groups, or academia benefit from or support the project? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (I, xii).

5. Educational Opportunities

To what degree does this project provide potential opportunities for educational and scientific value? RCW 79A.15.060 (6) (a) (xii)

6. Public Use

Does this project provide potential opportunities for public access, education, or enjoyment? Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State-2002-2007, Chapters 1 and 5

Prescored/RCO Staff Scored

7. Growth Management Act (GMA) Preference

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

8. Population

Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and county density? (Acquisition/Development)

RCW 79A.25.250; RCW 79A.15.060 (6)(b)(i)(WWRP)

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Project Name	1 Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2 Species and Communities with Special Status	3 Manageability and Viabililty	4 Public Benefit	5 Educational Opportunities	6 Public Use	7 GMA Compliance	8 Population	Total
1	Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area-Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve 2012	15.89	7.67	11.67	7.78	3.56	5.56	0	8	60.11
2	North Kitsap Heritage Park Phase 2	14.11	7.67	11.56	8.33	4.22	8.11	-1	7	60.00
3	Flume Creek Habitat Area	14.67	7.56	10.33	8.22	3.44	6.44	0	9	59.67
4	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area 2012	15.33	7.22	11.78	8.00	4.44	7.78	0	5	59.56
5	Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Areas 2012	14.67	7.22	10.78	6.89	3.00	7.22	0	7	56.78
6	West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area 2012	12.33	5.89	11.33	7.22	3.56	7.78	0	8	56.11
7	Mica Peak 2012	14.89	7.44	11.11	7.33	3.44	6.89	0	5	56.11
8	Stemilt Basin Phase 2	14.89	7.56	10.22	7.89	4.00	7.11	0	3	54.67
9	Wenatchee Foothills North Acquisition Phase 1	13.56	6.78	11.44	7.89	4.00	7.56	0	3	54.22
10	Smith Island Everett Estuarine Restoration	14.22	6.33	10.11	7.00	3.33	7.11	-1	2	49.11
11	West Gazzam Lake Phase 6	9.00	4.44	8.67	6.67	2.78	5.56	0	8	45.11
12	Cramer and McCracken Acquisition	10.11	5.67	9.78	6.22	2.56	5.78	0	5	45.11
13	Northwest Stream Center Interpretive Trail	7.89	4.22	7.78	6.89	4.56	7.44	-1	5	42.78
14	South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area	8.78	4.78	7.11	6.11	2.89	3.44	0	8	41.11

Evaluators Score Questions 1-6; RCO Staff Scores Questions 7-8

Urban Wildlife Habitat Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $1,428,525
Conserving Wildlife Habitat in the Kitsap Forest

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 93 acres in the combined Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, to protect high quality wildlife habitat in one of Puget Sound's most densely populated counties. Located near Bremerton's urban growth area in Kitsap County, the 2,400-acre combined conservation areas include freshwater streams, wetlands, Puget Sound shorelines, and old growth and mature forests. They protect three rare forest communities including one of the best remaining examples of the Douglas fir-western hemlock-evergreen huckleberry forest. Less than 1 percent of the historic extent of similar forest conditions remains in the Puget Trough today. The combined conservation areas are considered a critical link in the Western Kitsap Peninsula Priority Conservation Area, which is one of the most important areas for conserving wildlife diversity in the Puget Trough area because of its size and number of species. Stavis Creek, which runs through the site, is one of the best remaining salmon spawning habitats in Hood Canal. It is a designated recovery area for Hood Canal summer chum, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. High quality, freshwater wetlands at the site form the headwaters of the creek and provide habitat for cavity-nesting ducks. The site also hosts an active bald eagle nest, a small great blue heron rookery, breeding mountain quails, cougars, and black bears. This project greatly enhances the long-term viability and quality of wildlife habitat in the area. (12-1179)

Kitsap County — Grant Request: $392,000
Expanding North Kitsap Heritage Park

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 470 acres for the North Kitsap Heritage Park. This purchase, when added to a first phase, would conserve 900 acres in Kingston's urban growth boundary. Part of a larger effort known as the Kitsap Forest and Bay Project, this purchase focuses on protecting the headwaters of two salmon-bearing streams, Grover's and Carpenter Creeks. The land contains rare wetlands, ponds, and mature lowland forests. It gives people a place for bird watching and wildlife viewing, and access to a regional trail network for horseback riding, hiking, and biking. The willing seller of the property is donating 104 acres, which provides a critical buffer and habitat corridor between two major housing developments. This acquisition has tremendous community support including: City of Poulsbo, Suquamish Tribe, Stillwaters Environmental Center, Audubon, the current owner (Olympic Property Group), and stewardship and recreational community groups as well as residents. The County will contribute more than $1.2 million in cash, a federal grant, another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office, and donations of land. (12-1255)

Clark County — Grant Request: $1,105,925
Conserving Flume Creek Habitat

Clark County will use this grant to buy 160 acres of shoreline, wetlands, and mature forest in northwest Clark County on the southern edge of Ridgefield and 3.75 miles north of Vancouver's urban growth boundary. The project borders the 5,218-acre Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and 35 acres of wetlands near Lake River that are protected in perpetuity by a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement. This project has four primary objectives: 1) protect 105 acres of the last remaining, intact, mature upland forest on Clark County's south- and west-facing slopes above the Columbia River; 2) protect 30 acres of floodplain, shoreline, and wetlands on Flume Creek and a second, year-round stream; 3) protect and restore 25 acres of North Pacific Oak Woodland; and 4) provide protection for more than 30 priority habitats and special-status species. The project also will provide places for hiking, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education. The Flume Creek property includes a variety of habitats (mature forest, remnant old growth forest, high densities of snags and downed logs) that are almost nonexistent in the wildlife refuge. The co-location of these sites creates one of the most important areas for diversity of plants and animals in southwest Washington. The County will contribute more than $1.1 million in conservation futures[1] and a federal grant. (12-1504)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $2,143,785
Expanding the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 47 acres to expand the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area, conserving wildlife habitat in a rapidly developing residential area. The department will buy shoreline along Henderson Inlet, Woodard Creek, and tributary streams. Buying the land will ensure that the land continues to provide important habitat for wildlife, including nesting bald eagles, a significant heron rookery, and the largest harbor seal nursery in south Puget Sound. (12-1185)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $2,610,510
Conserving the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Conservation Areas

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly 639 acres of privately owned land in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Areas, in east King County. The department will focus on buying parcels in the Mountains to Sound Greenway that are threatened by housing developments and provide crucial wildlife habitat. The greenway is a 100-mile corridor of forests, wildlife habitat, and open land along Interstate 90. Distinctive physical features of these sites include talus, lakes, streams, wetlands, old growth and mature forests, cliffs, and land connections for wildlife. Animals using the land include a variety of birds, mammals, amphibians, and fish. Large mammals known to use the conservation areas include cougars, bobcats, mountain goats, black bears, coyotes, and elk. Red-tailed hawks,

[1] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

osprey, barred owls, pygmy owls, and pileated woodpeckers also live there. Great horned owls and screech owls likely live in the older forests. (12-1178)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $1,112,895
Buying Land for the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly 58 acres of privately owned land for inclusion in the West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area. The department will manage the land to protect significant wildlife habitat, provide opportunities for low-impact public use and outdoor environmental education, and provide vital open land, scenic vistas, and wildlife habitat connections. The conservation area is in King County and is among the most popular destinations in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. (12-1184)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $1,852,000
Buying Land on Mica Peak

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy the west slope of Mica Peak, one of the most prominent landmarks in Spokane. From atop this 920-acre property, one can enjoy views of the rolling Palouse to the south and the Selkirk Mountains to the north. Located less than 5 miles southeast of Spokane, this land is at immediate risk for subdivision and development. The loss of this parcel to development, in essence, will split in two what is about 12,000 acres of contiguous, undeveloped forestland owned by the State, County, and a timber company. The land is a diverse mix of conifer woodland with open meadows, aspen stringers, and brushy slopes, and contains the headwaters of California and Saltese Creeks. The land supports a rich assortment of smaller wildlife (white tailed deer, coyotes, martens, stellar jays, great horned owls, western toads, etc.) that live in coniferous forest. Additionally found on this land, but dependent on the greater area that this property connects together, are Washington's larger wildlife species (moose, elk, cougar, black bear, etc.). Acquisition of this land will allow recreationists to travel the entire the area without trespassing on private land. (12-1124)

Chelan County — Grant Request: $1,250,000
Conserving the Stemilt Basin

Chelan County will use this grant to protect 4,010 acres of forest and other diverse habitats on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains. This project is part of a larger, natural resource planning effort undertaken by the Stemilt Partnership in the Stemilt and Squilchuck watersheds. Critical habitat exists here for ponderosa pine dependent species, such as flammulated owls. Other habitats and species present include: mixed Douglas fir and ponderosa pine with white-headed woodpecker and spotted owl; mixed Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests with northern goshawk and pileated woodpecker; basalt cliffs; dense riparian with Neotropical migrants such as MacGillavary's warbler; and Stemilt Creek with steelhead, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, spring Chinook, and resident rainbow and westslope cutthroat trout. The Stemilt basin is popular for hiking, bird watching, fishing, hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. Support for this project comes from the Stemilt Partnership, which is

comprised of more than 20 groups. A keystone of the group's action plan is to preserve critical habitats and wildlife from the growing threat of development. The County will contribute more than $1.2 million in cash, labor, and another grant. (12-1510)

Wenatchee — Grant Request: $1,050,000
Buying Land in the Wenatchee Foothills

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy 283 acres northwest of Wenatchee for wildlife habitat. This is the first phase in the implementation of the Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy, which is a partnership between the City, Chelan County, the Trust for Public Land, and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. The land provides shrub-steppe habitat and mixed conifer forestlands that support a diverse community of wildlife including mule deer, migratory songbirds, and raptors. The land is between other wildlife areas and will create a 3,000-acre corridor of protected land. The City will contribute more than $1.2 million in labor and donations of labor and land. (12-1042)

Snohomish County — Grant Request: $3,043,884
Restoring Smith Island Estuary

Snohomish County will use this grant to restore 250 acres of tidal marsh in the Smith Island estuary to support federal- and state-listed shorebirds and salmon. The County will build nearly a mile of setback levee and remove about a half-mile of existing levee. Adult Chinook salmon entering the estuary from Puget Sound swim about 21 miles past Everett, Lake Stevens, and Marysville up to where the Snohomish River splits into the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers near Monroe. Beginning in the 1860s, habitat conditions in the Snohomish River estuary were altered substantially as settlers harvested timber, drained thousands of acres of marsh, ditched tributaries, and constructed more than 44 miles of levees. Of the 16 river deltas in Puget Sound, about 90 percent of estuarine emergent marsh, scrub shrub, and tidal forested wetlands were lost in Puget Sound. The Smith Island project is part of a larger restoration effort that will return the tides to more than 1,200 acres of river deltas, the third largest estuary restoration effort in the state. The County will contribute more than $3 million in cash and three other grants from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1426)

Bainbridge Island Park District — Grant Request: $364,000
Conserving Land around Gazzam Lake

The Bainbridge Island Park District will use this grant to buy 34 acres to protect wildlife habitat near Gazzam Lake, increasing public ownership there to 478 acres. This purchase will increase protection for 27 wetlands and an adjoining saltwater parcel. The acquisition also provides additional buffer to Gazzam Lake on the north. The land is highly desirable for view homes and would require an access road to bisect park-managed land threatening habitat integrity. The land contains mature forests dominated by Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, red alder, and big-leaf maple. The understory is thick and diverse with salal and huckleberry. Animals, such as purple martins, bald eagles, and pileated woodpeckers live on the land.

Numerous other songbirds, as well as Neotropical migrant birds, will benefit from this acquisition. Support comes from the Suquamish Tribe, The Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, the Kitsap County Audubon Society, and Keep Gazzam Wild. The park district will contribute $364,000 in donations of cash and a voter-approved levy. (12-1435)

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District — Grant Request: $185,000
Buying Land along Minter Creek

Key Pen Parks will use this grant to buy 40 acres of forest and more than 13 acres of pristine land along Minter Creek. The land is at 118th Street, very near the Pierce-Kitsap County boundary, and adjoins the 360 Property, which the park district manages. Buying the land will preserve the pristine land surrounding Minter Creek, maintain high water quality, enhance connections between forest and wetland, protect habitat and a migration corridor, and allow for low-impact recreation. Minter Creek is regionally significant in size and complexity and recommended for protection. KGI Watershed Council, Tahoma Audubon, KP Civic Center, and other local groups support this project. The park district will contribute $186,000 in cash and conservation futures[2]. (12-1198)

Snohomish County — Grant Request: $109,750
Building the Northwest Stream Center Interpretive Trail

In partnership with the Adopt A Stream Foundation, the Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation will use this grant build a raised boardwalk interpretive trail, more than a quarter-mile long through 20 acres of wildlife habitat at the Northwest Stream Center in McCollum Park, a 74-acre regional park south of Everett. The planned boardwalk will lead up to 45,000 visitors a year through forests and wetlands next to a salmon stream. Interpretive signs will guide people through the area and offer strategies for sound watershed stewardship. Visitors will experience the interconnections between forests, wetlands, streams, wildlife, and people. The Adopt A Stream Foundation recently built a visitors center with conference and exhibit space and is building an outdoor Trout Stream Exhibit with viewing windows into stream habitat. The foundation is providing $400,000 matching funds and volunteers to help with boardwalk construction. The County will contribute $430,000 in donations of cash and labor. (12-1600)

Tacoma — Grant Request: $500,000
Expanding the South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area

The City of Tacoma will use this grant to buy 22 acres in the southwest corner of the 40-acre South Tacoma Wetlands Conservation Area. The conservation area provides habitat for pileated woodpecker, brown bat, and other species, which is rare in cities. Land in the southwest corner is a gap in the protection for this important natural area. Conserving it will protect the link

[2] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

between city land abutting to the east and to the northwest. This acquisition will conserve the integrity and diversity of one of the largest and most robust wetland habitats in Tacoma. Development threatens the land, and in response, Tacoma has acquired 16 acres since 2009 for a total of 23 acres in conservation status. In the future, it will provide passive trails, wildlife viewing, and educational opportunities currently unavailable in this economically and ethnically diverse area, and pedestrian connections to other recreation areas. The City will contribute more than $1.6 million from a local grant. (12-1550)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **5**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Fifteen projects in the Riparian Protection Account were evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-13

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Riparian Protection Account projects provide habitat adjacent to water bodies for fish and wildlife species. These habitats include estuaries, lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines, tidelands, and wetlands. To be eligible for consideration in this grant account, a project must include the acquisition of a real property interest.

The Riparian Protection Account receives funding only if the Legislature allocates more than $40 million for WWRP. If WWRP receives more than $40 million, the allocation to this account is governed by statutory formula, as described in notebook item #3.

Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, local and state agencies, lead entities, qualified non-profit organizations and the WA State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition • Acquisition and limited development (trails, trail heads, etc.) • Acquisition and habitat restoration and enhancement • Development of a stewardship plan as part of an acquisition • Extension of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) leases
Funding Limits	Applicants must request a minimum of $25,000 and there is no maximum request amount
Match Requirements	• No match required for state agencies • Local agencies and non-profit applicants must provide a 50% matching share
Public Access	Where appropriate, projects may include passive public access

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Fifteen Riparian Protection Account projects requesting $13.5 million were evaluated on July 10 and 11, 2012 in an open public meeting in Olympia, Washington. RCO staff used criteria adopted by the board to review projects and a team of ten evaluators ranked the projects using the same criteria. The evaluation team includes the following individuals who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to habitat conservation:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Cheryl Lowe	Citizen
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 (Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed)
Chrissy Baily	Department of Ecology
Joe Kane	Executive Director, Nisqually Land Trust
Curt Pavola	State Department of Natural Resources
Phil Miller	Citizen, retired Executive Coordinator of Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Cindy Wilson	Thurston County
Julie Henning	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Todd McLaughlin	Natural Resource Planner, Pend Oreille County
Anne Van Sweringen	Citizen

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-13.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-13

- Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Riparian Protection Account projects

B. Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Riparian Protection Account Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Riparian Protection Account Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-13
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Riparian Protection Account, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, fifteen Riparian Protection Account projects are eligible for funding from the Riparian Protection Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Riparian Protection Account projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all fifteen Riparian Protection Account projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program- Habitat Conservation and Riparian Protection Account*; and

WHEREAS, those program requirements include criteria regarding riparian habitat benefits, public access and education, relationship to existing planning documents, and ongoing stewardship, such that providing funds to these projects would further the board's goals to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process and make strategic investments; and

WHEREAS, the projects provide habitat benefits for a variety of species, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to for projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species, and maintain fully functioning ecosystems; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Riparian Protection Account projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

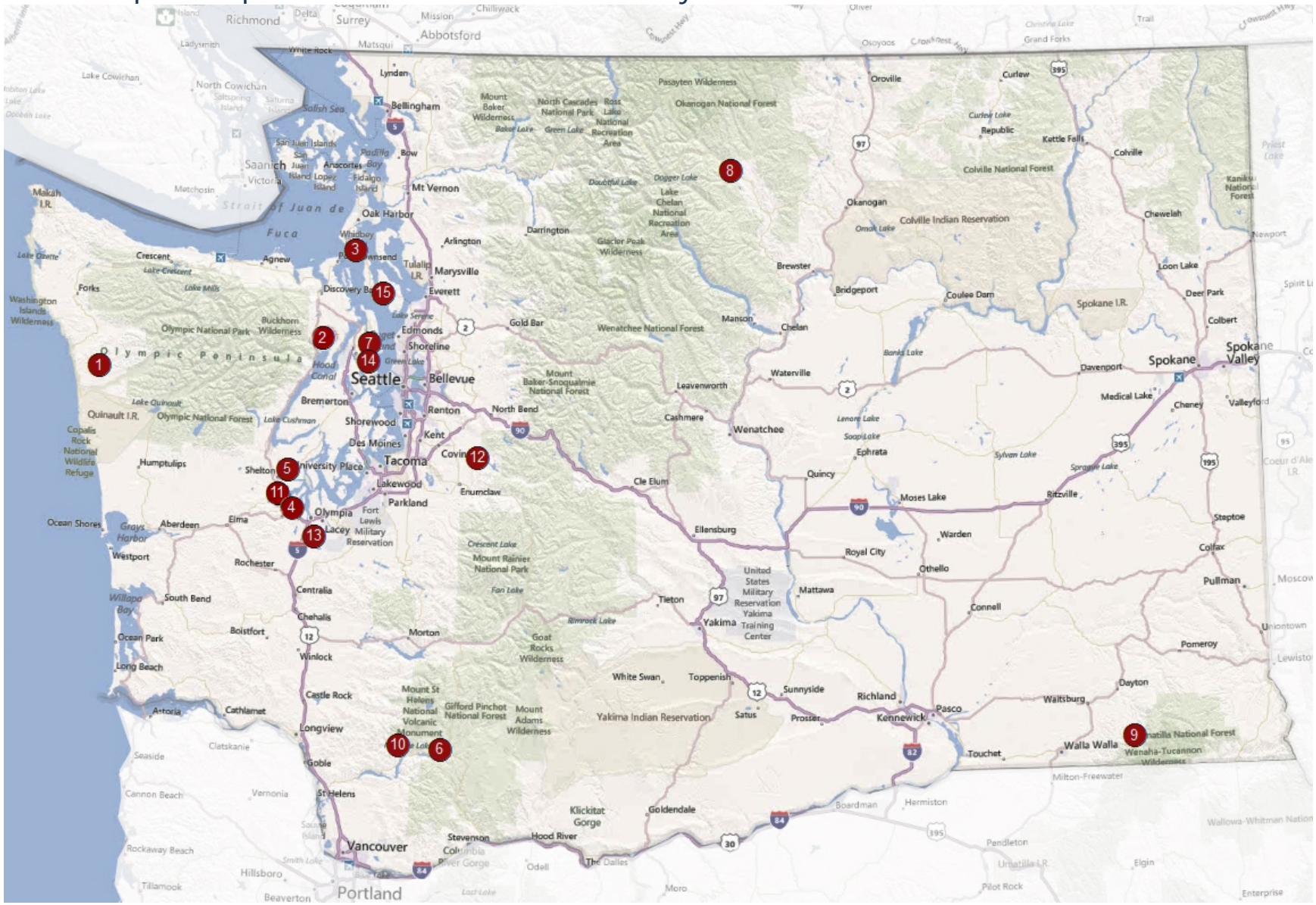
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Riparian Protection Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 15	102.60	12-1393A	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 2	The Nature Conservancy	$1,066,322	$1,612,878	$2,679,200	$1,066,322
2 of 15	98.10	12-1175A	Dabob Bay Natural Area Riparian 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$2,909,812		$2,909,812	$3,976,134
3 of 15	94.90	12-1535A	Crockett Lake Riparian 2012	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	$883,221	$1,450,000	$2,333,221	$4,859,355
4 of 15	94.20	12-1176A	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$973,087		$973,087	$5,832,442
5 of 15	94.10	12-1590C	Oakland Bay Estuary Conservation Phase 3	Capitol Land Trust	$1,000,000	$1,510,000	$2,510,000	$6,832,442
6 of 15	90.40	12-1558A	Mount Saint Helens Pine Creek	Columbia Land Trust	$1,246,200	$1,884,955	$3,131,155	$8,078,642
7 of 15	90.10	12-1422A	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project- Grovers Creek	Kitsap County	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$2,000,000	$9,078,642
8 of 15	89.40	12-1128A	Methow Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$500,000		$500,000	$9,578,642
9 of 15	89.10	12-1126A	Touchet River Headwaters	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$650,000		$650,000	$10,228,642
10 of 15	89.00	12-1136A	Merrill Lake Riparian	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,600,000		$1,600,000	$11,828,642
11 of 15	88.10	12-1589A	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition	Squaxin Island Tribe	$130,000	$155,000	$285,000	$11,958,642
12 of 15	88.00	12-1236A	Green River Acquisition-Kanaskat	King County	$200,000	$200,000	$400,000	$12,158,642
13 of 15	87.80	12-1502A	Deschutes River Conservation Phase 3	Capitol Land Trust	$1,000,000	$1,060,000	$2,060,000	$13,158,642
14 of 15	87.70	12-1513A	West Bainbridge Riparian and Shoreline Protection	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	$274,655	$1,436,300	$1,710,955	$13,433,297
15 of 15	84.00	12-1570A	Deer Lagoon Wetlands 2012	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	$71,500	$80,000	$151,500	$13,504,797
					$13,504,797	**$10,389,133**	**$23,893,930**	

State Map for Riparian Protection Account Projects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Kennewick
Richland
Pasco
Walla Walla
Wenatchee
Moses Lake
Olympic Peninsula
Strait of Juan de Fuca
Puget Sound
Olympic National Park
Mount Rainier National Park
Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument
Yakima Indian Reservation
Colville Indian Reservation
Colville National Forest
Okanogan National Forest
Wenatchee National Forest
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mount Adams Wilderness
Goat Rocks Wilderness
Glacier Peak Wilderness
Pasayten Wilderness
Mount Baker Wilderness
North Cascades National Park
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Olympic National Forest
Buckhorn Wilderness
Washington Islands Wilderness
Copalis Rock National Wildlife Refuge
United States Military Reservation Yakima Training Center
Fort Lewis Military Reservation
Saanich
Victoria
Richmond
Surrey
Abbotsford
Vancouver
Portland
Hood River
The Dalles
Klickitat Gorge
Columbia River Gorge
Stevenson
Goldendale
Boardman
Hermiston
Pendleton
Pilot Rock
Milton-Freewater
Walla Walla
Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness
Touchet
Waitsburg
Dayton
Pomeroy
Pullman
Colfax
Moscow
Lewiston
Spokane
Spokane Valley
Medical Lake
Cheney
Davenport
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Quincy
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Royal City
Mattawa
Connell
Ellensburg
Cle Elum
Leavenworth
Cashmere
Wenatchee
Chelan
Manson
Brewster
Bridgeport
Coulee Dam
Omak
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Kettle Falls
Colville
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Deer Park
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Spirit Lake
Coeur d'Alene
Moscow
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Uniontown
Pullman
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Yakima
Morton
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Randle
Centralia
Chehalis
Winlock
Castle Rock
Longview
Kelso
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Vernonia
Cathlamet
Astoria
Clatskanie
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Rockaway Beach
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Hillsboro
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Gresham
Troutdale
Ocean Shores
Westport
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Shelton
Bremerton
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Kingston
Edmonds
Shoreline
Lynnwood
Mukilteo
Marysville
Arlington
Darrington
Gold Bar
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Des Moines
Burien
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Sumner
Bonney Lake
Enumclaw
Buckley
Orting
Eatonville
Ashford
Elbe
Packwood
Randle
Morton
Chehalis
Centralia
Rochester
Tenino
Yelm
Rainier
Roy
Eatonville

Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Riparian habitat is defined as land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers. RCW 79A.15.101(7)

Riparian Protection Account Evaluation Criteria			
Number	**Scored By**	**Topic**	**Maximum Score**
1	Evaluation Team	Riparian habitat benefits	20
2	Evaluation Team	Planning priority	20
3	Evaluation Team	Site suitability and project design	20
4	Evaluation Team	Threats to the habitat	15
5	Evaluation Team	Project support	15
6	Evaluation Team	Public access opportunities	15
7	Evaluation Team	Ongoing stewardship and management	10
8	RCO Staff	Matching share	4
9	RCO Staff	Growth Management Act compliance	0
		Maximum Possible Score	**119**

Riparian Protection Account Detailed Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Team Scored

1. **Riparian Habitat Benefits**
   Describe the specific riparian habitat benefits for this project.

2. **Planning Priority**
   Describe how the proposal meets goals within various plans (watershed, salmon recovery, shoreline, land use, comprehensive plans , etc.)

3. **Site Suitability and Project Design**
   Describe surrounding land uses and the relationship (links) of this site to other protected habitats or future phases. What is the restoration plan?

4. **Threats to the Habitat**
   What are the ecological, biological or human caused threats to the riparian habitat?

5. **Project Support**
   Describe community support and partnerships.

6. **Public Access Opportunities**
   Describe passive recreation opportunities, educational or scientific values. If access is excluded, explain why.

7. **Ongoing Stewardship and Management**
   Describe level of stewardship required and the capacity of sponsor to provide it.

Evaluation RCO Staff Scored

8. **Matching Share**
   What matching funds are associated with this project?

9. **Growth Management Act Compliance**
   Is the applicant in compliance with the Growth Management Act?

Riparian Protection Account Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Project Name	1 Riparian Habitat Benefits	2 Planning Priority	3 Site Suitability and Project Design	4 Threats to the Habitat	5 Project Support	6 Public Access Opportunities	7 Ongoing Stewardship and Management	8 Matching Share	9 GMA Compliance	Total
1	Clearwater Riparian Protection Phase 2	17.90	17.10	18.50	10.20	13.70	13.00	9.2	3	0.00	102.6
2	Dabob Bay Natural Area Riparian 2012	18.00	17.80	17.10	11.10	14.30	11.40	8.4	0	0.00	98.1
3	Crockett Lake Riparian 2012	15.60	16.80	15.60	10.10	13.50	12.70	7.6	3	0.00	94.9
4	Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve 2012	16.70	16.40	16.20	10.20	13.80	12.30	8.6	0	0.00	94.2
5	Oakland Bay Estuary Conservation Phase 3	15.20	16.30	15.90	13.20	13.10	10.30	7.1	3	0.00	94.1
6	Mount Saint Helens Pine Creek	15.50	15.70	16.20	11.00	12.80	9.50	6.7	3	0.00	90.4
7	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project-Grovers Creek	15.80	15.50	15.50	10.40	12.50	12.90	7.5	1	-1.00	90.1
8	Methow Riparian	15.80	16.30	16.30	11.00	12.60	9.70	7.7	0	0.00	89.4
9	Touchet River Headwaters	16.20	15.30	16.30	10.80	12.30	10.20	8	0	0.00	89.1
10	Merrill Lake Riparian	15.10	14.10	15.80	11.90	12.40	11.90	7.8	0	0.00	89
11	Skookum Estuary Fletcher Acquisition	15.30	15.70	15.90	9.00	11.70	10.40	8.1	2	0.00	88.1
12	Green River Acquisition-Kanasket	15.20	15.50	16.90	10.00	11.40	10.10	7.9	1	0.00	88
13	Deschutes River Conservation Phase 3	15.00	15.20	15.40	12.00	12.40	8.70	7.1	2	0.00	87.8
14	West Bainbridge Riparian and Shoreline Protection	13.50	14.70	13.90	11.90	12.40	10.80	6.5	4	0.00	87.7
15	Deer Lagoon Wetlands 2012	13.80	15.20	15.10	7.90	12.20	10.20	7.6	2	0.00	84

Evaluators Score Questions 1-7; RCO Staff Scores Questions 8-9

Riparian Protection Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

The Nature Conservancy — Grant Requested: $1,066,322
Conserving the Banks of the Clearwater River

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to buy 1,060 acres, including more than 533 acres of forest and wetland along the Clearwater River. The project will add to the more than 3,000 acres already protected. This project is part of a multi-year project to conserve forest habitat from the headwaters of the Clearwater River to its confluence with the Queets Rivers. The purchase will protect the land from logging and development. The project protects a complex of habitat along the river, including mature, low-elevation Sitka spruce forest in the valley-bottom floodplain. The Queets and Clearwater Rivers of the Olympic Peninsula support some of the healthiest, most viable, and genetically diverse salmon populations in the lower 48 states, making these rivers an essential anchor for salmon recovery. The rivers drain an area of more than 287,383 acres and are home to wild populations of Chinook, coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon, steelhead, cutthroat, and bull trout. The rivers and the forests along their banks are used by other important species, such as the Pacific lamprey, Olympic mudminnow, and marbled murrelet. Future restoration will improve water quality, lower stream temperatures, reduce sediment, and create complex habitat for salmon and numerous other wildlife species. The Nature Conservancy will contribute more than $1.6 million in donations of cash. (12-1393)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $2,909,812
Conserving Land in the Dabob Bay Natural Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to protect some of the most ecologically important and highly threatened private shoreline in the 6,287-acre Dabob Bay Natural Area on Hood Canal. Dabob Bay is one of the most intact estuarine bays remaining in Puget Sound, and protection of it is important because much of these tidal wetlands have been lost or are being damaged. The land is threatened by increasing waterfront development in eastern Jefferson County. This project would protect coastal bluffs, shorelines, and other wildlife habitats, including those used by species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, such as orca, marbled murrelet, Hood Canal summer chum salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. The department is working with The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Watershed Institute, U.S. Department of Defense, and Jefferson Land Trust to provide long-term protection of an intact coastal estuarine system. (12-1175)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust — Grant Requested: $883,221
Conserving Crockett Lake

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy 393 acres, including Crockett Lake, which is recognized nationally as a critically important, coastal wetland system. Crockett Lake is in Ebey's Landing Reserve, which is managed by the National Park Service. The diverse habitats and the richness of the shallow lake and tidelands, with abundant crustaceans and small fish,

provides food and habitat for more than 200 bird species, including hundreds of thousands of migratory and other water-dependent birds, Neotropical songbirds, raptors, and a great blue heronry. The land is on the Pacific Flyway, is an Audubon Important Bird Area, and a county critical habitat area. Numerous federal, state, and local plans identify Crockett Lake as a high protection priority. This project will protect nearly the entire wetland. The land is comprised of a full array of high quality, native wetland habitats-freshwater, saltwater, and brackish water wetlands, along with shrub-scrub, wetland forest, upland forest, mudflats and shallow open water. It is next to hundreds of acres of protected wetlands, beaches, feeder bluffs, native prairie, farmlands, marine waters, and old growth and second growth forests. The project also calls for crews to remove weeds and restore some areas. The land trust will contribute $1.45 million from local and federal grants and donations of cash and land. (12-1535)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Requested: $973,087
Conserving Land in the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 80 acres in the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve. The privately owned land includes salt marsh vegetation and land along Kennedy and Schneider Creeks. The preserve protects three, high quality, native, intertidal salt marsh ecosystems that are considered rare in the Puget Sound area. The estuary protected by the preserve also provides critical resting, feeding, and overwintering habitat for migrating and resident shorebirds and waterfowl including dunlin, greater yellowlegs, black-bellied plovers and sandpipers. Birds of prey including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and merlin forage in the estuary. The site also supports a robust run of fall chum and other fish including coho, winter steelhead, and coastal cutthroat. (12-1176)

Capitol Land Trust — Grant Requested: $1,000,000
Conserving the Oakland Bay Estuary

Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy 76 acres on Oakland Bay in Mason County, and restore about 48 acres of a golf course by planting native saltmarsh and upland plants. This project is a key component of a larger Oakland Bay initiative and builds upon a remarkable partnership between conservation, industry, tribal, agency, and community groups; a collaboration that has successfully conserved the three other estuarine complexes on northern Oakland Bay and 250 acres of surrounding habitat. This project will protect numerous important habitat types (riparian, freshwater wetland, in-stream, Puget Sound near-shore) that are used by five salmon species, forage fish, shorebirds, waterfowl, shellfish, and land bird species. For sale and facing imminent threat, the site abuts some of the most productive shellfish beds in Washington. Its protection will help sustain many jobs and a $10 million annual shellfish industry. The land trust will contribute more than $1.5 million from private and federal grants and another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1590)

Columbia Land Trust — Grant Requested: $1,246,200
Conserving Land along Pine Creek

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to protect permanently 3,940 acres, including 15.5 miles of Pine Creek. The creek, which is a tributary to the Lewis River, has one of only three remaining spawning populations of endangered bull trout in the Lewis River system, and recovery efforts seek to have at least eight. Pine Creek descends from Mount Saint Helens primarily through public land and private forestland. However, development threatens the Pine Creek watershed. This project will conserve land along two major forks of Pine Creek by preventing development and limiting logging along the riverbanks. The land trust will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 3,074 acres along 4.9 miles of Pine Creek and additionally buy 866 acres along 10.7 miles of Pine Creek. This proposal is the third phase of a multi-year project to create a system of protected riparian, forest, and riverine habitat from Mount Saint Helens to the Lewis River. The land trust will contribute more than $1.8 million from a private grant and federal funding. (12-1558)

Kitsap County — Grant Requested: $1,000,000
Conserving a Kitsap Forest and Grover's Creek

Kitsap County will use this grant to buy and protect permanently 180 acres in the Grover's Creek watershed in north Kitsap County. The project conserves interconnected, highly functioning creek bank habitat in the lower reach of Grover's Creek, 1.1 miles upstream from Miller Bay. The property is under imminent threat of residential development and is a critical link within a larger wildlife corridor that extends from Carpenter Creek near Kingston on east Kitsap Peninsula to Hood Canal near Port Gamble. This project protects the creek's main stem and tributaries; old growth Sitka spruce-western red cedar forests; and palustrine scrub-shrub, emergent and forested peat bog wetlands. The land and its creeks provide spawning and rearing areas for migrating fish, habitat for amphibians, and nesting and foraging area for Neotropical migratory birds. Given the closeness of this wetland to Miller Bay, the project is essential to the long-term protection of the bay. The County will buy the land from Pope Resources. The County will contribute $1 million in conservation futures[1], a federal grant, and donations of cash, labor, and property interest. (12-1422)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $500,000
Conserving Land along the Methow River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 30 acres in a key reach of the upper Methow River. The land is adjacent to the Big Valley Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area, 8 miles upstream of Winthrop. This area is one of the most ecologically diverse and functioning sections of the main stem of the Methow River. Floodplains are not constricted here. Flood channels and cottonwood-lined wetlands are plentiful. The area supports spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout, all of which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The

[1] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

purchase also will maintain land connections for a variety of animals, including wolverines, wolves, grizzly bears, lynx, and migratory songbirds. Development pressure in the Methow Valley is intense, and this purchase will include about a half-mile of the Methow River in a natural condition. The purchase also will allow the department to enhance hiking, bird watching, fishing, hunting, mushroom gathering, and other recreation. (12-1128)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $650,000
Conserving the Touchet River Headwaters for Bull Trout

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 760 acres of the Bennett property along the upper Wolf Fork of the Touchet River. The land is next to other publicly owned lands. The Wolf Fork is the primary stronghold in the Touchet River basin for bull trout, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The project area contains a yearly average of 22 percent of the bull trout redds in the Wolf Fork, and nearly 15 percent of all the bull trout redds in the entire Touchet watershed. The Wolf Fork also is used by steelhead, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, as well as Rocky Mountain tailed frogs and margined sculpins. The land is an important travel corridor and nesting area for Neotropical migrant birds. Wolves, bears, cougars, eagles, elk, deer, moose, grouse, and many other wildlife species also use the area. Sensitive species, such as pileated woodpeckers, goshawks, Vaux's swifts, olive-sided flycatchers, and vesper sparrows, nest in the area. Protection of critical and essential habitats in this area is considered a high priority in regional planning efforts. (12-1126)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $1,600,000
Conserving Merrill Lake Waterfront

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 437 acres in Cowlitz County lying between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River. The land is along Kalama River and Dry Creek, which flows into Merrill Lake. The property has many unique features including lava beds with tree casts, high volume springs feeding the Kalama river, small old growth tree stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities. The purchase will allow the department to provide long-term protection of habitat and ensure public access the lake and river shorelines. The site connects with a national forest to the north and one of the department's natural resource conservation areas to the south. A diverse suite of species will benefit from the overall project including steelhead, coho, elk, marten, Chinook, western toad, spotted owl, and osprey. Portions of land have large, old growth cedar or fir and include riverfront at the 40-foot waterfall on the Kalama River. The land is threatened by subdivision for recreational lots or resort type development. (12-1136)

Squaxin Island Tribe — Grant Requested: $130,000
Acquiring Land in the Skookum Estuary

The Squaxin Island Tribe will use this grant to buy nearly 23 acres of estuary and creek banks associated with Skookum Creek and the head of the Skookum inlet, in Mason County. The land is next to the 143-acre Skookum Inlet Natural Areas Preserve, managed by the Washington

Department of Natural Resources. This acquisition will protect nearly a half-mile of near-shore habitat and 7 acres of tidal saltmarsh in good condition. Skookum Inlet provides rearing and transition habitat for coho, chum, and visiting Chinook salmon as well as cutthroat and steelhead trout. The land also is used by migratory birds, including waterfowl and shorebirds. The tribe will contribute $155,000 in donations of cash. (12-1589)

King County — Grant Requested: $200,000
Buying Land along the Green River

The King County will use this grant preserve 18.7 acres in the Kanaskat reach of the Green River. This reach connects 41,000 acres of state-owned land upriver with 4,000 acres owned by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and King County within and adjacent to the Green River Gorge downriver. King County owns more than 200 acres in the Kanaskat reach, yet private in-holdings remain. This 2-mile reach contains three river side channels and two large wetlands. Four streams and several seasonal tributaries enter the north side of the river in this reach. Fall Chinook spawn in the river at one of the highest densities in the watershed. Preserving this area will help Chinook salmon in the Green River. The reach also provides habitat for steelhead, coho, chum, and pink salmon. Other wildlife listed as species of concern by the state are present: osprey, northern goshawk, turkey vulture, pileated woodpecker, Vaux's swift, great blue heron, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and possibly gray wolf. The north Rainier elk herd, White River unit (one of 10 documented elk herds in the state) regularly traverses the reach. Cougars, elk, and river otters also are present. The land also has some old trees: More than 20 conifers exceed an estimated 200 years of age. In time, this 200-acre preserve will develop old growth forest characteristics, which is unusual for a low-elevation riverine forest in western Washington. The County will contribute $200,000 from conservation futures[2] and a voter-approved levy. (12-1236)

Capitol Land Trust — Grant Requested: $1,000,000
Conserving the Deschutes River

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy 427 acres of prime habitat along 1 mile of the Deschutes River main stem and nearly all of Ayer and Elwanger Creeks. The purchase will conserve one of the largest, most intact and strategically important riparian-freshwater wetland habitat complexes in the Deschutes River watershed. The project will create the largest contiguous, protected habitat area in the lower Deschutes watershed. It will protect multiple priority habitat types (riparian, corridor, freshwater wetland, in-stream, snags and logs) that collectively provide habitat for multiple priority species including salmon, bird, waterfowl, raptor, mammal, and amphibian. This project builds upon previous protection of nearby land and alleviates imminent threat by preventing more than 115 homes that already have received preliminary plat approval. The land trust will contribute more than $1 million from a private grant and another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1502)

[2] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Bainbridge Island Land Trust — Grant Requested: $274,655
Protecting West Bainbridge Shoreline

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use this grant to buy 11.87 acres of undeveloped shoreline, permanently protecting 4.3 acres of tideland, 550 feet of shoreline, and 7.57 acres of riparian habitat. The land includes eel grass beds, active feeder bluffs, sandy beach, mature forest, a small stream, seeps, ravines, and open meadow. The land is north and almost contiguous with permanently protected state-owned tidelands. The near-shore waters of east Kitsap County support Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, and cutthroat trout. Forage fish use of the Bainbridge Island near-shore. The property also provides an opportunity for carefully designed public access to the shoreline. The land trust will contribute more than $1.4 million from a grant, two Recreation and Conservation Office grants, and donations of cash and land. (12-1513)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust — Grant Requested: $71,500
Conserving the Deer Lagoon Wetlands

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to help protect permanently 31 acres of tidal lagoon and wetlands at Deer Lagoon, located off southwest Whidbey Island in Island County. This project will protect buy the last private property in Deer Lagoon, the most extensive estuarine marsh on Whidbey Island. Deer Lagoon is more than 500 acres and has an unusually favorable combination of freshwater and saltwater habitats in an array that includes bay and tidal marshlands, brackish ponds, small islands, and scrub-shrub uplands. This rich habitat is an Audubon Important Bird Area and an Island County Habitat of Local Importance used by concentrations of plovers, sandpipers, and waterfowl among other federal and state sensitive bird species. Protection here also provides rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and forage fish. The land trust will either buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, or buy the land directly. Loss of estuarine habitats to development in the area has had a significant impact on the availability of land for migratory birds. This property is a vital connection between the Deer Lagoon wetlands protected by Island County and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, 54 acres of farmland protected by the land trust, and adjacent farmland that birds and mammals need for critical parts of their life. The land trust will contribute $80,000 from a federal grant, labor, and donations of labor and property interest. (12-1570)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **6**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Account Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Twenty-two projects in the Farmland Preservation Account were evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-14

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The primary focus of the Farmland Preservation Account in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is to acquire development rights on farmland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices. A secondary goal is to enhance or restore ecological functions on farmland.

The Farmland Preservation Account will receive funding only if the Legislature appropriates more than $40 million for WWRP. If WWRP receives more than $40 million, the allocation to this account is governed by statutory formula, as described in notebook item #3.

Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, Washington State Conservation Commission and qualified non-profit nature conservancy organizations
Eligible Project Types	• Projects must include acquisition of property interest • Restoration elements may be combined with acquisition elements
Funding Limits	• There is no minimum or maximum request limit • The restoration total shall not exceed more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.
Match Requirements	Applicants must provide a minimum match of 50 percent, with the exception of the State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	Not required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Between August 20 and 22, 2012, the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee used criteria adopted by the board to evaluate and rank twenty-two Farmland Preservation Account projects requesting $8.3 million. They conducted the evaluation in open public meetings.

The committee includes twelve members, one of whom is ex-officio, meaning their score is not counted in project ranking. Ten of the eleven scoring committee members were present to evaluate the projects. These individuals are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to agricultural production, agri-business, real estate, land management, and community interests related to farming. The members who conducted the evaluation were as follows:

Evaluator	Affiliation
Patricia Arnold	Citizen, Trout Lake
Kelly McLain	Department of Agriculture
Fred Colvin	Conservation Commission
Fran Einertz	Farmer, Island County
Scott Nelson	Farmer, Thurston County
Kathryn Gardow	Citizen, Seattle
Pete Schroeder	Citizen, Friends of the Fields, Sequim
Don Young	Citizen, Sunnyside
Clea Rome	WSU Extension –Clallam County
Lucas Patzek	WSU Extension - Thurston County

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investment of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-14.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-14

- Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Farmland Preservation Account Projects

B. Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Farmland Preservation Account Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Farmland Preservation Account Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-14
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Farmland Preservation Account, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, twenty-two Farmland Preservation Account projects are eligible for funding from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and

WHEREAS, these Farmland Preservation Account projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members, and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner, and

WHEREAS, all twenty-two Farmland Preservation Account projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program-Farmland Preservation Program,* including criteria regarding agricultural, environmental and community values, and

WHEREAS, all of the projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Farmland Preservation Account projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

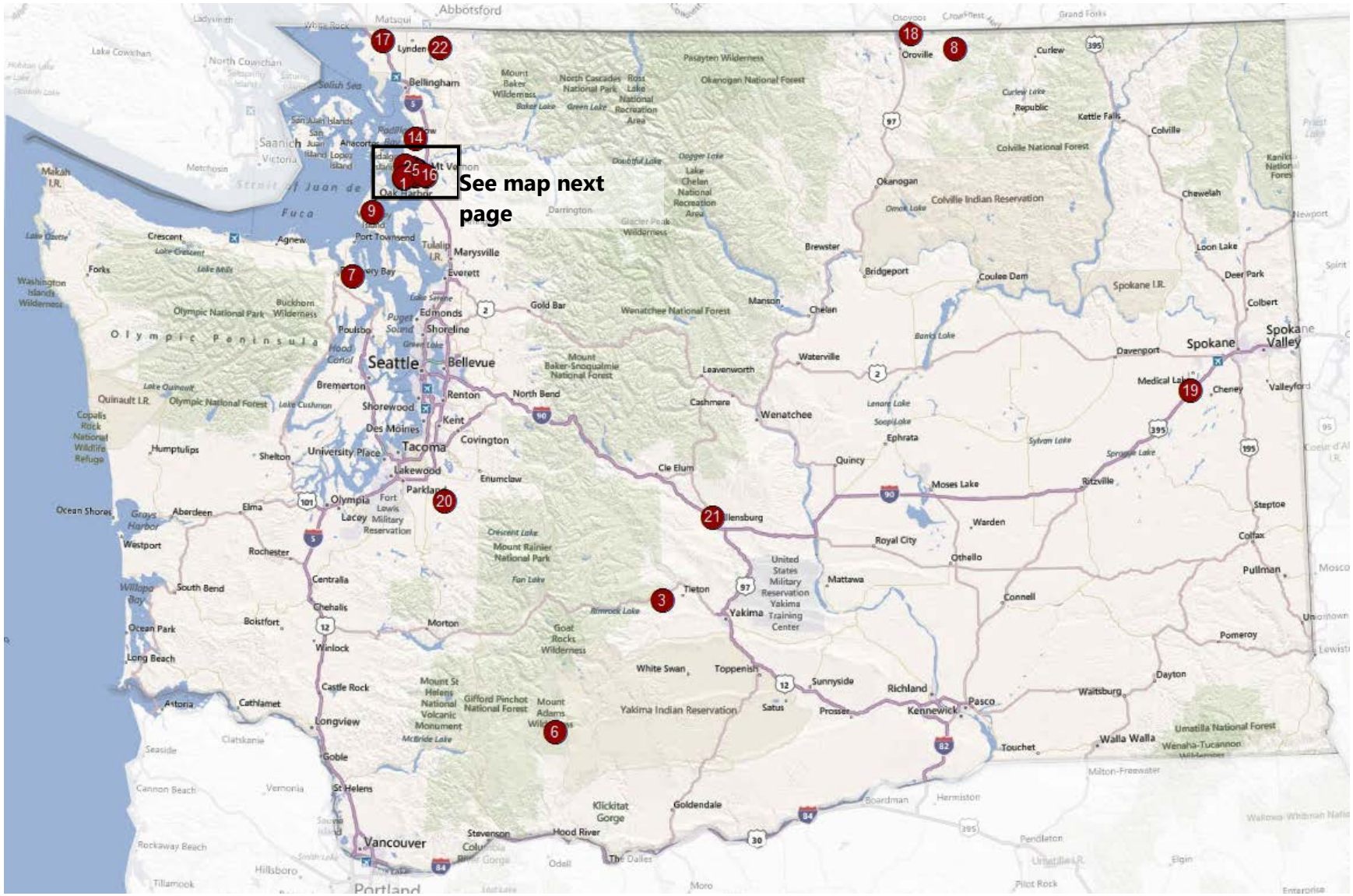
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 22	115.70	12-1423A	Hedlin Farm	Skagit County	$181,350	$181,350	$362,700	$181,350
2 of 22	114.70	12-1500A	Harmony Farm	Skagit County	$103,700	$103,700	$207,400	$285,050
3 of 22	113.80	12-1531A	Cowiche Basin Rangelands	Washington State Conservation Commission	$2,192,680	$35,000	$2,227,680	$2,477,730
4 of 22	113.70	12-1496A	Curtis Farm	Skagit County	$68,750	$68,750	$137,500	$2,546,480
5 of 22	113.10	12-1499A	Egbers Farm	Skagit County	$47,000	$47,000	$94,000	$2,593,480
6 of 22	112.30	12-1463A	Trout Lake Valley Phase 2	Columbia Land Trust	$1,114,785	$1,114,785	$2,229,570	$3,708,265
7 of 22	111.00	12-1287C	Short Family Farm	Jefferson Land Trust	$468,500	$468,500	$937,000	$4,176,765
8 of 22	110.90	12-1538A	Schell Farmland	Okanogan Land Trust	$351,100	$351,100	$702,200	$4,527,865
9 of 22	110.80	12-1580A	Ebey's Reserve Farmland - 3 Sisters Family Farms	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$5,027,865
10 of 22	110.50	12-1516A	Michael Egbers Farm	Skagit County	$48,600	$48,600	$97,200	$5,076,465
11 of 22	110.20	12-1526A	Olson Family Farm	Skagit County	$88,600	$88,600	$177,200	$5,165,065
12 of 22	109.90	12-1498A	Nelson-Brand Farm	Skagit County	$63,700	$63,700	$127,400	$5,228,765
13 of 22	109.70	12-1493A	Fohn Land III	Skagit County	$53,550	$53,550	$107,100	$5,282,315
14 of 22	109.40	12-1497A	Nelson-Estes Farm	Skagit County	$48,550	$48,550	$97,100	$5,330,865
15 of 22	108.10	12-1495A	Stephen Johnson Farm	Skagit County	$121,200	$121,200	$242,400	$5,452,065
16 of 22	108.00	12-1494A	Todd Johnson Farm	Skagit County	$53,550	$53,550	$107,100	$5,505,615
17 of 22	106.00	12-1572A	Funk Property	Whatcom County	$77,500	$77,500	$155,000	$5,583,115
18 of 22	105.20	12-1217A	Hays Farmland	Okanogan Land Trust	$177,900	$177,900	$355,800	$5,761,015
19 of 22	104.20	12-1224A	Robinette Ranch Conservation Easement	PCC Farmland Trust	$92,500	$93,500	$186,000	$5,853,515
20 of 22	103.20	12-1225A	Sturgeon Farm Conservation Easement	PCC Farmland Trust	$480,000	$480,000	$960,000	$6,333,515
21 of 22	98.80	12-1329A	Greene Ranch	Kittitas County	$2,020,000	$2,020,000	$4,040,000	$8,353,515
22 of 22	98.10	12-1413A	Eldridge Addition	Whatcom County	$27,500	$27,500	$55,000	$8,381,015
					$8,381,015	**$6,224,335**	**$14,605,350**	

State Map for Farmland Preservation Account Projects



Burlington
20
Fredonia
237
Whitney
536
Avon
Fidalgo Island
Reservation Rd
Swinomish Indian Reservation
Snee-Oosh Rd
Best Rd
Pulver Rd
538
E College
E Fir St
Freeway Dr
McLean Rd
E Division St
Mt Vernon
Beaver M
E Blackburn Rd
Dike R
5
Cedardale Rd
S K A G I T
La Conner
Fish Town
North Fork Skagit River
Rexville
Skagit City Rd
1
2
4
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10
11
12
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15
16

Farmland Preservation Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Description of Category

The primary focus of the Farmland Preservation category in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is to acquire development rights on farmland in Washington and to ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices.

Farmland preservation means protection of any land defined as farm and agricultural land in RCW 84.34.020.[1]

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Criteria	Points
Agricultural Values Importance: Soil types; suitability for producing agricultural products; size; economic productivity; fit of the project to local priorities Viability: On-site production and support facilities; farm to market access; proximity to roads and utilities (croplands only); carrying capacity (rangelands only); water availability; drainage; presence of other features that could hinder or restrict use for agriculture; zoning; likelihood that the farm will remain in agriculture; immediacy of threat to conversion to non-agricultural uses; likelihood that the region will continue to support agriculture	68
Environmental Values (Acquisition only projects) Species and habitat support: Description of supported species; reliance of species on the property; quality of habitat provided; impact to the species if the habitat were converted. Bigger picture: Fit of the project with local, regional, and statewide conservation priorities Agricultural productivity: Consider how production activities benefit the environment	22
OR	
Environmental Values (Combination acquisition + restoration/enhancement projects) Species and habitat support: Description of supported species; reliance of species on the property; quality of habitat provided; how restoration/enhancement will benefit the species Bigger picture: Fit of the project with local, regional, and statewide conservation priorities Likelihood of success: Likelihood that restoration/enhancement will achieve the anticipated benefits to	22

1 Chapter 79A.15.010 (4), Acquisition of Habitat Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands

Criteria	Points
species and habitat; results of any past stewardship activities Agricultural productivity: Consider how restoration or enhancement will promote productivity	
Community Values and Priorities Community support for the project; consistency with a local land use or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan Other community values: Viewshed; aquifer recharge; occasional or periodic collector for storm water runoff; floods; agricultural sector job creation; educational and curriculum potential; historic value; buffer to public lands, demonstration	12
Other Cost benefit; local match; sponsor's ability to acquire, manage, monitor, and enforce conservation easements, term (RCO staff Scored)	31
Total Points Available	**133**

Farmland Preservation Account Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Project Name	1 Agricultural Values	2 Environmental Values	3 Community Values and Priorities	4 Other	5 Duration of Conveyance	Total
1	Hedlin Farm	56.60	18.40	11.30	9.40	20.00	115.70
2	Harmony Farm	57.60	16.60	11.00	9.50	20.00	114.70
3	Cowiche Basin Rangelands	56.10	19.60	10.30	7.80	20.00	113.80
4	Curtis Farm	56.30	16.70	11.10	9.60	20.00	113.70
5	Egbers Farm	56.10	16.90	10.60	9.50	20.00	113.10
6	Trout Lake Valley Phase 2	55.90	17.60	10.00	8.80	20.00	112.30
7	Short Family Farm	53.40	18.20	10.60	8.80	20.00	111.00
8	Schell Farmland	53.70	18.70	9.50	9.00	20.00	110.90
9	Ebey's Reserve Farmland - 3 Sisters Family Farms	55.20	16.60	11.00	8.00	20.00	110.80
10	Michael Egbers Farm	54.70	16.10	10.00	9.70	20.00	110.50
11	Olson Family Farm	54.20	16.90	10.20	8.90	20.00	110.20
12	Nelson-Brand Farm	54.50	16.50	10.00	8.90	20.00	109.90
13	Fohn Land III	54.20	16.00	10.30	9.20	20.00	109.70
14	Nelson-Estes Farm	54.00	16.40	10.00	9.00	20.00	109.40
15	Stephen Johnson Farm	53.50	16.40	10.10	8.10	20.00	108.10
16	Todd Johnson Farm	52.90	16.20	10.10	8.80	20.00	108.00
17	Funk Property	52.90	15.30	9.00	8.80	20.00	106.00
18	Hays Farmland	48.30	18.30	9.40	9.20	20.00	105.20
19	Robinette Ranch Conservation Easement	49.20	17.30	9.10	8.60	20.00	104.20
20	Sturgeon Farm Conservation Easement	50.10	16.50	9.10	7.50	20.00	103.20
21	Greene Ranch	50.10	14.70	8.60	5.40	20.00	98.80
22	Eldridge Addition	47.00	13.20	9.10	8.80	20.00	98.10

Evaluators Score Questions 1-4; RCO Staff Scores 5

Farmland Preservation Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $181,350**
Hedlin Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect nearly 54 acres of the regionally and internationally important Hedlin Farm. The farm provides critical winter forage for migratory birds including snow geese, raptors, shorebirds, and swans and is next to Sullivan Slough, which is some of the best estuary habitat in the Skagit delta. The Pacific Coast Joint Venture Strategic Plan recommends protecting farms, such as the Hedin Farm, that are near bays and estuaries as a way to ensure the long-term viability of migratory birds. Skagit County's population is estimated to almost double in the next 50 years. Pressure to convert farmland is increasing dramatically. The Hedlin Farm borders La Conner and the farm owners constantly receive inquiries about selling their land because of its spectacular views and desirable location. The Hedlin family has been farming the land for more than 100 years and has committed to preserving the agricultural and environmental heritage of the Skagit Valley. They have demonstrated their commitment by being good stewards of their land and adjacent waters. The Hedlin Farm is certified as Salmon Safe, was awarded the Vim Wright Stewardship Award for Farming and the Environment in 2008. Skagit County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will remain in farming forever. The County will contribute $181,350 in conservation futures*. (12-1423)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $103,700**
Conserving a Dairy and Tulip Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect 200 acres in the northern Skagit delta that supports a dairy and tulip farm. The Harmony Farm surrounds an already protected 80 acres and the addition of this farm will create a total of 280 acres of protected farmland. The county will buy voluntary, land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, for land that is east of Interstate 5, just south of Highway 20 and the Port of Skagit County. The agreements will ensure the land stays in farming. The land is home to one of the largest dairies in the county and is within the Pacific Flyway for many wintering birds such as trumpeter swans and Canadian snow geese. The winter fields often are planted with grasses that attract and feed these migrating birds. This is a multi-generational farm that has a history of success and diversification of crops that include wheat, corn, and the famous Skagit tulips. The County will contribute $103,700 in conservation futures*. (12-1500)

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* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

Washington State Conservation Commission **Grant Request: $2,192,680**
Conserving Cowiche Basin Rangelands

The Washington State Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the North Yakima Conservation District, will use this grant to buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement for 4,516 acres of pasture. The land is west of Yakima, in the Cowiche and Reynolds Creek areas, and is used for grazing cows. The land also is home to many plants and animals listed as threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, including basalt daisy, sage grouse, and steelhead. Protecting the land from development will protect the water quality in the upper watershed, preserve vistas, and maintain hunting and other recreational opportunities, all of which bring money into the local community. The Conservation Commission will contribute $35,000 in donated labor. (12-1531)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $68,750**
Conserving Curtis Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement for 59.3 acres of Curtis Farm, which dates back to the late 1800s. The land is a very productive farm with prime soils. The crops are rotated for good management practices and have included potatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, wheat, spinach, and beet seed crops. The seed crops are shipped internationally, giving Skagit County worldwide recognition. (Skagit County produces 6 percent of the world's beet seeds.) This farm also is in the Pacific Flyway for migrating winter birds, such as trumpeter swans and Canadian snow geese, which stop at the farm to feed. The preservation agreements will keep the land as a farm. The County will contribute $68,750 in conservation futures.* (12-1496)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $47,000**
Conserving Egbers Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect the 37-acre Egber Farm, which sits along the main road to the annual tulip festival. Many large homes have been built along McLean Road, which runs between Mount Vernon and LaConner and has exceptional views of surrounding farmland. The county will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on the farm, which ensures the land stays a farm. The land is highly productive with rotating crops that include potatoes, corn, cucumbers, green chop, and peas. The smaller size of the farm makes it attractive to developers for single-family home sites. This area of the Skagit Valley is in the Pacific Flyway, which is a migratory corridor for birds, and is the wintering grounds for trumpeter swans and Canadian snow geese. The County will contribute $47,000 in conservation futures.* (12-1499)

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Columbia Land Trust **Grant Request: $1,114,785**
Conserving Trout Lake Valley Farms

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 288 acres on two organic dairy farms using voluntary, land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, which ensures the land stays in farming. The farmland is in the shadow of Mount Adams, along the wild and scenic White Salmon River in Trout Lake valley in Klickitat County. The valley is ideal for agriculture because of an abundance of water, prime agricultural soils, temperate climate, and isolation from pollution. It has a rich history of agriculture since the 1880s. The valley is renowned for its beauty, productive farm and forestlands, abundant wildlife, and recreation. Those same features make it desirable for development. Development when mixed with farmland eventually eliminates farmland. Complaints of dust, noise, odors, traffic, trespassing, and water conflicts overwhelm farming. The grant will help preserve farming on one of the state's unique and valued farmland, forever protecting its rural landscape and economic viability. The land trust will contribute more than $1.1 million in donated property interest. (12-1463)

Jefferson Land Trust **Grant Request: $468,500**
Conserving the Short Family Farm and Wildlife Habitat

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to conserve the Short Family Farm south of Chimacum in Jefferson County. The land trust will purchase a voluntary, land preservation agreement, called a conservation easement, on 256 acres of pastureland, which includes nearly 1.5 miles of river. The agreement will help to preserve the prime soils of one of the largest operating farms in the fertile center valley and provide funding for the farmer to consolidate ownership of the property with family trust members. Zoning allows up to 10 additional homes, and nearby farms are being subdivided for houses. The farm maintains native manna grass, providing habitat for trumpeter swans. The river is used by migrating coho and steelhead. Many waterfowl species, raptors, and other wildlife also use the farm. The highly visible, scenic vistas define the rural character of this area, and protection of the strategically located farm will enhance the viability of the agricultural community. The Short Family has a long history of dairy and now grass-fed beef. The project builds on the land trust's agricultural land preservation, which already has conserved 290 acres in the center valley. The land trust will contribute $468,500 in conservation futures* and a federal grant. (12-1287)

Okanogan Land Trust **Grant Request: $351,100**
Conserving the Schell Farmland

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to protect permanently 604 acres of farm and ranch land in the Okanogan Highlands near Havillah. The land trust will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will ensure the land remains

* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

agricultural. The grant will preserve prime and unique soils for agricultural use, and valuable and unusual habitat for wildlife. The ranch itself contributes significantly to the local agricultural industry with above average crop production because of its fertile soil (85 percent of the ranch is qualifying soils), above average rain and snow, and a long history of sound farming practices. Because of its high elevation, the ranch has spectacular views in almost all directions and is under significant development pressure. This, combined with unusually easy county road access from three sides, makes it a prime target for subdivision. It could be sold off into 5-acre lots. The land trust will contribute $351,100 from a federal grant, staff labor, and donated labor. (12-1538)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust **Grant Request: $500,000**
Conserving 3 Sisters Family Farms in Ebey's Reserve

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 117 acres of farmland above Penn Cove on Whidbey Island. The land trust will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will ensure the land remains a farm. Four generations of the Muzzall family have made their full-time living farming on this centennial farm. Today, 3 Sisters Family Farms produces free-range beef, pork, and eggs. A wide variety of crops also have been grown on the farm, including seed crops, alfalfa, wheat, barley, corn, and produce. The land is in northern Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, which is renowned for its productive and culturally significant agricultural lands. This is the most critical farmland project in northern Ebey's Reserve, serving as an anchor site for future protection of farmland threatened by expansion of the City of Oak Harbor. The threat of development is significant due to Ebey's Reserve location, scenic views, and zoning. The land trust will contribute $500,000 from a federal grant and conservation futures.* (12-1580)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $48,600**
Conserving the M. Egbers Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect the 38-acre M. Egbers farm, which is south of McLean Road, the major road between Mount Vernon and LaConner. The land trust will buy voluntary, land preservation agreements, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm grows beets, cabbage, spinach, strawberries, cucumbers, potatoes, and wheat. It is in the central Skagit valley where seed crops are grown and shipped all over the world. Skagit County grows 6 percent of the world's beet seed and it takes a special location combined with the proper rotations for seeds to be grown for distribution. The soils are prime agriculture soils as indicated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The farm also is in the Pacific Flyway, a migratory corridor for birds, and trumpeter swans and snow geese stop there in the winter. The spectacular views to the west of the Cascades Mountains and of the tulip fields surrounding the farm make this land attractive to developers. There have been offers on this farm to sell it but the farmer would like to keep the farm intact. The County will contribute $48,600 in conservation futures.* (12-1516)

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* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

Skagit County **Grant Request: $88,600**
Conserving the Olson Family Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect the Olson Family Farm. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement on more than 68 acres, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm is east of Interstate 5 on the edge of Mount Vernon and on Britt Slough. The landowners grow potatoes, wheat, corn, peas, seed crops, nursery stock, and pasture for cows. The slough and a small wetland provide some habitat to nesting birds. The Olson Family Farm is susceptible to development because of its closeness to city services, small size, and views. The County will contribute $88,600 in conservation futures.* (12-1526)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $63,700**
Conserving the Nelson-Brand Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect 53 acres of the Nelson-Brand Farm, which is on the LaConner Whitney Road just south of Highway 20. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm is next to other property protected in the County's Farmland Legacy program. The farm has prime agriculture soils as determined by the federal government, and grows grain, pasture for cows, potatoes, peas, and corn. The Nelsons are one of the largest potato farmers in the valley with several thousand acres and more than 1,000 acres protected permanently. The farm also is in the Pacific Flyway, which is a migratory corridor for birds, and has lots of traffic during the annual Tulip Festival. The County will contribute $63,700 in conservation futures.* (12-1498)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $53,550**
Conserving the Fohn Family Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to protect the 40-acre Fohn Family Farm in the heart of the Skagit delta. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm has expansive views and an easement that allows a road to be built from the land to the main road. If the land is not protected, a house could be built in the middle of farm and a road built through the fields. The County's goal is to keep houses out of the farmland and avoid the inevitable conflicts that occur between farming and development. The farm is primarily a dairy and grows grass, green chop, and corn for cows, and also grows potatoes and spinach. Its location is where complex seed production occurs. Skagit is an international supplier of vegetable seeds. The County will contribute $53,550 in conservation futures.* (12-1493)

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* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

Skagit County **Grant Request: $48,550**
Conserving the Nelson-Estes Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to conserve the 40-acre Nelson-Estes farm, which is in the Samish River basin near the base of the Chuckanut Mountains. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm is part of one of the largest farms in the Skagit valley. Several hundred acres already are protected in perpetuity surrounding the Nelson-Estes Farm, making it is one of the last properties to be protected. Most of the protected land is owned by the Nelsons. The protection of this farm will establish a large, critical mass of farmland, preserved in perpetuity, in the Samish basin. The Nelsons are one of the largest potato farmers in the valley with several thousand acres, 1,000 of which are protected in perpetuity. The farm has prime agricultural soils, as determined by the federal government, and grows grain, pasture for cows, potatoes, and peas and corn for the cows. The Samish basin is the focus of a statewide effort to enhance the water quality of the Samish River before it enters Samish Bay. The County will contribute $48,550 in conservation futures.* (12-1497)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $121,200**
Conserving the Stephen Johnson Farm

Skagit County will use this grant to preserve the Stephen Johnson Farm, which is what remains of the original Tillinghast Farm and Seed Company dating back to before the turn of the century. The Johnson family has been farming in the Skagit valley since President Grant awarded the family a letter of ownership for taking up farming in the area. The land was divided years ago making two developable lots bordering LaConner with the rest of the farm now in the heart of the city and housing the school. Mr. Johnson has decided to keep this farm from being developed. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, on more than 25 acres, ensuring the land will stay in farming forever. This productive farm is on Sullivan Slough, which provides extensive wildlife habitat. The soils are prime agricultural soils as identified by the federal government and grow cabbage, cucumbers, beets, spinach, wheat, potatoes, and seed crops. This property is highly susceptible to development because of its closeness to LaConner and desirable lot sizes (14.5 acres and 11 acres). The County will contribute $121,200 in conservation futures.* (12-1495)

Skagit County **Grant Request: $53,550**
Conserving Todd Johnson Farm as a Buffer to Mount Vernon

Skagit County will use this grant to protect a 29-acre farm on the Mount Vernon border, preserving a buffer between the city and farmlands beyond. Todd Johnson has followed his father's footsteps as he continues to buy his own lands and farm them. He grows specialty vegetable seed crops, wheat, potatoes, and corn. He sells the seed crops internationally. The

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* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

farm is desirable for residential development because of its small size and views of Mount Baker. The County will contribute $53,550 in conservation futures.* (12-1494)

Whatcom County **Grant Request: $77,500**
Conserving the Funk Property

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve 38 acres, known as the Funk Property. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The land has prime soils as determined by the federal government. The north fork of Dakota Creek travels near the northern edge of the property, and the south fork of the creek is in the southeastern most corner. The County will contribute $77,500 in conservation futures.* (12-1572)

Okanogan Land Trust **Grant Request: $177,900**
Conserving Hays Farmland

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 337 acres of the Hays Ranch, which is on the upper reach of Nine Mile Creek and borders Canada in the Okanogan Highlands east of Oroville. The land is used only for light grazing part of each summer. It has high soil quality and large water rights unusual for the Highlands area. Nine Mile Creek is used by native redband trout, sharp-tail grouse, and migrating fish. Conditions of the river at the Hays Ranch are important to their health. The County will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The land trust will contribute $177,900 from a federal grant, staff labor, and donated labor. (12-1217)

PCC Farmland Trust **Grant Request: $92,500**
Conserving the Robinette Ranch containing as Endangered Plant

Collaborating with Ducks Unlimited, the PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant will to conserve the Lazy R Ranch, 5 miles outside Cheney, near the intersection of Interstate 90 and State Route 902. The trust will buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement on 110 acres, ensuring the land will stay in agricultural use. The land is pristine rangeland and is used for grazing. The agreement will protect it from future subdivision for houses, protecting both farmland soils of statewide importance and priority migratory bird habitat. The land consists of an 85-acre, open meadow surrounded by shrub-steppe and ponderosa pine rangeland. Animals using the land include bald eagle, spotted sandpiper, and chirping sparrow. In addition, the aquatic plant Water Howellia, which is listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, is found on the property. The trust will contribute $93,500 from a federal grant and cash donations. (12-1224)

PCC Farmland Trust **Grant Request: $480,000**
Conserving Sturgeon Farm

The PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to conserve 95 acres of prime farmland in the Puyallup River valley, some of the most threatened agricultural land in Washington. The trust will

buy a voluntary, land preservation agreement, for Sturgeon Farm, ensuring the land will stay in farming. The farm is near Orting, near the intersection of State Route 162 and Orville Road. The primary purpose of this project is to protect the agricultural values of this property, including the prime soils, size, water rights, location to market, and location next to 100 acres of the conserved Orting Valley Farms. In addition, this project will seek to protect the ecological features on the property, including a tributary of the Puyallup River, which was used by salmon species. This property is on the market, and has pending permits for subdivision. The trust will contribute $480,000 from a federal grant and cash donations. (12-1225)

Kittitas County **Grant Request: $2,020,000**
Conserving Greene Ranch

Kittitas County and Forterra will use this grant to buy up to 276 acres of prime farmland west of Ellensburg. The property consists of three legal parcels known as Greene, Teanaway Ridge, and Palomino. The land has prime soils and is used for farming hay. Salmon-bearing Reecer and Currier Creeks run through the center of the land. The landowner is planning to build 108 homes on the land, but is interested in keeping the property in farmland. The County will contribute more than $2 million from federal and local grants and staff labor. (12-1329)

Whatcom County **Grant Request: $27,500**
Eldridge addition

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve 11 acres, known as the Eldridge property. The landowner already has 31 acres conserved using voluntary, land preservation agreements, which ensure the land will stay in farming. The Eldridge Farm is near the intersection of South Pass and Leibrant Roads, east of the town of Nooksack. It is adjacent to an area zoned for agriculture but is zoned for rural development, making it vulnerable to development in the future. The County will contribute $27,500 in conservation futures.* (12-1413)

* Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect farms.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7A**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Forty-four projects in the Local Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-15

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Local Parks category provides funds for active and passive outdoor recreation facilities. Acquisition, development, and renovation of existing facilities are eligible. Facilities may include athletic fields, hard courts, picnic sites, playgrounds, outdoor swimming pools, and support amenities.

The Local Parks category is eligible to receive 30 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicants	Local agencies (cities/towns, counties, park, port, and school districts, Native American Tribes, and other special districts)
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition • Development or renovation of existing facilities • Combination projects involve both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	• $500,000 for development or renovation projects • $1 million for acquisition and combination projects (with a maximum of $500,000 for development)
Match Requirements	50 percent matching share
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Forty-four Local Parks category projects requesting $15.1 million were evaluated between August 14 and 16, 2012 in open public meetings. A team of nine evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank the projects. As shown in the following table, the team included state and local agency representatives and citizens who have expertise and experience in local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

Evaluator	Representing
Ruth Anderson, Vashon Island	Citizen
Tom Boyer, Olympia	Citizen
Cindy Everett, Kennewick	Citizen
James Horan, Olympia	Citizen
John Bottelli, Spokane County Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Sharon Claussen, King County Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Paul J. Kaftanski, Everett Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Rick Terway, City of Pasco	Local Agency
Chuck Gibilisco, Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-15.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-15

- Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Local Parks Category projects

B. Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Local Parks Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-15
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Local Parks Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for 2013-2015 biennium, forty-four Local Parks category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Local Parks category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, these Local Parks category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10a: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*, thus supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreation, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Local Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

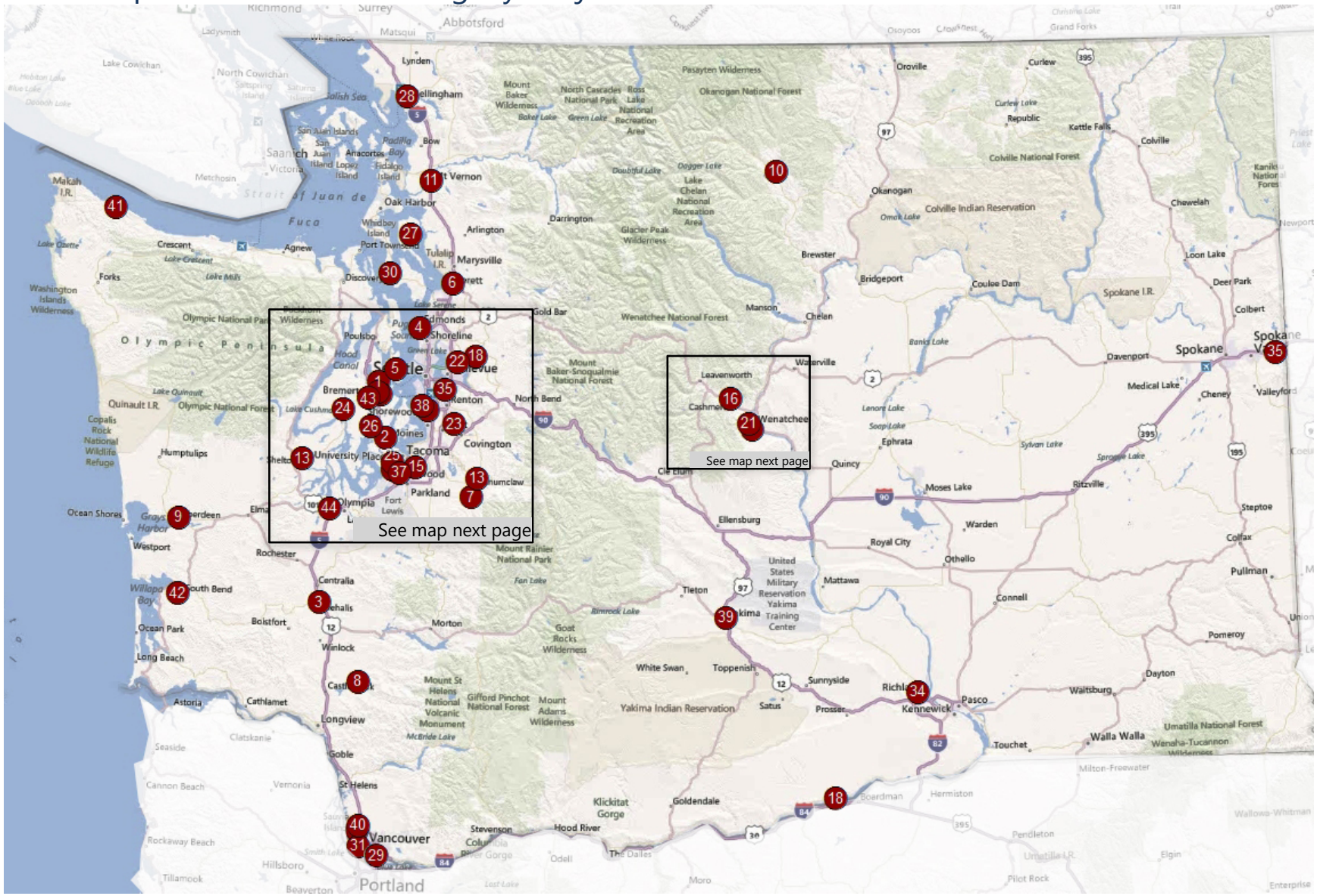
Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

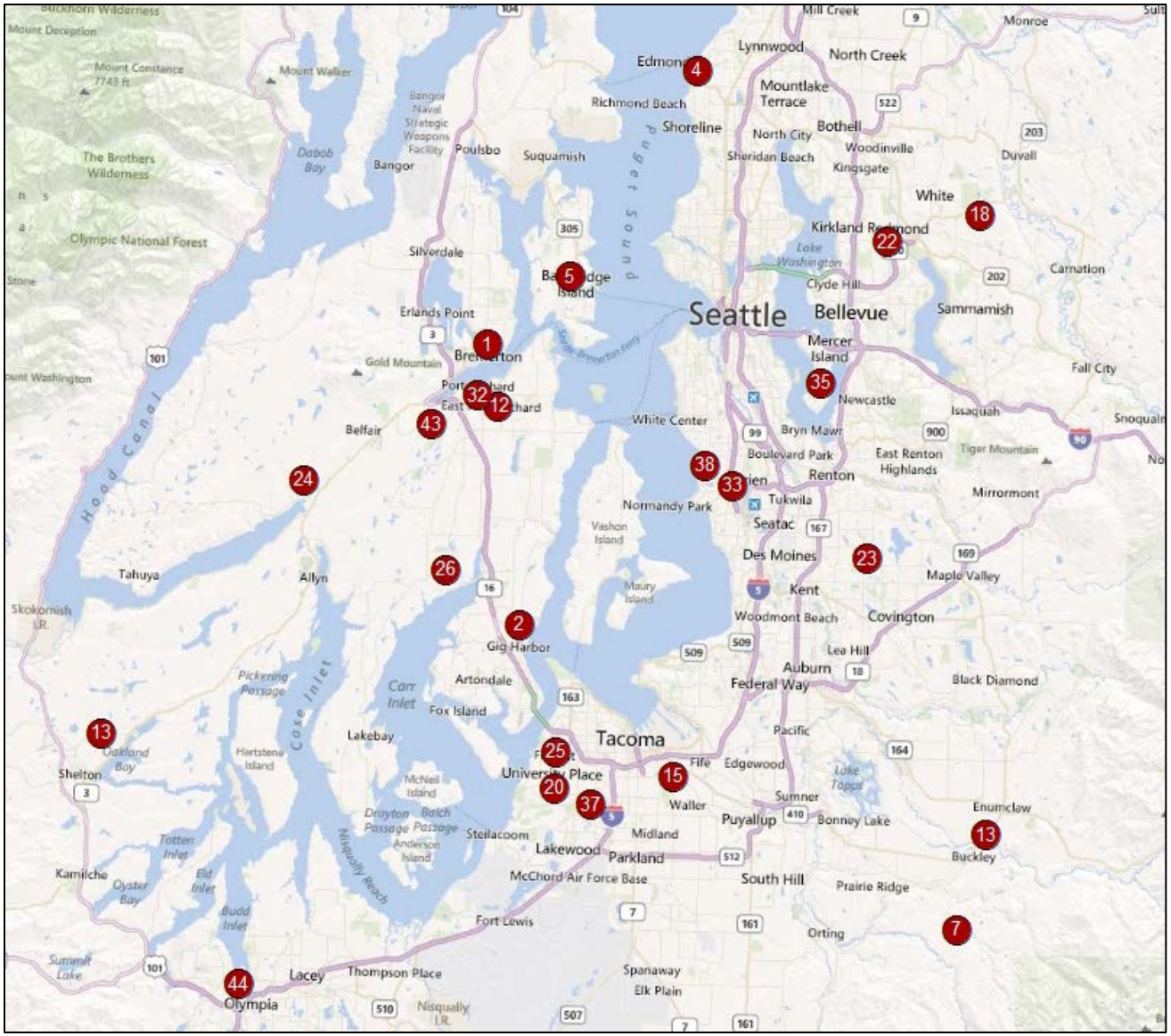
Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 44	63.89	12-1464D	Evergreen Rotary Inclusive Playground	Bremerton	$211,350	$211,350	$422,700	$211,350
2 of 44	59.22	12-1509D	Gig Harbor PlayZone Integrated Playground	Gig Harbor	$180,000	$181,200	$361,200	$391,350
3 of 44	56.50	12-1227D	Chehalis Pool Renovation	Chehalis	$250,000	$530,340	$780,340	$641,350
4 of 44	53.67	12-1536D	City Park Play and Spray Area Revitalization	Edmonds	$500,000	$791,653	$1,291,653	$1,141,350
5 of 44	53.33	12-1547D	Rotary Park Redevelopment	Bainbridge Island Park District	$500,000	$585,740	$1,085,740	$1,641,350
6 of 44	51.33	12-1085D	Senator Henry M. Jackson Park Renovation	Everett	$500,000	$633,000	$1,133,000	$2,141,350
7 of 44	50.72	12-1401D	Wilkeson Skatepark	Wilkeson	$55,400	$55,598	$110,998	$2,196,750
8 of 44	49.00	12-1239D	Harry Gardner Park Amenities	Cowlitz County	$46,850	$49,220	$96,070	$2,243,600
9 of 44	48.83	12-1152D	Sam Benn Park Renovation, Phase Two	Aberdeen	$112,743	$114,744	$227,487	$2,356,343
10 of 44	48.78	12-1123D	Winthrop Ice Rink Phase 2	Winthrop	$497,000	$498,000	$995,000	$2,853,343
11 of 44	48.17	12-1086D	Mount Vernon Skagit Riverwalk Park	Mount Vernon	$500,000	$511,500	$1,011,500	$3,353,343
12 of 44	48.11	12-1254D	South Kitsap Regional Park-Expansion	Kitsap County	$132,500	$132,500	$265,000	$3,485,843
13 of 44	47.72	12-1270D	Pinnacle Peak Trailhead Development	King County	$188,000	$190,435	$378,435	$3,673,843
13 of 44	47.72	12-1383D	Mason County Recreation Area Infield Renovation	Mason County	$285,000	$290,000	$575,000	$3,958,843
15 of 44	47.22	12-1204D	Swan Creek Park	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$4,458,843
16 of 44	47.11	12-1200D	Cashmere Riverside Park Improvements	Cashmere	$257,000	$257,000	$514,000	$4,715,843
17 of 44	46.83	12-1043C	Saddle Rock Access and Outdoor Education Area	Wenatchee	$450,000	$489,531	$939,531	$5,165,843
18 of 44	45.89	12-1053D	Crow Butte Park Play Structure	Port of Benton	$94,835	$94,840	$189,675	$5,260,678
18 of 44	45.89	12-1271D	Redmond Ridge Synthetic Turf Ballfield	King County	$500,000	$700,000	$1,200,000	$5,760,678
20 of 44	45.33	12-1020D	Cirque/Bridgeport Park Restrooms	University Place	$143,335	$143,335	$286,670	$5,904,013
21 of 44	45.28	12-1044A	Lower Castle Rock Acquisition	Wenatchee	$286,000	$300,000	$586,000	$6,190,013
22 of 44	45.22	12-1234D	Grass Lawn Park Soccer Field and Track Renovation	Redmond	$347,500	$347,500	$695,000	$6,537,513
23 of 44	44.89	12-1525A	Huse/Soos Creek Property Acquisition	Kent	$834,725	$834,725	$1,669,450	$7,372,238
24 of 44	44.78	12-1396D	Sandhill Park Fields #1 and #2 Development	Mason County	$160,000	$166,900	$326,900	$7,532,238

Table 1 – WWRP, Local Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
25 of 44	44.56	12-1021D	Sunset Terrace Park Restroom	University Place	$48,750	$48,750	$97,500	$7,580,988
26 of 44	44.39	12-1197A	Anderson Acquisition	Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	$483,350	$483,350	$966,700	$8,064,338
27 of 44	44.28	12-1405D	Barnum Point Park Development	Island County	$211,680	$258,720	$470,400	$8,276,018
28 of 44	43.50	12-1041D	Squalicum Creek Park: Phase 3	Bellingham	$500,000	$2,340,096	$2,840,096	$8,776,018
29 of 44	43.00	12-1203A	Cougar Creek Woods Park Acquisition	Vancouver	$558,391	$558,391	$1,116,781	$9,334,409
30 of 44	41.17	12-1559C	Trillium Community Forest	Island County	$1,000,000	$2,086,100	$3,086,100	$10,334,409
31 of 44	40.56	12-1491A	John Ball Park Acquisition	Vancouver	$224,853	$224,854	$449,707	$10,559,262
32 of 44	40.33	12-1096D	Paul Powers Park Development	Port Orchard	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000	$10,809,262
33 of 44	40.11	12-1543D	Moshier Regional Sports Field Restroom Replacement	Burien	$255,780	$255,780	$511,560	$11,065,042
34 of 44	40.06	12-1854A	Yakima River Waterfront Park	West Richland	$245,000	$254,941	$499,941	$11,310,042
35 of 44	40.00	12-1569D	Liberty Lake Town Square Park	Liberty Lake	$425,000	$425,000	$850,000	$11,735,042
35 of 44	40.00	12-1244D	Island Crest Park Field Renovation	Mercer Island	$338,000	$338,000	$676,000	$12,073,042
37 of 44	39.56	12-1548D	SERA Campus Sprayground & Restroom	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$500,000	$1,447,477	$1,947,477	$12,573,042
38 of 44	35.44	12-1579D	Seahurst Park Recreational Development	Burien	$356,000	$356,000	$712,000	$12,929,042
39 of 44	33.61	12-1320A	Central WA Regional Soccer Complex Acquisition	Yakima	$500,000	$698,000	$1,198,000	$13,429,042
40 of 44	32.11	12-1466A	Chinook Park Acquisition	Vancouver	$160,583	$160,583	$321,166	$13,589,625
41 of 44	30.44	12-1186D	Sekiu Shoreline Access & Wildlife Viewing 2012	Clallam County	$59,000	$59,000	$118,000	$13,648,625
42 of 44	29.67	12-1477D	Spurrell Dock Canopy	South Bend	$90,900	$111,100	$202,000	$13,739,525
43 of 44	27.22	12-1092D	McCormick Village Park	Port Orchard	$340,000	$355,000	$695,000	$14,079,525
44 of 44	24.22	12-1229A	Capitol Olympic Vista Park	Olympia	$1,000,000	$2,000,000	$3,000,000	$15,079,525
					$15,079,525	**$21,320,253**	**$36,399,777**	

State Map for Local Parks Category Projects




Seattle
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Olympia
Bremerton
Edmonds
Lynnwood
North Creek
Mountlake Terrace
Shoreline
Richmond Beach
Bothell
Woodinville
Kirkland
Redmond
Kingsgate
White
Duvall
Carnation
Sammamish
Issaquah
Snoqualmie
Fall City
Mercer Island
Newcastle
Renton
Tukwila
Seatac
Des Moines
Kent
Covington
Maple Valley
Black Diamond
Auburn
Federal Way
Pacific
Sumner
Puyallup
Bonney Lake
Enumclaw
Buckley
Orting
Prairie Ridge
South Hill
Parkland
Lakewood
Midland
Steilacoom
McChord Air Force Base
Fort Lewis
Lacey
Thompson Place
Spanaway
Elk Plain
Shelton
Kamilche
Belfair
Allyn
Tahuya
Gig Harbor
Artondale
Fox Island
Lakebay
Poulsbo
Suquamish
Bangor
Silverdale
Erlands Point
Gold Mountain
Port Orchard
East Port Orchard
White Center
Bryn Mawr
Boulevard Park
East Renton Highlands
Tiger Mountain
Mirrormont
Normandy Park
Vashon Island
Maury Island
Woodmont Beach
Lea Hill
Edgewood
Fife
Waller
University Place
Mill Creek
Monroe
Mount Walker
Mount Deception
Mount Constance
The Brothers Wilderness
Olympic National Forest
Hood Canal
Dabob Bay
Puget Sound
Case Inlet
Carr Inlet
Pickering Passage
Oakland Bay
Totten Inlet
Eld Inlet
Budd Inlet
Oyster Bay
Nisqually Reach
Drayton Passage
Balch Passage
Anderson Island
McNeil Island
Hartstene Island
Summit Lake
Lake Washington
Clyde Hill
Skokomish I.R.
Nisqually I.R.
Bangor Naval Strategic Weapons Facility
Stone
Leavenworth
Cashmere
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Local Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Local parks provide property or facilities for active (high impact) or passive (low impact) outdoor recreation. They may contain both upland and water-oriented elements.

Local Parks Criteria Analysis					
Scored by	**#**	**Title**	**Project Type Questions**	**Maximum Points**	**Focus***
Evaluation Team	1	Public Need	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	Local
Evaluation Team	2	Project Scope	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	Local
Evaluation Team	3	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Evaluation Team	4	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	10	Local
			Combination	5	
Evaluation Team	5	Site Suitability	Acquisition	5	Technical
			Combination	2.5	
Evaluation Team	6	Expansion/Renovation	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	Local
Evaluation Team	7	Project Support	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	State/Local
Evaluation Team	8	Cost Efficiencies	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State/Local
RCO Staff	9	Growth Management Act Preference	Acquisition, Development, Combination	0	State
RCO Staff	10	Population Proximity	Acquisition, Development, Combination	3	State

*Focus – Criteria orientation in accordance with Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors:

- State – Those that meet general *statewide* needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or SCORP)
- Local – Those that meet *local* needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – Those that meet *technical* considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, Local Parks Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public need**. Considering the availability of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?

2. **Project Scope**. Does the project scope meet deficient recreational opportunities within the service area as identified in question one, Public Need?

3. **Project Design**. Does the project demonstrate good design criteria? Does it make the best use of the site?

4. **Immediacy of Threat**. Is there a threat to the public availability of the resources the site possesses?

5. **Site Suitability**. Is the site to be acquired well suited for the intended recreational uses?

6. **Expansion or Renovation**. Will the acquisition or development project expand or renovate an existing recreation area or facility?

7. **Project Support.** The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed, and/or support for the project seems apparent.

8. **Cost Efficiencies.** The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies and/or reduces government costs through documented use of volunteers, donations, signed cooperative agreements, or signed memoranda of understanding (such as no cost easements/leases, maintenance/operation arrangements, or similar cost savings).

Scored by RCO Staff

9. **GMA Preference.** Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? *(RCW 43.17.250)*

10. **Population Proximity.** Is the project in a populated area?
    a. The project is located within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more. AND
    b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. (*RCW 79A.25.25)*

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question # / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Project Scope	3 Project Design Dev.*	3 Project Design Com.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Acq.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Com.*	5 Site Suitability Acq.*	5 Site Suitability Com.*	6 Expansion / Renovation	7 Project Support	8 Cost Efficiencies	9 GMA Compliance	10 Population Proximity	Total
1	Evergreen Rotary Inclusive Playground	14.33	14.67	14.00						4.67	9.33	3.89	0.00	3.00	63.89
2	Gig Harbor PlayZone Integrated Playground	14.33	12.33	12.33						4.22	8.89	4.11	0.00	3.00	59.22
3	Chehalis Pool Renovation	13.33	13.00	11.67						4.11	9.11	3.78	0.00	1.50	56.50
4	City Park Play and Spray Area Revitalization	12.00	11.67	13.00						4.00	7.33	2.67	0.00	3.00	53.67
5	Rotary Park Redevelopment	9.00	11.67	12.33						4.33	8.67	4.33	0.00	3.00	53.33
6	Senator Henry M. Jackson Park Renovation	10.67	12.00	11.00						4.00	8.44	2.22	0.00	3.00	51.33
7	Wilkeson Skatepark	13.00	10.33	10.67						3.56	8.00	3.67	0.00	1.50	50.72
8	Harry Gardner Park Amenities	11.67	11.33	10.00						4.00	7.78	4.22	0.00	0.00	49.00
9	Sam Benn Park Renovation Phase 2	10.67	11.67	11.33						3.56	6.89	3.22	0.00	1.50	48.83
10	Winthrop Ice Rink Phase 2	11.33	11.00	11.00						4.22	8.00	3.22	0.00	0.00	48.78
11	Mount Vernon Skagit Riverwalk Park	11.00	10.67	12.00						2.78	8.00	2.22	0.00	1.50	48.17
12	South Kitsap Regional Park Expansion	9.67	10.33	11.00						4.00	7.11	4.00	-1.00	3.00	48.11
13	Pinnacle Peak Trailhead Development	12.00	11.00	10.67						3.78	6.22	2.56	0.00	1.50	47.72
13	Mason County Recreation Area Infield Renovation	10.33	10.33	12.33						3.89	6.67	2.67	0.00	1.50	47.72
15	Swan Creek Park	11.00	11.00	10.00						3.00	6.89	2.33	0.00	3.00	47.22
16	Cashmere Riverside Park Improvements	11.33	10.67	9.67						3.78	8.22	3.44	0.00	0.00	47.11

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question # / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Project Scope	3 Project Design Dev.*	3 Project Design Com.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Acq.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Com.*	5 Site Suitability Acq.*	5 Site Suitability Com.*	6 Expansion / Renovation	7 Project Support	8 Cost Efficiencies	9 GMA Compliance	10 Population Proximity	Total
17	Saddle Rock Access and Outdoor Education Area	10.33	10.00		5.00		2.56		1.56	3.22	8.67	4.00	0.00	1.50	46.83
18	Crow Butte Park Play Structure	11.33	11.33	11.67						3.67	6.00	1.89	0.00	0.00	45.89
18	Redmond Ridge Synthetic Turf Ballfield	10.00	11.33	10.00						3.67	6.00	1.89	0.00	3.00	45.89
20	Cirque/Bridgeport Park Restrooms	11.00	9.67	10.33	0.00					3.44	6.22	1.67	0.00	3.00	45.33
21	Lower Castle Rock Acquisition	9.00	9.33			7.33		3.22		2.44	8.00	4.44	0.00	1.50	45.28
22	Grass Lawn Park Soccer Field and Track Renovation	9.33	10.00	10.33						3.33	6.89	2.33	0.00	3.00	45.22
23	Huse/Soos Creek Property Acquisition	10.33	10.33	0.00		6.44		3.67		2.44	6.44	2.22	0.00	3.00	44.89
24	Sandhill Park Fields #1 and #2 Development	9.33	10.67	11.67						3.67	6.67	2.78	0.00	0.00	44.78
25	Sunset Terrace Park Restroom	11.33	10.00	10.33						2.67	5.56	1.67	0.00	3.00	44.56
26	Anderson Acquisition	9.67	10.00			7.56		4.44		3.33	6.44	1.44	0.00	1.50	44.39
27	Barnum Point Park Development	11.00	10.00	10.00						2.56	7.11	3.11	-1.00	1.50	44.28
28	Squalicum Creek Park Phase 3	9.33	8.33	11.33						3.56	8.00	1.44	0.00	1.50	43.50
29	Cougar Creek Woods Park Acquisition	10.33	10.33		0.00	6.22		3.78		2.67	5.78	0.89	0.00	3.00	43.00
30	Trillium Community Forest	7.33	9.00		4.50	0.00	3.11		2.06	2.44	8.22	4.00	-1.00	1.50	41.17
31	John Ball Park Acquisition	9.33	11.00			5.78		4.11		1.56	4.67	1.11	0.00	3.00	40.56
32	Paul Powers Parrk Development	10.00	8.67	8.33						3.33	5.11	1.89	0.00	3.00	40.33

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

Local Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question # / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Project Scope	3 Project Design Dev.*	3 Project Design Com.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Acq.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Com.*	5 Site Suitability Acq.*	5 Site Suitability Com.*	6 Expansion / Renovation	7 Project Support	8 Cost Efficiencies	9 GMA Compliance	10 Population Proximity	Total
33	Moshier Regional Sports Field Restroom Replacement	9.67	9.00	9.33						3.33	4.67	1.11	0.00	3.00	40.11
34	Yakima River Waterfront Park	10.00	8.33			6.22		3.00		2.33	6.44	2.22	0.00	1.50	40.06
35	Liberty Lake Town Square Park	8.33	10.00	9.67						1.44	6.00	1.56	0.00	3.00	40.00
35	Island Crest Park Field Renovation	8.67	9.00	10.33						3.22	4.67	1.11	0.00	3.00	40.00
37	South End Recreation Area Campus Sprayground and Restroom	8.33	8.33	8.33						3.33	7.11	1.11	0.00	3.00	39.56
38	Seahurst Park Recreational Development	8.00	7.67	8.67						3.00	4.00	1.11	0.00	3.00	35.44
39	Central Washington Regional Soccer Complex Acquisition	8.67	8.33			2.67		2.67		1.78	5.33	2.67	0.00	1.50	33.61
40	Chinook Park Acquisition	7.33	8.33			3.33		2.33		2.11	4.89	0.78	0.00	3.00	32.11
41	Sekiu Shoreline Access and Wildlife Viewing 2012	7.67	7.00	7.33						1.56	5.56	1.33	0.00	0.00	30.44
42	Spurrell Dock Canopy	6.33	8.00	8.00						2.11	4.44	0.78	0.00	0.00	29.67
43	McCormick Village Park	6.00	6.33	7.33						0.89	2.67	1.00	0.00	3.00	27.22
44	Capitol Olympic Vista Park	4.67	3.67			3.11		1.78		1.89	5.56	1.56	-1.00	3.00	24.22

Evaluators Score Questions 1-11; RCO Staff Scores Questions 12-13

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

Local Parks Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Bremerton **Grant Request: $211,350**
Creating the Evergreen Rotary Inclusive Playground

The City of Bremerton will use this grant to develop an inclusive playground at Evergreen Rotary Park, the city's most heavily used waterfront park located a quarter-mile east of State Highway 303, between downtown and Olympic College. The project also will improve access for people with disabilities from the main parking lot to the park's central activity area, increase the number of parking spaces for people with disabilities, and add landscaping to the shoreline and main parking area. These improvements will create Bremerton and Kitsap County's first fully accessible playground designed to provide play opportunities for all children regardless of ability. There are 3,500 children with disabilities within the park's service area. The closest similar facility requires a 60-mile round trip drive to the Gig Harbor area. The project is being done in conjunction with a local non-profit, Bremerton Beyond Accessible Play. The group, which includes families with children having a range of abilities, has been instrumental in project design and raising money to provide the local match. The City will contribute $211,350 from a federal grant and donations of cash and labor. (12-1464)

Gig Harbor **Grant Request: $180,000**
Building the Gig Harbor PlayZone Integrated Playground

The City of Gig Harbor will use this grant to build an inclusive playground with accessible paths and play equipment with a maritime theme representing the fishing heritage of Gig Harbor. The Gig Harbor PlayZone Integrated Playground will replace the aged play equipment at City Park that must be removed this year. The new structures will promote youth physical activity as part of the Harbor Health initiative and allow children of all abilities to experience the benefits of outdoor play. In partnership with citizen advocates, the City was the finalist in an essay contest awarded by the non-profit Shane's Inspiration, which led a broad public input process resulting in the final playground design. Local environmental group, Harbor WildWatch, also helped with the maritime-themed design by highlighting species found in the harbor and Puget Sound. The Gig Harbor Maritime Committee raised 80 percent of the local grant match. When the playground is finished, Shane's Inspiration will lead an innovative program with local residents and the Peninsula School District using the PlayZone as an outdoor "learn to play together" classroom that is expected to have a regional impact. The City will contribute $181,200 from a grant, cash, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. (12-1509)

Chehalis **Grant Request: $250,000**
Renovating the Chehalis Pool

The City of Chehalis will use this grant to renovate its community pool. Work will include replacing the pool liner, mechanical systems, guard stands, and diving board; resurfacing its shared parking; adding 42 parking stalls; building a restroom; and upgrading the locker rooms

to meet accessibility standards. The work should extend the life of the pool by more than 20 years. The only public outdoor pool in this region, its use averages 230 people a day. People use the pool for water sports, physical education, school field trips, teen mentor programs, family and lap swims, and all-age swimming lessons. Built in 1959 near the city's main entrance at the Interstate 5 exit, thousands have learned to swim here. While the City maintained these aging facilities even in lean times with support from its foundation and the community, it lacks money for major upgrades or expansion. Excessive time and resources are spent on mechanical and plumbing repairs in the hope the pool lasts just one more season. In a desperate state of disrepair, it is unsafe, lacks cost and energy efficiencies, and is in imminent danger of closing. This renovation also improves the park's restrooms and parking. This project has a dedicated partner in the Chehalis Foundation, broad community support, and financial commitments from community groups, schools, businesses, and others. The City will contribute $530,340 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant, staff labor, and donations of cash. (12-1227)

Edmonds **Grant Request: $500,000**
Revitalizing City Park's Play and Spray Area

The City of Edmonds will use this grant to develop and restore the play area at City Park, the city's most notable and oldest park. The 14-acre City Park is in downtown Edmonds. The goal of the project is to improve, update, and diversify the play features at the park. The City will build an interactive spray area and replace worn-out playground equipment with accessible play structures. The spray feature will include a water system for water re-use. The spray area will replace the park's wading pool, which has been closed since 2007. The City will contribute $791,653 from a private grant, cash, and donations of cash. (12-1536)

Bainbridge Island Park District **Grant Request: $500,000**
Redeveloping Rotary Park

The Bainbridge Island Park District will use this grant to redevelop the nearly 50-year-old Rotary Park. Rotary Park was the first community park on Bainbridge Island and has been home to the Little League since 1966. The project will include moving one Little League ball field and redeveloping a second, replacing the restroom, improving traffic and facilities for people with disabilities, and installing a play structure, picnic shelter, landscaping, and interpretation. The park's location in the island's Winslow core neighborhood is important. Half of the island's population lives there and continued growth is expected. The area received 46 percent of all new growth on Bainbridge in the past decade. The park requires renovation and redevelopment reflecting growth, change, and site issues. The park district will contribute $585,740 in cash, staff labor, and donations of cash. (12-1547)

Everett **Grant Request: $500,000**
Renovating the Senator Henry M. Jackson Park

The Everett Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to design and renovate about 4 acres of the 15-acre Senator Henry M. Jackson Park. Work will include building perimeter walking and jogging paths, a basketball court, a playground and tot lot, seating, lawn,

community garden plots accessible to people with disabilities, and support amenities including lighting, parking, drainage, a rain garden, and interpretive signs. The park is in northeast Everett, one block west of Interstate 5 along Marine View Drive. The overall goals are to update the park; improve functionality, safety, and accessibility; and help poor, diverse populations to gather, exercise, and produce healthy foods. The community is engaged and united behind the project. It's a top priority for the parks department and is in Everett's lowest income area, where more than ten languages are spoken. Outdoor recreation amenities in the area are dated and suffer from poor drainage. The City will contribute $633,000 from a federal grant, staff labor, cash, and donated labor. (12-1085)

Wilkeson **Grant Request: $55,400**
Building the Wilkeson Skatepark

Town of Wilkeson will use this grant to build a 6,000 square foot skateboard park in Railroad Street Park. The park will be designed using modular units, placed on a cement pad, and geared for beginner to intermediate skateboarders. Most kids under 16 years old are unable to travel out of this rural area for park activities. There is no public transit system. The Town was approached by middle school students to develop a skateboard park already cited in the town's master park plan. This spring, kids and families started fundraising in earnest. They have solicited corporate donations and have several events planned next year. The Town of Wilkeson will provide the land, administer the grant, coordinate the in-kind labor from the Eagles, Clampers, and Booster Clubs to prepare and install the structures with the skateboard company representative. Railroad Street Park is well suited for a skateboard park because it is in the heart of town and very visible by the local community and police. The town will contribute $55,598 from a grant, cash, and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1401)

Cowlitz County **Grant Request: $46,850**
Adding Camping Amenities in Harry Gardner Park

Cowlitz County will use this grant to add amenities at Harry Gardner Park, a camping and day-use park along the south Toutle River, just minutes from the town of Toutle and the main road to Mount Saint Helens. The County will add a group picnic shelter with an accessible path, kiosks, picnic tables, signs, grills, benches, and fire pits. A campsite will be outfitted with new features for people with disabilities. These amenities will help complete a camping area at the park, which was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Saint Helens. Developing the park is the highest priority park project for Cowlitz County Parks and Recreation Division and the Toutle community. The community has embraced the park, donating labor, project leadership, and professional services. The park's interesting history and location near the volcano bring visitors from afar, while local students use the park for community service and outdoor education. The park attracts steelhead anglers, bird watchers, and families wanting to enjoy the sands, river, and adjacent state wildlife area. Adding amenities will expand access for a wider variety of users, including people with disabilities, groups, and overnight campers. The County will contribute $49,220 from a private grant; staff equipment, labor, and materials; and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1239)

Aberdeen **Grant Request: $112,743**
Renovating Sam Benn Park

The City of Aberdeen will use this grant to continue its restoration of Sam Benn Park. Work will include developing a picnic area with sidewalks and restoring the tennis courts. The City will add spectator seating as well as a new block wall to support the hillside and stop the courts from cracking. There also will be a small sitting and picnic area built into the base of the block wall. This project will complete almost 10 years of restoration work at the park. The City already has filled and graded two gullies, added a 9-hole disk golf course, removed dangerous trees, and last year improved the playground. Using other money, it also will install new parking and add sidewalks and landscaping. The City will contribute $114,744 from a private grant and cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1152)

Winthrop **Grant Request: $497,000**
Improving the Winthrop Ice Rink

The Town of Winthrop will use this grant to improve the Winthrop Ice Rink, adding refrigeration, new restrooms, a changing area, and improved signs. The ice rink is a short distance outside of Winthrop's downtown and has an adjoining service building. The rink is surfaced with lawn, and the ice is natural, dependent on freezing temperatures. The building houses the restrooms, skate rentals, changing area, and storage. This project addresses the two biggest risks to long-term operation: rink closures due to warm weather and an overcrowded skate changing area. The Town will grade the area, upgrade the electrical, and install a refrigerated slab and ice plant. A 1,200-square-foot restroom and changing area building will be constructed at the east end of the rink. Sidewalks and landscaping will be restored, with an emphasis on low water, native plant species. Five new directional signs will help people navigate to parking areas. Fixing these problems will enable a full operating schedule with tournaments and events that contribute to Winthrop's winter economy. The Town will contribute $498,000 in labor and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1123)

Mount Vernon **Grant Request: $500,000**
Building the Mount Vernon Skagit Riverwalk Park

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to build a park along the Skagit River in downtown Mount Vernon. The park will be about 25,000 square feet and will include a lowered plaza area with seating steps, viewpoints to the river, ornamental native landscape, placeholders for public art, and a restroom. Also included is a large, open area with shade trees set in a field of permeable pavers that will accommodate large, public events that currently happen in a parking lot. This park is connected to the Skagit Riverwalk, an urban, riverfront trail. It is the last component of the overall Skagit Riverwalk development and significantly increases access to the shoreline and opportunity for recreation. This park will be the largest open area in downtown and used by apartment residents, business core, seasonal tourists, and day visitors. The City will contribute $511,500 from a grant and cash. (12-1086)

Kitsap County **Grant Request: $132,500**
Developing South Kitsap Regional Park

Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to continue developing the skate park at South Kitsap Regional Park. The County will develop the center plaza for intermediate skaters with ramps, in-line skating, and street level elements. The County also will add spectator seating, landscaping, and security cameras. The South Kitsap Skate Park Association includes a large number of youth who are involved in the design and construction of the skate park. They have worked during the past four years to get $112,000 to provide roughly 45 percent of the total project costs for this phase of the work. Kitsap County will commit an additional $30,000. The County will contribute $132,500 in cash and donations of cash. (12-1254)

King County **Grant Request: $188,000**
Developing Pinnacle Peak Trailhead

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to improve access to Pinnacle Peak Park, a 256-acre forested park near Enumclaw in south King County. King County will develop a 50-vehicle parking lot accessible to horse trailers along Southeast Mud Mountain Road. The County also will build a half-mile access trail and bridge that connects to the existing trail network; install informational signs, a pit toilet, an access road into the parking lot, and fencing; restore pastureland; and conduct a parking feasibility study on the north side of the park. Pinnacle Peak Park is a forested volcanic cone rising 1,000 feet above the Enumclaw plateau. Drawn by sweeping vistas of Mount Rainier and the White River Valley, hikers and equestrians make the 2-mile climb to the park's peak. Currently, park users have limited parking and leave their vehicles along narrow road shoulders at the north and south trailheads. In 2008, King County bought the south side parcel to develop a parking lot and trailhead amenities to address the unsafe conditions. The north trailhead has site constraints, such as wetlands and steep slopes, that limit parking, but considering high levels of park use, it warrants further investigation. The County will contribute $190,435 in cash and donations of labor. (12-1270)

Mason County **Grant Request: $285,000**
Renovating Mason County Recreation Area Infield

Mason County will use this grant to renovate two infields at the Mason County Recreation Area Park near Shelton. The 30-acre sports complex has seven ball fields. Work will include replacing the dirt infields with synthetic turf on two fields. This will improve field playability, reduce maintenance costs, reduce rainouts, and reduce the amount of water used at the park. This project also fixes access issues by improving the pathways in the park. The County will replace existing crushed rock with asphalt and improve access to the dugouts. The two fields receive heavy use annually from youth baseball and softball organizations and from numerous tournaments. The outfield surface will remain grass. The County will contribute $290,000 in cash, and donations of equipment and labor. (12-1383)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma **Grant Request: $500,000**
Developing Swan Creek Park

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to develop the 383-acre Swan Creek Park, which is a natural area park on Tacoma's east side. The park district will establish three new park entrances, improve and connect an existing trail system, remove invasive plants and brush to improve forest health and enhance public safety, and provide basic visitor amenities such as entry gates, parking, signs, and restrooms. The park district also will restore a shelter and create space for expanding the community garden program. The project will include developing a mountain bike skills training trails in a forested area of the park. A primary focus of improvements will center on the eastern terminus of South 42nd Street, in a 12-acre area known in the community as "The Gathering Place." This site of former World War II emergency housing will be converted to a place for future urban farming. Existing older paved streets will be improved for pedestrian, bicycle, and wheelchair use. The park district will contribute $500,000 in voter-approved bonds. (12-1204)

Cashmere **Grant Request: $257,000**
Improving Cashmere's Riverside Park

The City of Cashmere will use this grant to develop 7.32 acres of Riverside Park by adding a concrete, modular skate park, two restrooms, and two paved parking lots. The City also will renovate an educational learning playground and two grassy areas with irrigation and other park amenities. The project will improve recreational opportunities for the Mid-Wenatchee Valley community for walking, fishing, kayaking, rafting, picnicking, skateboarding, soccer, and softball. The park is along the Wenatchee River. The City will contribute $257,000 in cash, equipment, labor, materials, and donations of cash and labor. (12-1200)

Wenatchee **Grant Request: $450,000**
Building the Saddle Rock Access and Outdoor Education Area

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy 4.68 acres and build the first two phases of the Saddle Rock Access and Outdoor Learning Area. Saddle Rock is a year-round, outdoor recreation and education destination in the Wenatchee Valley. From snowshoeing to horseback riding and hiking, the area is used by thousands of residents and visitors each year. Saddle Rock also is the site of the Wenatchee School District's Shrub Step'n Up Program in which every fifth-grade student visits the site and participates in hands-on, outdoor education stations. Parking, access, and support facilities at the site are inadequate for the use it receives. The limited street parking often overflows, which has created neighborhood issues. Through this project, the City will expand the parking, build a trail for people with disabilities, and install educational stations, an outdoor classroom, shade structures, and restrooms. The project site will be landscaped with native plants. This project is supported by the Wenatchee School District, Chelan Douglas Land Trust, Dry Gulch Preserve, Appleatchee Riders, and the community. The City will contribute $489,531 in labor and donations of cash, labor, and property interest. (12-1043)

Port of Benton **Grant Request: $94,835**
Adding Playground Equipment to Crow Butte Park

The Port of Benton will use this grant to buy and install playground equipment, create a new pathway, and designate parking for people with disabilities in the day-use area of Crow Butte Park. The 275-acre destination park is on the Columbia River in southwestern Benton County. The new playground will be 2,025 square feet, featuring a nature inspired play structure. The accessible, multi-use, asphalt pathway will be 8 feet wide and will connect existing restrooms and parking with the new play facility. The proposed project will broaden and improve the overall recreation experience for visitors and campers of all ages and abilities. The park has no play equipment even though more than two-thirds of park visitors bring children to the park. The playground will have nine components (slides, climbers, steppers). The Port will contribute $94,840 in cash and labor. (12-1053)

King County **Grant Request: $500,000**
Installing a Synthetic Turf Ball Field in Redmond Ridge Park

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to convert an existing dirt soccer field to a multi-purpose, synthetic turf, ball field for soccer, baseball, and other sports at Redmond Ridge Park. The park is in the Redmond Ridge neighborhood in northeast Redmond. The County will install the synthetic turf field in the same area as the existing dirt field. King County is collaborating with Redmond North Little League. This project is the second of a two-phase effort to expand use of the 10-acre park. The field only supports soccer and often is unusable because of rain. The County will contribute $700,000 from a voter-approved levy. (12-1271)

University Place **Grant Request: $143,335**
Building Restrooms in Cirque/Bridgeport Park

The City of University Place will use this grant to build restrooms at its largest developed park, Cirque/Bridgeport Park, which is at 7150 Cirque Drive West. The amenities included in this park are baseball, softball, soccer, and flag football fields; tot lot; skate park; picnic shelter; and walking trails. No permanent restrooms are available, which restricts use of the park. Construction of the restroom will improve the health and sanitation for park visitors, and allow expansion of activities such as community festivals, baseball jamborees, and softball tournaments. The City will contribute $143,335. (12-1020)

Wenatchee **Grant Request: $286,000**
Buying Land for a Trail at Lower Castle Rock

The City of Wenatchee will use this grant to buy nearly 37 acres for open space and for a trail linking homes to the Wenatchee Foothills. Immediately west of the property is 397 acres, which were purchased several years ago by residents to preserve the land for wildlife and public access. The landowners have agreed to donate a trail easement through the property if the City can buy the nearby 37 acres. The property is at the end of a residential street and has footpaths

and a cul-de-sac, which can serve as a temporary trailhead until a formal one can be developed. The site features spectacular views of the Wenatchee Valley and Columbia River and wildflowers are abundant in the spring. The site has been used by hikers, mountain bikers, and skiers, but the owner is interested in developing the property. The City will contribute $300,000 in donations of cash. (12-1044)

Redmond **Grant Request: $347,500**
Renovating Grass Lawn Park Soccer Field and Track

The City of Redmond will use this grant to renovate a deteriorating soccer field and track at Grass Lawn Park. The existing soccer field's synthetic turf will be removed and replaced, and the track will be resurfaced. Grass Lawn Park is a much-loved community park on 148th Avenue Northeast, a main road. It is near the Microsoft campus and is used heavily by local residents, Microsoft employees, and visitors from around the region, and even the world. Eight to ten years is the expected life span for this era of synthetic turf. At ten years old, it is now at the end of its life. Renovation of the Grass Lawn soccer field is supported by its many users, including the Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association, which will contribute toward the field's renovation. The City will contribute $347,500 in cash and donations of cash. (12-1234)

Kent **Grant Request: $834,725**
Buying Land along Soos Creek

Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services will use this grant to buy nearly 34 acres next to Soos Creek in the newly annexed Panther Lake area of Kent for a park and trailhead. The land is next to King County's 7.62-mile Soos Creek Trail and will serve as a local Kent trailhead. This would connect the Panther Lake area to Kent's most popular regional park, Lake Meridian Park in the south, with the intent that residents could easily jog, bike, or walk between the two parks. The site boasts tremendous views of Mount Rainier and the Soos Creek Valley. It also is valuable for wildlife habitat and holding water during heavy rains to prevent flooding. The City will contribute $834,725 from a local grant and cash. (12-1525)

Mason County **Grant Request: $160,000**
Renovating Two Sandhill Park Fields

Mason County will use this grant to complete the renovation of the last two of seven fields in Sandhill Park. The County will replace the infields, develop pathways accessible to people with disabilities, and install new outfield irrigation and turf, new backstops, and new dugouts. Sandhill Park was developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s by community volunteers. Two of the fields have received virtually no improvements since the original construction. Sandhill Park is home to games for the North Mason School District, North Mason Little League, North Mason Girls Fastpitch, North Mason Pee Wee's in addition to various tournaments. The County will contribute $166,900 in cash, labor, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1396)

University Place **Grant Request: $48,750**
Adding a Restroom in Sunset Terrace Park

The City of University Place will use this grant to develop a restroom at one of the city's most popular neighborhood parks. Sunset Terrace Park, located at 1903 Seaview Street West, has a tot lot, a youth baseball field, and picnic shelter. This park is used by families with young children and senior citizens from a nearby development. Currently, the park has only portable toilets, which are not enough for high usage times. The lack of permanent restrooms with hot running water and flushing toilets makes it a challenge for parents and a necessity for health and sanitation. The City will contribute $48,750. (12-1021)

Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District **Grant Request: $483,350**
Buying Land for a New Entry to Recreation Area

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District will use this grant to buy almost 40 acres, known as the Anderson property, on the north end of the Key Peninsula along State Route 302 for a new entry to a connecting 360-acre recreation area. The majority of the property is fairly level, with areas of rolling hills and Little Minter Creek meandering through it. With the Anderson property, the park district can relocate the main entry and improve visitor safety. The trailhead for the recreation area also will be located on the Anderson property, providing parking (including for horse trailers) and restrooms for hikers, bikers, and riders. In addition, the district will build picnic areas, a community garden, a playground, and multipurpose fields. This is the future flagship of Key Pen Parks and will serve the recreational needs of the community for future generations. The park district will contribute $483,350 in cash, equipment, and labor. (12-1197)

Island County **Grant Request: $211,680**
Developing Barnum Point Park

Island County will use this grant to develop Barnum Point Park. Work will include building 1.25 miles of trail, including a trail to the beach, two viewing platforms, and gravel parking. The County also will install interpretive signs and a portable outhouse. Adjacent to 7,100 acres of protected lands at Port Susan Bay, Barnum Point is unique both for its high ecological and recreational value. A network of trails loops through the bayside forest, with spectacular views east across Port Susan Bay and west to Triangle Cove. The 18 acres of tidelands and nearly half-mile of shoreline will provide one of the longest, uninterrupted stretches of public beach on Camano Island, and an excellent variety of recreation opportunities. The County will contribute $258,720 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant and a private grant. (12-1405)

Bellingham **Grant Request: $500,000**
Developing Squalicum Creek Park

The Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will use the grant to develop part of the 35-acre Squalicum Creek Park. The City will develop a second lighted ball field, install lights at an existing ball field, build a small restroom, pave walkways and a central plaza, and add lights in the parking lot. This will increase capacity of the park to serve Pony League Baseball and adult

softball leagues. This project will provide an additional 30 games a week. The City will contribute more than $2 million from a voter-approved levy. (12-1041)

Vancouver **Grant Request: $558,391**
Buying Land for Cougar Creek Woods Park

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 10 acres for the Cougar Creek Woods Park. The land includes a mixture of flat land and wooded slopes along Cougar Creek. The site will serve as a trailhead for the proposed Cougar Creek Trail extension, creating a link to the regional Salmon Creek Greenway to the north. Purchase of the land will help to preserve the creek banks, which includes the western wahoo, a shrub listed as at risk of extinction. The City will contribute $558,390. (12-1203)

Island County **Grant Request: $1,000,000**
Buying Land for the Trillium Community Forest

Island County will use this grant to buy 719 acres of forests for a new, natural recreation area park. The land includes the largest, contiguous forestland in the county. The land is on State Highway 525 in the south-central part of Whidbey Island. The County also would develop two, multi-user trailheads with kiosks and parking. One parking lot would accommodate people with disabilities, another would accommodate horse trailers and buses. The County will build a loop trail connecting to the proposed parking area for people with disabilities. The land's three trailheads will connect to more than 8 miles of trails. The land will serve equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers. The County will contribute more than $2 million from a local grant and donated land. (12-1559)

Vancouver **Grant Request: $224,853**
Buying John Ball Park

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy the 2.4-acre John Ball Park, which is in one of the older, established neighborhoods of downtown Vancouver. The land was formerly used for school district offices, and leased to the City for recreational use. John Ball Park is the only urban park serving this established neighborhood. The park has open lawn areas for pick-up team sports and picnicking, children's play equipment, walking paths, and community gathering opportunities. The City will contribute $224,854. (12-1491)

Port Orchard **Grant Request: $250,000**
Developing Paul Powers Park

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to renovate the 4-acre Paul Powers Park, which is at the center of a rapidly growing, residential neighborhood with dense lots too small for backyard play. The park has no restroom and the well-used children's playground has aging, obsolete, and unsafe swings, slide, and old-time teeter totters. A recent analysis using the National Program for Playground Safety gave it a grade D indicating that children using this playground are at risk. The City will remove the play structures and replace them with new ones, build a one-

third mile trail connecting to the regional trail system, add interpretive signs in the woods where old growth trees and wildlife exist, create a flat meadow for pick-up games, build a restroom and picnic facilities, install fencing, expand the entrance, and increase parking. Several groups including the MOMS, SK Rotary, First Baptist Church, Homebuilders Association, Boys and Girls Club support the project and have commit to donate or volunteer assistance. The City will donate land to expand the entry, playground, and parking. The City will contribute $250,000 in cash, equipment, labor, and donations of labor. (12-1096)

Burien **Grant Request: $255,780**
Replacing the Moshier Regional Sports Field Restroom

The Burien Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will use this grant to replace a 40-year-old restroom at the Moshier Regional Sports Fields. The 11-acre sports complex is used by sports leagues from the Puget Sound region for baseball, softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, and ultimate Frisbee. The existing restrooms are not usable by people with disabilities because of adjacent slopes, small door widths, and problem fixtures. The new restroom would be a green-built structure that would include larger restrooms and a seating area. The City will contribute $255,780 from a local grant and cash. (12-1543)

West Richland **Grant Request: $245,000**
Buying Land for a Yakima River Waterfront Park

The City of West Richland will use this grant to buy 2.3 acres for a park along the Yakima River. Future development would include restrooms, parking, a trailhead, a community pavilion, splash pad, picnic areas, and open areas. The park will improve and expand river access and recreation in an economically challenged, socially diverse neighborhood. The City will contribute $254,941 from a local grant, cash, and donations of labor and land. (12-1854)

Liberty Lake **Grant Request: $425,000**
Developing Liberty Lake Town Square Park

The City of Liberty Lake will use this grant to develop a 2-acre downtown city park on Meadowwood Lane. Development will include an amphitheater, a shelter, community gardens, landscaped open areas, restrooms, and parking. A major focus of the city's comprehensive parks plan was to create a town square that incorporates community history and public art. The park would provide opportunities for year-round public events, as well as help preserve the distinctive history of the community through design elements and educational displays. The City will contribute $425,000. (12-1569)

Mercer Island **Grant Request: $338,000**
Renovating the Island Crest Park Field

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to renovate the Island Crest Park Baseball Complex. Island Crest Park has the only regulation baseball fields in the city and is the home field for the high school varsity and junior varsity teams as well as for all other youth and adult baseball

groups on the Island, including the Boys and Girls Club, National Adult Baseball League, and Puget Sound Senior Baseball League. The fields also are used by soccer and football groups. The existing infields do not function well in the wet climate, do not drain well, and result in unsightly and unsafe puddles, divots, and poor playing conditions. The City will remove the existing dirt and clay south infield and replace it with a synthetic turf infield. Also included is the replacement of lights and pole standards for both fields, which will improve lighting efficiency, reduce spill and glare into neighborhoods, and minimize maintenance and bulb replacements. The City will contribute $338,000. (12-1244)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma **Grant Request: $500,000**
Improving the South End Recreation Area Campus

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to install a water sprayground, plaza and restroom at the 75-acre South End Recreation Area Campus. The campus is used by Gray Middle School, Boys and Girls Club, and STAR Center, a new multipurpose community center. The park district will contribute more than $1.4 million from state funding and voter-approved bonds. (12-1548)

Burien **Grant Request: $356,000**
Renovating Seahurst Park

The Burien Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will use this grant to improve the 35-year-old park amenities that support public access to the beach at Seahurst Park. The City will replace picnic facilities, improve walkways to trail systems and beaches, and replace park furnishings and interpretive signs. Seahurst Park, the city's most popular park, has almost 1 mile of Puget Sound beach. The park is visited by more than half of Burien's residents. The project will provide walkways for people with disabilities that connect the parking lots to the playground, picnic sites, restrooms, and other spaces. Additionally, the new park furnishings and picnic areas will be designed and placed for barrier-free access. The interpretive signs will enhance public awareness of the marine shoreline and the green design aspects of the park restoration. The City will contribute $356,000. (12-1579)

Yakima **Grant Request: $500,000**
Buying Land for a Regional Soccer Complex

The City of Yakima will use this grant to buy about 45 acres for a regional soccer complex. The land is in one of the poorest and most visible areas of the city being adjacent to Interstate 82. The acquisition of land is an objective of the city’s comprehensive plan. The property was used as a lumber mill. The City will contribute $698,000 in donations of cash and land. (12-1320)

Vancouver **Grant Request: $160,583**
Buying land for Chinook Park

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 2.19 acres next to a Clark County conservation area along the Whipple Creek Greenway corridor. The

department will develop the land as a neighborhood park. It will provide an essential public land connection through the greenway to neighborhoods and schools. The plan for future development includes picnic and sitting areas, play equipment, open lawn areas, and trails. The 2.19 acres are combined with 3.22 acres in the Whipple Creek Greenway to form Chinook Park. The City will contribute $160,583. (12-1466)

Clallam County **Grant Request: $59,000**
Developing the Sekiu Shoreline Wildlife Viewing Area

Clallam County will use this grant to develop a wildlife viewing area on the shore of Clallam Bay, in the community of Sekiu. The site, on Front Street, will include seating, interpretive material, walkways, and a viewing area. The design incorporates several "green" features including using precast concrete permeable pavers, installing recycled plastic fence boards, and placing driftwood logs as seating. The project will provide public access to the Sekiu shoreline, which currently is not available. The design takes a weed-covered vacant lot and transforms it into an eye-catching and usable space. The project has the support of the Clallam County Board of Commissioners, the Clallam Bay/Sekiu Chamber of Commerce, Clallam Bay/Sekiu Community Action Team, and others. The County will contribute $59,000. (12-1186)

South Bend **Grant Request: $90,900**
Building a Canopy over the Spurrell Dock

The City of South Bend will use this grant to add a canopy over the Spurrell Dock. Because of the short summer season, residents and tourists have asked for a cover to extend their enjoyment time along the river. This new canopy will allow multi-seasonal use of the dock for picnicking, outdoor theater and music, community events, and education. The elevated dock is in the heart of downtown South Bend and provides the connecting link between the South Bend floating recreational dock on the Willapa River and the upland Robert Bush Memorial Park and boardwalk. The City will contribute $111,100 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant and cash. (12-1477)

Port Orchard **Grant Request: $340,000**
Developing McCormick Village Park

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to develop the 30-acre McCormick Village Park. The City will build more than 1 mile of hiking trails with boardwalks and bridges over wetlands, interpretive signs, parking, restrooms, a playground, an entry plaza, picnic shelters, and a nature play area. This park will be unlike any others in Port Orchard. The City will contribute $355,000 from a local grant, labor, cash, and donations of equipment and labor. (12-1092)

Olympia **Grant Request: $1,000,000**
Buying Land for Capitol Olympic Vista Park

The City of Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation Department will use this grant to buy about 2.34 acres in downtown Olympia for the future Capitol Olympic Vista Park. The land is on the

isthmus between Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet, and features magnificent views of Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, and the State Capitol. This project exemplifies a cooperative venture between county, city, and state governments to expand the 1911 vision for the Washington State Capitol Campus. By acquiring this land, the City will expand its downtown recreation opportunities, preserve expansive views, and provide key connections to surrounding park properties and trails. Capitol Olympic View Park will be a hub for current and future waterfront trails and will create more informal play and gathering opportunities. Local Nonprofit and community groups such as Olympia Capitol Park Foundation and The Trust for Public Land have been vocal in their support for acquiring the site and have offered financial assistance for matching funds. The City will contribute $2 million from local and private grants and cash.
(12-1229)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7B**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Nine projects in the State Lands Development and Renovation category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-16

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Lands Development and Renovation category provides funds for projects that involve development and renovation of public access facilities on existing state recreation lands. Typical facilities include campsites, fishing piers, interpretive trails, boating access, picnic sites, and wildlife viewing blinds.

The State Lands Development and Renovation category is eligible to receive five percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account.

Eligible Applicants	Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife
Eligible Project Types	Development and renovation
Funding Limits	Minimum of $25,000 and a maximum of $325,000 per project
Match Requirements	None
Planning Requirement	Outdoor recreation plan
Public Access	Required
Another Program Characteristic	Multi-site projects allowed • Elements must be the same at each site (fishing docks, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk) • Sites limited to no more than two adjacent counties • Elements must meet capital project criteria • No more than $100,000 per site • No more than five sites per project

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Nine State Lands Development and Renovation category projects requesting $2.4 million were evaluated between July 23 and August 13 through a written evaluation process. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of eleven evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to outdoor recreation:

Evaluator	Representing
T. Perry Barrett, Bainbridge Island Park District	Local Agency
Margaret Fleek, City of Burlington	Local Agency
Randy Kline, State Parks	State Agency
Mark Mauren, Department of Natural Resources	State Agency
Brian Meyer, City of Woodinville	Local Agency
John Peterson, Seattle	Citizen
Jessi Richardson, City of Sammamish	Local Agency
Jennifer Schroder, Kirkland Community Services	Local Agency
Steve Sherlock, Department of Fish & Wildlife	State Agency
Sharon Sorby, Pend Oreille County Weed Board	Local Agency
Fred Wert, Winthrop	Citizen

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-16.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-16

- Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category projects

B. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. State Lands Development and Renovation Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-16
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Lands Development and Renovation Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, nine State Lands Development and Renovation category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these State Lands Development and Renovation category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred through a written evaluation process approved by the board, supporting the board's strategy to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation; and

WHEREAS, all nine State Lands Development and Renovation category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in *Manual #10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program-Outdoor Recreation Account,* thereby supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve development and renovation of public access sites on state lands, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of State Lands Development and Renovation category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, State Lands Development and Renovation Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 9	47.00	12-1300D	North Willapa Bay Recreation Development Phase 1	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$310,000		$310,000	$310,000
2 of 9	44.55	12-1082D	East Tiger Mtn Trail System Development Phase 2	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$320,000	$137,200	$457,200	$630,000
3 of 9	44.45	12-1215D	Old Highway 10 Access Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$289,000		$289,000	$919,000
4 of 9	43.55	12-1568D	Lake Tahuya Access Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$280,000		$280,000	$1,199,000
5 of 9	43.27	12-1121D	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Access Development	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$325,000		$325,000	$1,524,000
6 of 9	42.18	12-1336D	Tennant Lake Wetland Boardwalk Renovation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$325,000		$325,000	$1,849,000
7 of 9	41.09	12-1261D	Grande Ronde River Campground Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$175,000		$175,000	$2,024,000
8 of 9	40.64	12-1235D	Dirty Harry's Peak Trail Development	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$90,000	$18,000	$108,000	$2,114,000
9 of 9	37.73	12-1011D	Secret Harbor Public Access and Environmental Education 2012	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$290,961	$32,914	$323,875	$2,404,961
					$2,404,961	**$188,114**	**$2,593,075**	

State Map for State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for development and/or renovation of state recreation lands.

State Lands Development and Renovation Criteria Analysis					
Scored by	**#**	**Question**	**Project Type**	**Maximum Points**	**Focus***
Evaluation Team	1	Public Need	Development and Renovation	20	State
Evaluation Team	2	Site Suitability and Design	Development and Renovation	15	Technical
Evaluation Team	3	Diversity and Compatibility	Development and Renovation	10	State
Evaluation Team	4	Performance Measure	Development and Renovation	5	State
Evaluation Team	5	Public Benefit	Development and Renovation	5	State
RCO Staff	6	Population Proximity	Development and Renovation	1	State
Total Points Possible=56					

*Focus – Criteria orientation in accordance with Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning Program (SCORP) policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors:

- State – Those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or SCORP)
- Local – Those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – Those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy)

Scoring Criteria, State Lands Development and Renovation Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public need.**
   Considering the availability and use of existing facilities within the service area, what is the need for new or improved facilities?
   Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2002-2007, Chapter 5.

2. **Site Suitability and Project Design.**
   Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site?

3. **Diversity of and Compatibility of Recreational Uses.**
   To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible recreational uses?
   Assessment *of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State 2002-2007*, Chapters 1 and 5.

4. **Outcome-Focused Performance Measures.**
   To what extent does the project result in measurable progress toward goals and objectives for the recreation or access area?

5. **Public Benefit and Project Support.**
   To what extent does this project result in measurable benefits for the community impacted as a result of this development or renovation?

Scored by RCO Staff

6. **Proximity to Human Populations.**
   Is the project in a populated area? RCW 79A.25.250

State Lands Development and Renovation Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Site Suitability and Design	3 Diversity and Compatibility	4 Performance Measure	5 Public Benefit	6 Population Proximity	Total
1	North Willapa Bay Recreation Development	17.82	13.09	8.18	3.73	4.18	0.00	47.00
2	East Tiger Mountain Trail System Development	16.00	12.55	7.27	3.55	4.18	1.00	44.55
3	Old Highway 10 Access Development	17.09	13.09	6.91	3.36	4.00	0.00	44.45
4	Lake Tahuya Access Development	15.27	12.27	7.09	4.09	3.82	1.00	43.55
5	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Access Development	14.18	12.27	7.82	3.91	4.09	1.00	43.27
6	Tennant Lake Wetland Boardwalk Renovation	15.64	11.45	7.45	3.00	3.64	1.00	42.18
7	Grande Ronde River Campground Development	15.27	11.45	7.45	3.18	3.73	0.00	41.09
8	Dirty Harry's Peak Trail Development	16.00	10.09	6.18	3.55	3.82	1.00	40.64
9	Secret Harbor Public Access and Environmental Education	12.36	11.73	6.55	3.64	3.45	0.00	37.73

Evaluators Score Questions 1-5; RCO Staff Scores 6

State Lands Development and Renovation Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $310,000
Developing North Willapa Bay Recreation

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to begin development of the North Willapa Bay Wildlife Area Unit. The department will build two parking lots, one at the Cedar River and one at Hawks Point; about 1 mile of two, non-motorized trails; and two interpretive kiosks at viewpoints. The .8-mile Hawks Point Bluff Trail will use a logging road and will end at a majestic bluff viewpoint overlooking Willapa Bay. The second trail, the .2-mile Bay Access Trail, will provide secluded beach access for a variety of recreational opportunities. Willapa Bay in southwest Washington is regarded widely as one of the most pristine estuaries in the United States and is the second largest estuary on North America's West Coast. During the past decade, the department has played an integral role in a partnership that has protected several thousand acres of estuaries, wetlands, and associated buffers throughout Willapa Bay. Each of these conserved state lands offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, bird watching, fishing, sea and river kayaking, shellfish harvesting, photography, hunting, biking, and multiple watchable wildlife opportunities. (12-1300)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $320,000
Developing Trails on East Tiger Mountain

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to develop two trails in the eastern portion of Tiger Mountain State Forest. The department will build about 5 miles of trail and three trail bridges from the Tiger Summit Trailhead. One trail will give visitors an alternative to forest roads by connecting Tiger Summit Trailhead directly to the East Tiger Summit Viewpoint, which offers views of Mount Rainier and surrounding lowlands. A second trail for mountain bikers will connect East Tiger Summit directly to the Tiger Summit Trailhead. These two trails will reduce user conflict by separating different types of trail users at this highly used recreational area. Tiger Mountain State Forest is within 35 miles from 52 percent of the state's population, or 3.5 million people. The department will contribute $137,200 in labor, materials, and donated labor. (12-1082)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $289,000
Developing the Old Highway 10 Yakima River Access

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to add a boat ramp and parking lot at the Old Highway 10 Yakima River Access, a half-mile above the Town Diversion Dam, northwest of Ellensburg. The department will build a gravel ramp for drift boats, kayaks, canoes, and rafts. It also will build a parking lot, install a pad for a seasonal outhouse, add fill to improve sight lines for drivers and highway access, place barrier rock to prevent damage to plants, and install a gate for access to the trail. The department also will build a walking trail running the length of the

site to the west, giving people a place for bank fishing and watching the mule deer, bald eagles, beavers, and other animals that visit the site. The Yakima River provides a "blue-ribbon" trout fishery and is used heavily by anglers and recreational floaters from around the state. The improvements to the Old Highway 10 site will allow for an afternoon float from the department's Thorp Bridge access site about 3.5 miles upriver or a longer float from the Teanaway Junction Access, which is about 13 miles upstream from Thorp Bridge. (12-1215)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $280,000
Developing the Lake Tahuya Access

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to pave a parking lot and entry, build a pathway to Lake Tahuya, install a gate at the entrance and a chain link fence along the property lines, and place signs and a concrete pad for a vault toilet. Lake Tahuya is the third largest lake in Kitsap County, and the department wants to develop a quality trout fishery there. (12-1568)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $325,000
Developing the Woodard Bay Access

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to create safe access to the beach, develop an interpretive program including an environmental learning shelter, upgrade the parking lot and primitive kayak and canoe launch, and restore the Woodard Bay and Chapman Bay estuaries. This project is part of a larger effort to restore near-shore habitat and to enhance low-impact recreation and environmental education at the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area. Located in Thurston County, the conservation area encompasses 865 acres of forests, estuaries, and tidelands in Puget Sound. It is at the end of the Chehalis-Western Trail, which is a 22-mile, multi-use trail that links Olympia to Yelm. The conservation area's three hiking trails provide panoramic views of Woodard Bay, Chapman Bay, and Henderson Inlet as well as views of priority wildlife populations like harbor seals, yuma myotis and little brown bats, and great blue herons. The conservation area also offers primitive beach access and the only seasonal, non-motorized public boat access to Henderson Inlet. (12-1121)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $325,000
Renovating the Tennant Lake Wetland Boardwalk

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to renovate the Tennant Lake boardwalk, which is under water and unusable much of the year. The department will add a second layer to 2,000 feet of the long loop trail boardwalk to raise it and keep it dry year-round. The department also will renovate the 250-foot short spur section and make it accessible to people with disabilities. Wheelchair users then would be able to get to the boardwalk and the viewing platform on the lake's edge. Over the years, the boardwalk has aged, with annual repairs needed to keep it in usable shape. Tennant Lake also has risen in the years since the boardwalk was constructed. During winter and early spring, the majority of the boardwalk is under water and must be closed to the public. When the water drops in spring, the boardwalk is reopened. The Tennant Lake Unit of the Whatcom Wildlife Area is 5 miles west of Ferndale. A trail leads from

the parking lot to the start of the Tennant Lake wetland boardwalk. This popular boardwalk provides visitors a unique perspective of a spectacular wetland. The boardwalk meanders through swamp and marsh habitats along the edge of the lake providing views of wetland-associated vegetation and wildlife. (12-1336)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $175,000
Developing the Grande Ronde River Campground

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop a campground in the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area. The campground would be about 4 acres in size and have about 10 campsites, each of which would accommodate a family-sized tent or medium-sized travel trailer. As part of the campground development, the department will install an information kiosk, a graveled road, and an outhouse. The campground would be 35 miles south of Clarkston, via Highway 129 and Snake River Road. The area offers steelhead, bass, and trout fishing as well as opportunities to view deer, elk, big-horned sheep, birds, and wildflowers. Hunting of big game and birds also is allowed. (12-1261)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $90,000
Developing Dirty Harry's Peak Trail

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to build a 3-mile hiking trail to Dirty Harry's Peak in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area in east King County. This project will provide a safe and sustainable trail to access an increasingly popular recreation area for hiking and snowshoeing. Hikers and snowshoers are using an old logging road with significant erosion and drainage problems. The department plans to abandon this old logging road and convert 2 miles of it to a trail, and then build 1 mile of new trail. The department will contribute $18,000 in cash and donations of labor. (12-1235)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $290,961
Developing Secret Harbor Public Access

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to begin development of Secret Harbor, which is in the southern portion of the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area, in Skagit County. The department will convert roads to trails and install two composting toilets, signs, and an elevated walkway over a saltwater marsh that is being restored. This project will integrate with the restoration of saltwater marsh and estuary habitat in Secret Harbor, an area heavily impacted by human use and will allow an increasingly rare opportunity for the public to experience a functioning saltwater marsh system. The department will contribute $32,914. (12-1011)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7C**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program State Parks Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Eleven projects in the State Parks category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-17

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 2) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The State Parks category provides funds for acquiring and developing active and passive outdoor recreation facilities. Facilities may include campgrounds, fishing sites, picnic areas, swim beaches, trails, and support amenities including administrative and maintenance structures.

The State Parks category is eligible to receive 30 percent of the funds in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account. Fifty percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicant	State Parks and Recreation Commission only
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition • Development • Combination projects (acquisition and development) • Renovation is not eligible
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	None required
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

In November 2007, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted Resolution 2007-30, which delegated the evaluation and ranking of State Parks category projects to the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission). The board approved the policy revision because the Commission is the sole eligible applicant for the category and the WWRP statute does not include specific criteria for assessing projects in the category.

By delegating the project evaluation and ranking process, the board intended to:

- avoid duplication of evaluation processes;
- eliminate the problem of having the Commission reorder a ranked list that was provided by a volunteer panel; and
- allow the Commission to place greater emphasis on the priorities it establishes through planning and prioritization.

The board adopted criteria for the evaluation process in March 2008.

2012 Evaluation

Eleven State Parks category projects requesting $10.3 million were evaluated on July 23, 2012 in an open public meeting. A team of nine evaluators used criteria adopted by the board to review and rank the projects. As shown in the following table, the team included State Parks staff and a citizen volunteer who have expertise and experience in land use issues, park and recreation resource management, engineering, and design.

Evaluator	Representing
Richard Brown, Acting Capital Program Manager	State Parks
John Floberg, WA State Parks Foundation, Executive Director	Citizen
Ed Girard, Southwest Region Field Operation Manager	State Parks
Peter Herzog, Partnership and Planning Program Manager	State Parks
Ryan Karlson, Interpretive Program Manager	State Parks
Chris Parsons, Grants Program Manager	State Parks
Karen Waltenburg, Property & Acquisition Specialist	State Parks
Eric Watilo, Northwest Region Field Operation Manager	State Parks
Brian Yearout, Construction Project Coordinator	State Parks

The results of the evaluations are in *Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15* (Attachment A).

Following the evaluation, State Parks staff prepared its recommendation for the State Parks and Recreation Commission. At its August 9, 2012 meeting, the State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted an alternate ranking of high-priority projects that support its transformation strategy. This approach is consistent with the intent of the board's delegation, as described above. The Commission requests board review and approval of this list shown in *Table 2 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 2 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-17. This list reflects the Commission's recommendation for projects to be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 2 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve

the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency and customer focus of our grant cycles, staff will work with the Commission and its staff to evaluate whether the criteria or process need to be revised for any subsequent grant rounds.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-17

- Table 2 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

B. State Map for State Parks Category Projects

C. State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

D. State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

E. State Parks Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-17
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
State Parks Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, eleven State Parks category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these eleven State Parks category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all eleven State Parks category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10a, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission request approval of an alternate ranked list of projects, which prioritizes those projects that implement its transformation strategy; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition and development of properties for recreation, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 2 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor this ranked list of State Parks category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 2 – WWRP, State Parks Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Commission Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 11	41.39	12-1248D	Olallie Trail Development 2012	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,168,000	$63,000	$1,231,000	$1,168,000
2 of 11	39.78	12-1095A	Fudge Point Acquisition Phase 1	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$2,540,000		$2,540,000	$3,708,000
3 of 11	35.56	12-1530A	Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes Phase 2	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$750,000		$750,000	$4,458,000
4 of 11	30.22	12-1557D	Miller Peninsula Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$228,600		$228,600	$4,686,600
5 of 11	29.72	12-1723D	Nisqually Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$295,800		$295,800	$4,982,400
6 of 11	39.39	12-1246A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2012	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	$5,982,400
7 of 11	38.61	12-1245A	Nisqually State Park-Manke Property Phase 2	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,381,500		$1,381,500	$7,363,900
8 of 11	33.56	12-1420D	Beacon Rock Day Use Picnic Shelter	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$229,800		$229,800	$7,593,700
9 of 11	28.50	12-1505A	Millersylvania-Deep Lake Resort Acquisition	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$2,038,553		$2,038,553	$9,632,253
10 of 11	21.33	12-1722D	Wolfe Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$245,400		$245,400	$9,877,653
11 of 11	39.00	12-1341D	Rasar State Park Group Camp Improvements	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$435,000		$435,000	$10,312,653
					$10,312,653	**$63,000**	**$10,375,653**	

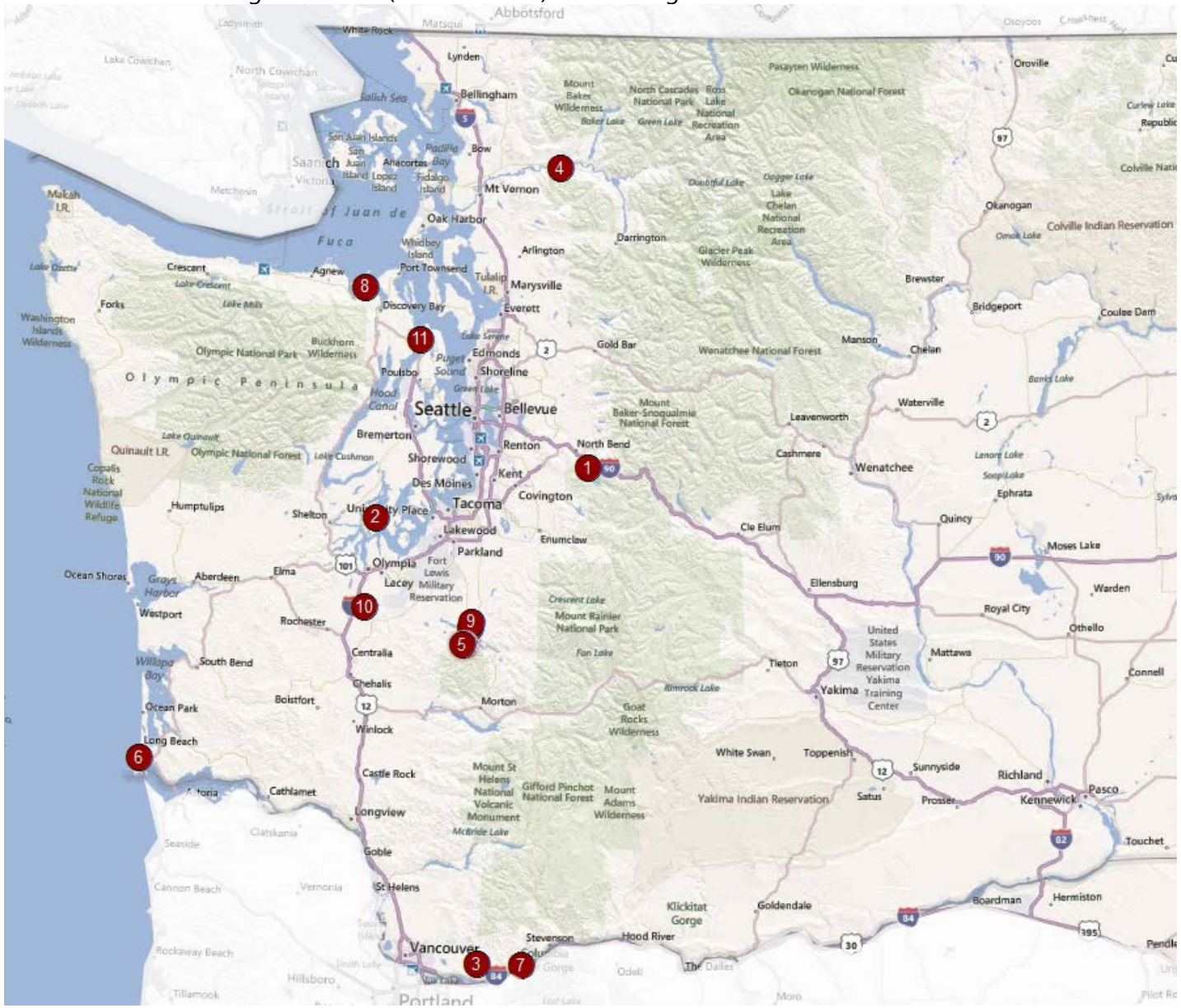
Table 1 – WWRP, State Parks Preliminary Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 11	41.39	12-1248D	Olallie Trail Development 2012	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,168,000	$63,000	$1,231,000	$1,168,000
2 of 11	39.78	12-1095A	Fudge Point Acquisition Phase 1	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$2,540,000		$2,540,000	$3,708,000
3 of 11	39.39	12-1246A	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2012	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,000,000		$1,000,000	$4,708,000
4 of 11	39.00	12-1341D	Rasar State Park Group Camp Improvements	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$435,000		$435,000	$5,143,000
5 of 11	38.61	12-1245A	Nisqually State Park-Manke Property Phase 2	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$1,381,500		$1,381,500	$6,524,500
6 of 11	35.56	12-1530A	Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes Phase 2	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$750,000		$750,000	$7,274,500
7 of 11	33.56	12-1420D	Beacon Rock Day Use Picnic Shelter	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$229,800		$229,800	$7,504,300
8 of 11	30.22	12-1557D	Miller Peninsula Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$228,600		$228,600	$7,732,900
9 of 11	29.72	12-1723D	Nisqually Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$295,800		$295,800	$8,028,700
10 of 11	28.50	12-1505A	Millersylvania-Deep Lake Resort Acquisition	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$2,038,553		$2,038,553	$10,067,253
11 of 11	21.33	12-1722D	Wolfe Initial Park Access	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$245,400		$245,400	$10,312,653
					$10,312,653	**$63,000**	**$10,375,653**	

8/9/2012

State Map for State Parks Category Projects

Numbers reflect ranking on Table 1 (Attachment A) and scoring shown in Attachment D.



State Parks Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

This project category is reserved for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for acquisition and/or development of state parks. RCFB Manual 10a.

State Parks Criteria					
Score	**#**	**Question**	**Project Type**	**Maximum Points Possible**	**Focus***
Evaluation Team	1	Public Need	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State
Evaluation Team	2	Project Significance	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	Agency
Evaluation Team	3	Project Design	Development	10	Technical
			Combination	5	
Evaluation Team	4	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	10	State
			Combination	5	
Evaluation Team	5	Expansion / Phased Project	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	State
Evaluation Team	6	Multiple Fund Sources	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State
Evaluation Team	7	Readiness to Proceed	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	Agency
Evaluation Team	8	Shows Application of Sustainability	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	Agency
RCO Staff	9	Population Proximity	Acquisition, Development, Combination	3	State
Total Points Possible =58					

*Focus–Criteria orientation in accordance with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors

- State–those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or SCORP)
- Agency–those that meet agency needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in the State Parks and Recreation Commission's plans)
- Technical–those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, State Parks category

Team Scored

1. **Public Need.**
   Describe why this facility should be built or property acquired?

2. **Project Significance.**
   Describe why this is a project of statewide or regional merit. Is this a "high priority" project?

3. **Project Design.**
   Describe how this project demonstrates good site and building design.
   (Development/Combination Only)

4. **Immediacy of Threat.**
   Describe the consequences of not obtaining this land now. (Acquisition/Combination Only)

5. **Expansion/Phased Project**.
   Is this a continuation of a previous project? When did the previous project start and end (if applicable)? Is this a distinct stand-alone phase?

6. **Multiple Funding Sources.**
   Are there multiple funding sources proposed to support this project?

7. **Readiness to Proceed.**
   Is the project fully designed and permitted (development) or is there a written sales agreement with the property owner (acquisition)? Are there any significant local zoning or permitting issues?

8. **Application of Sustainability.**
   Does the proposed design or acquisition meet accepted sustainability standards, best management practices, and/or stewardship of natural or cultural resources?

Scored by RCO Staff

9. **Population Proximity.**
   Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities and towns, and county density? RCW 79A.25.250

State Parks Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Project Significance	3 Project Design Dev.*	3 Project Design Com.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Acq.*	4 Immediacy of Threat Com.*	5 Expansion / Phased Project	6 Multiple Fund Sources	7 Readiness to Proceed	8 Application of Sustainability	9 Population Proximity	Total
1	Olallie Trail Development 2012	4.11	11.33	7.78				7.33	2.67	3.67	3.00	1.50	41.39
2	Fudge Point Acquisition Phase 1	3.11	11.67			8.89		6.22	1.78	4.33	3.78		39.78
3	Inholdings and Adjacent Properties 2012	3.78	11.33			7.11		7.56	2.33	3.00	2.78	1.50	39.39
4	Rasar State Park Group Camp Improvements	3.78	10.00	8.89				8.44	1.11	3.78	3.00		39.00
5	Nisqually State Park-Manke Property Phase 2	4.00	12.33			4.67		8.00	0.44	4.44	3.22	1.50	38.61
6	Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes Phase 2	3.44	11.67			6.00		8.00	1.22	1.78	3.44		35.56
7	Beacon Rock Day Use Picnic Shelter	3.56	10.00	8.00				7.11		1.89	3.00		33.56
8	Miller Peninsula Initial Park Access	3.78	9.67	6.44				6.44		1.56	2.33		30.22
9	Nisqually Initial Park Access	3.22	8.67	6.22				6.00		1.67	2.44	1.50	29.72
10	Millersylvania-Deep Lake Resort Acquisition	3.56	9.67			4.67		4.67		1.44	3.00	1.50	28.50
11	Wolfe Initial Park Access	2.44	8.33	5.78				1.56		0.89	2.33		21.33

Evaluators Score Questions 1-10; RCO Staff Scores Question 11

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

State Parks Project Summaries
(In Rank Order, Per Attachment D)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $1,168,000
Developing an Olallie State Park Trail

State Parks will use this grant to build 8.6 miles of trail that will give users the chance to explore a dramatic and previously inaccessible area of Olallie State Park. The Olallie Trail will ascend 2,700 feet in elevation, up the forested slopes of Mount Washington above the John Wayne Pioneer Trail for 3.9 miles and then connect with abandoned logging roads that provide frequent, expansive views of the broad glacial valleys and the dramatic topography of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. This trail represents one of the most important opportunities for mountain biking in the region. It connects the John Wayne Pioneer Trail to about 20 miles of trail planned on Forest Service land. It also will connect to a recently completed hiking route to the summit of Mount Washington. State Parks will contribute $63,000 from donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1248)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $2,540,000
Acquiring Fudge Point on Harstine Island

State Parks will use this grant to buy 62 acres of waterfront, with more than a half-mile of shoreline at Fudge Point, on Harstine Island's eastern shore in Mason County. A property on State Parks' wish list since the 1980s, the land is three-quarters of a mile south of McMicken Island State Park. It has a sandy, gently sloping beach and spectacular views of Mount Rainier, the Olympic Mountains, and Mount Saint Helens. State Parks will collaborate with The Trust for Public Land to make the purchase. State Parks plans to manage this property as a public, day-use park for low-impact activities. This is the first step in a multi-year vision to buy uplands and tidelands adjacent to Fudge Point for a premiere destination state park in the South Sound. (12-1095)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $1,000,000
Buying Inholdings and Land next to State Parks

State Parks will use this grant to buy up to 104 acres within or adjacent to the boundaries of existing state parks. From time-to-time during each biennium, State Parks learns of desirable adjacent or inholding properties. Some of these properties are small and would not score well in a competitive grant process. Others require immediate response to buy the property. This grant will help State Parks respond more quickly to acquisition opportunities as they arise. In the past, these grants have been used to purchase property to remove undesirable neighbors (a tavern) from a park, to obtain legal access to a park, to acquire desirable property listed with a real estate agent, and to acquire sites with high, natural resource value. (12-1246)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $435,000
Improving the Rasar State Park Group Camp

State Parks will use this grant to build two cabins in the group camp at Rasar State Park in Skagit County. The 400-square-foot cabins will be built with heaters, storage cabinets, and bathrooms, and space for up to five people to camp in a secluded forest setting. State Parks also will add four parking stalls, paved and lit access trails, utility connections, and outdoor areas with picnic tables, barbecue grills, and fire rings. The project is the final phase of the multi-phased development of the group camp that began in 1999. The additional two cabins will help meet demand and complete the group camp development. (12-1341)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $1,381,500
Purchasing Land for Nisqually State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy 214 acres of privately owned property in the long-term boundary of Nisqually State Park. The property is owned by the Manke Timber Company and includes the high point in the park, which is planned for an open-air observatory and storytelling area. This area is important to the park's purpose of telling the story of Native American use of the site through time. The land also includes a portion of the planned trail system for the park. The long-term boundary for the park stretches from the western side of the Ohop Valley in the west to State Route 7 in the east. State Parks began buying land there in the early 1990s, and now owns 1,230 acres. The park is at the confluence of the Mashel River and Ohop Creek with the Nisqually River. (12-1245)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $750,000
Protecting Seaview Dunes

State Parks will use this grant to buy 21.45 acres on Long Beach to retain the visual integrity and habitat of the Seaview Dunes. The Seaview Dunes area of the Long Beach peninsula offers one of the most spectacular views along the Washington coast. Local zoning allowed a handful of houses to be built there. State Parks will buy six properties, beginning at the southerly State Park boundary and working north to 38th Place, commonly known as the Seaview Ocean Beach Approach. This purchase is part of a multi-year plan to buy property in the Seaview Dunes area. (12-1530)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $229,800
Building the Beacon Rock Day Use Picnic Shelter

State Parks will use this grant to build a picnic shelter and kitchen in the Doetsch day-use area of Beacon Rock State Park. The kitchen shelter would provide picnic facilities for outdoor gatherings like weddings, family reunions, and community events. The Doetsch day-use area was completed in 2007 and is popular with school groups, Boy Scouts, wind surfers, picnickers, and others. (12-1420)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $228,600
Improving Miller Peninsula Park

State Parks will use this grant to pave a small parking lot on the Miller Peninsula property to increase visitation. State Parks also will install a vault toilet, informational kiosk, and directional and interpretive signs. In addition, State Parks will add hitching posts, a water trough, a mounting ramp for people with disabilities, and ample space to circulate and park trucks with trailers to accommodate people with horses. (12-1557)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $295,800
Developing Access to Nisqually Park

State Parks will use this grant to pave a small parking lot in Nisqually State Park. State Parks also will install a vault toilet, informational kiosk, and directional and interpretive signs. In addition, State Parks will add hitching posts, a water trough, a mounting ramp for people with disabilities, and ample space to circulate and park trucks with trailers to accommodate people with horses. Finally, State Parks will plant native plants near the parking lot and trailhead. (12-1723)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $2,038,553
Buying the Deep Lake Resort to Expand Millersylvania State Park

State Parks will use this grant to buy Deep Lake Resort, a private recreational vehicle (RV) campground adjacent to Millersylvania State Park. The land is 5.53 acres and has more than 1,000 feet of shoreline on Deep Lake. The resort has 20 RV sites with full utility hook-ups, a swim area with dock, a boat launch, residences, and a combination shop and administrative building. Millersylvania State Park is a popular, 912-acre camping park on Deep Lake, just south of Olympia. In spite of the extensive acreage, the park's unique natural and historic resources limit the opportunity for expanding RV camping. This acquisition would increase the number of utility campsites at Millersylvania by 30 percent. The purchase also would consolidate State Parks ownership on the eastern shore of the lake and provide much needed staff housing and administrative areas. (12-1505)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $245,400
Adding a Parking Lot to Wolfe Park

State Parks will use this grant to pave a small parking lot at the Wolfe property to increase visitation. State Parks also will install a vault toilet, informational kiosk, and directional and interpretive signs. (12-1722)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7D**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Twenty projects in the Trails category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-18

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Trails category provides funds for pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian or cross-country ski trails. Trails must be for nonmotorized use and cannot be part of a street or roadway. If located along a roadway, the trail must be separated from the roadway by a physical barrier. Sponsors may use funds for facilities such as parking and rest, picnic, or viewing areas that are directly related to an existing or proposed public trail.

The Trails category is eligible to receive 20 percent of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds in the Outdoor Recreation account.

Eligible Applicants	Local, Tribes and state agencies
Eligible Project Types	• Acquisition, development, and renovation of trails and trailheads • Combination projects involving both acquisition and development/renovation Non-motorized trail use only
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	Local agencies must provide at least a 50 percent matching share
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty Trails category projects requesting $13.4 million were evaluated on August 14 and 15 in open public meetings. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of nine evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens-at-large who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to trail issues:

Evaluator	Representative
Dave Bryant, Richland Parks and Rec	Local Agency
Jim Harris, East Wenatchee	Citizen
Frana Milan, King County DNR & Parks	Local Agency
Roger Giebelhuas, Thurston County	Local Agency
Ray Heit, Chelan County Public Utility District	Local Agency
Tim Wahl, Bellingham Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Michael O'Malley, Department of Fish & Wildlife	State Agency
Kate Watt Schneider, Parametrix	Citizen
Chris Parsons, State Parks	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-18.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-18

- Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Trails Category Projects

B. Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Trails Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-18
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Trails Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, twenty Trails category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Trails category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all twenty Trails category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual #10, *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Outdoor Recreation Account,* thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, all of the projects acquire, develop or renovate pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, or cross-country ski trails, thereby furthering the board's goal to provide funding for recreation opportunities statewide, including bicycling and walking facilities and facilities most conducive to improved health;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15;* and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Trails category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

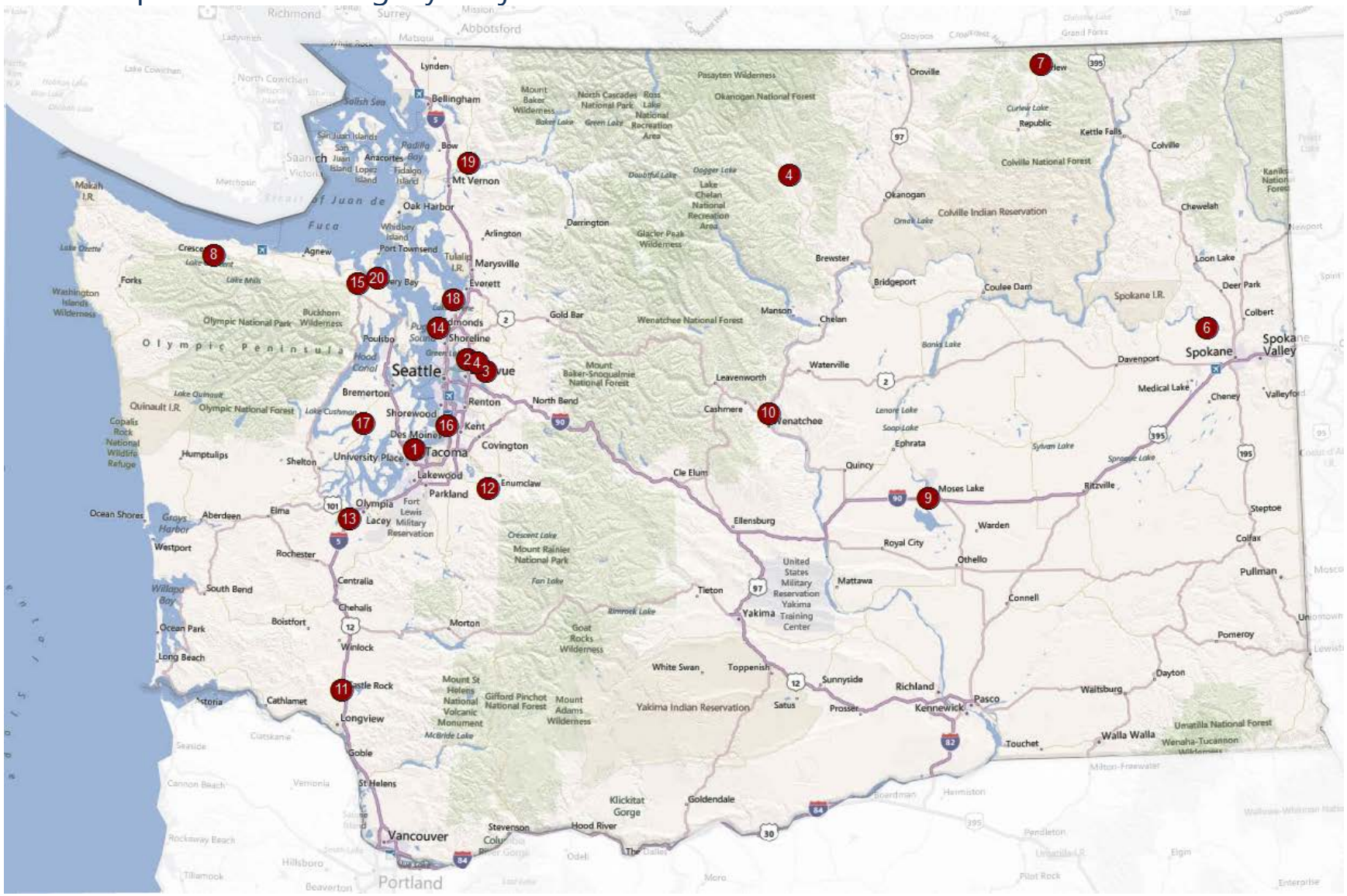
Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Trails Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 20	59.89	12-1549D	Point Defiance Missing Link	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	$5,000,000	$2,500,000
2 of 20	53.89	12-1392A	Cross Kirkland Corridor	Kirkland	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$3,000,000
3 of 20	53.44	12-1269D	East Lake Sammamish Trail-North Sammamish Development	King County	$500,000	$6,192,567	$6,692,567	$3,500,000
4 of 20	52.56	12-1122D	Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2	Winthrop	$365,000	$365,000	$730,000	$3,865,000
4 of 20	52.56	12-1429D	Redmond Central Connector Phase 2	Redmond	$500,000	$1,001,500	$1,501,500	$4,365,000
6 of 20	52.06	12-1240D	Spokane River Centennial Trail Northwest Extension	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$664,900	$120,000	$784,900	$5,029,900
7 of 20	51.89	12-1564D	Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 2	Ferry County	$35,000	$35,000	$70,000	$5,064,900
8 of 20	50.33	12-1117D	Spruce Railroad Trail/Tunnel Restoration Phase 2	Clallam County	$1,499,000	$1,500,000	$2,999,000	$6,563,900
9 of 20	48.94	12-1022D	Heron Bluff Trail 2012	Moses Lake	$197,013	$197,013	$394,026	$6,760,913
10 of 20	48.61	12-1231D	Rocky Reach Trailway Phase 2	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	$297,780		$297,780	$7,058,693
11 of 20	47.56	12-1365D	Riverfront Trail Enhancement	Castle Rock	$334,750	$334,750	$669,500	$7,393,443
12 of 20	47.28	12-1449D	Foothills Trail-Buckley to South Prairie Phase 2A	Pierce County	$775,195	$775,195	$1,550,390	$8,168,638
13 of 20	47.11	12-1347D	Deschutes Valley Trail	Tumwater	$500,000	$1,762,000	$2,262,000	$8,668,638
14 of 20	46.67	12-1052D	Edmonds Sunset Avenue Overlook Trail	Edmonds	$415,110	$415,110	$830,220	$9,083,748
15 of 20	46.56	12-1501D	Olympic Discovery Trail-Salmon Creek	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$799,785		$799,785	$9,883,533
16 of 20	44.67	12-1603A	Barnes Creek Trail Acquisition	Des Moines	$750,000	$770,000	$1,520,000	$10,633,533
17 of 20	44.00	12-1402D	Mason County Coulter Creek Trail Development	Mason County	$395,000	$416,000	$811,000	$11,028,533
18 of 20	43.00	12-1061A	Japanese Gulch Trail Acquisition	Mukilteo	$1,900,000	$1,900,000	$3,800,000	$12,928,533
19 of 20	41.17	12-1129D	Highway 20 Trail Paving	Skagit County	$45,025	$45,025	$90,050	$12,973,558
20 of 20	34.78	12-1380C	Rick Tollefson Memorial Trail	Jefferson County	$450,000	$491,800	$941,800	$13,423,558
					$13,423,558	**$19,320,960**	**$32,744,518**	

State Map for Trails Category Projects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Spokane Valley
Bellingham
Mt Vernon
Oak Harbor
Marysville
Everett
Edmonds
Shoreline
Bremerton
Renton
Kent
Covington
Olympia
Lacey
Lakewood
Parkland
Enumclaw
Wenatchee
Moses Lake
Yakima
Kennewick
Pasco
Richland
Vancouver
Longview
Portland
Olympic Peninsula
Olympic National Park
Mount Rainier National Park
Okanogan National Forest
Colville National Forest
Wenatchee National Forest
Colville Indian Reservation
Yakima Indian Reservation
United States Military Reservation Yakima Training Center
Fort Lewis Military Reservation
Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mount Adams Wilderness
Glacier Peak Wilderness
Mount Baker Wilderness
North Cascades National Park
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
Pasayten Wilderness
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Goat Rocks Wilderness
Buckhorn Wilderness
Washington Islands Wilderness
Copalis Rock National Wildlife Refuge
Quinault I.R.
Colville I.R.
Spokane I.R.
Kettle Falls
Colville
Republic
Okanogan
Chelan
Leavenworth
Cashmere
Ellensburg
Ephrata
Quincy
Ritzville
Warden
Othello
Pullman
Pomeroy
Dayton
Walla Walla
Touchet
Richland
Kennewick
Pasco
Prosser
Sunnyside
Toppenish
Tieton
Mattawa
Connell
Royal City
Steptoe
Colfax
Medical Lake
Cheney
Davenport
Deer Park
Colbert
Loon Lake
Chewelah
Brewster
Bridgeport
Coulee Dam
Manson
Waterville
Gold Bar
Darrington
Arlington
Tulalip I.R.
Port Townsend
Agnew
Forks
Shelton
Humptulips
Aberdeen
Elma
Westport
Ocean Shores
Ocean Park
Long Beach
Rochester
Centralia
Chehalis
Boistfort
Winlock
Morton
South Bend
Cathlamet
Longview
Goble
St Helens
Klickitat Gorge
Goldendale
Hood River
Stevenson
Pendleton
Hermiston
Boardman
Milton-Freewater
Umatilla National Forest
Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness
Mt Rainier National Park
Lake Chelan
Lake Quinault
Lake Cushman
Lake Mills
Lake Cowichan
Lake Ozette
Lake Crescent
Lake Roosevelt
Lake Lenore
Lake Sylvan
Lake Spokane
Lake Pend Oreille
Lake Coeur d'Alene
Lake Pend Oreille
Lake Chelan
Lake Wenatchee
Lake Cushman
Lake Quinault
Lake Ozette
Lake Crescent
Lake Mills
Lake Cowichan
Lake Roosevelt
Lake Lenore
Lake Sylvan
Lake Spokane
Lake Pend Oreille
Lake Coeur d'Alene

Trails Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Trails means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians.[1]

Trails Criteria Analysis

Score	#	Question	Project Type	Maximum Points Possible	Focus*
Advisory Committee	1	Need	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	Local
Advisory Committee	2	Project Design	Development	15	Technical
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	15	Local
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	4	Trail and Community Linkages	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	State and Local
Advisory Committee	5	Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	State
Advisory Committee	6	Wildlife Habitat Connectivity	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State
Advisory Committee	7	Project Support	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	State and Local
Advisory Committee	8	Cost Efficiencies	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State and Local
RCO Staff	9	Growth Management Act Preference	Acquisition, Development, Combination	0	State
RCO Staff	10	Population Proximity	Acquisition, Development, Combination	3	State
				Total Points Possible:	**78**

*Focus–Criteria orientation in accordance with Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors:

- State–those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or SCORP)
- Local–those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical–those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

[1] Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010

Scoring Criteria, Trails Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Need.**
   Is the project needed? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v-vi)

2. **Project Design.**
   Is the proposal appropriately designed for the intended use(s)? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(v)

3. **Immediacy of Threat.**
   Does a threat to the public availability of a part of the trail exist? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(ii)

4. **Trail and Community Linkages.**
   Does the trail project connect trails and communities or provide linkages to community oriented facilities or resources? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(iii)(iv)

5. **Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values.**
   Does the project provide scenic values and/or direct and immediate recreational *access to or views of* a "significant" natural water body? Water access is the primary criterion; scenic values or views of water are secondary. RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(vii)(ix)

6. **Wildlife Habitat Connectivity.**
   Will this proposal enhance wildlife's *access to food, water, or cover*? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(viii)

7. **Project Support.**
   The extent that the public (statewide, community, or user groups) has been provided with an adequate *opportunity to become informed*, and/or *support* for the project seems apparent. RCW 79A.15.070(6)(a)(i)

8. **Cost Efficiencies.**
   Does the project demonstrate efficiencies and/or reduce government costs through documented use of:
   a. Volunteers,
   b. Donations,
   c. *Signed* cooperative agreements or
   d. *Signed* memoranda of understanding (such as no cost easements/leases, maintenance/ operation arrangements, or similar cost savings).

Scored by RCO Staff

9. **GMA Preference.**
   Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

10. Population Proximity.

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

b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile RCW 79A.25.250

Trails Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question / Project Name	1 Need	2 Project Design Dev*	2 Project Design Com*	3 Immediacy of Threat Acq*	3 Immediacy of Threat Com*	4 Trail and Community Linkages	5 Water Access, Views, and Scenic Values	6 Wildlife Habitat Connectivity	7 Project Support	8 Cost Efficiencies	9 GMA Compliance	10 Population Proximity	Total
1	Point Defiance Missing Link	11.67	12.67				12.00	8.67	1.78	8.00	2.11	0.00	3.00	59.89
2	Cross Kirkland Corridor	11.33			8.67		12.33	6.00	1.89	7.78	2.89	0.00	3.00	53.89
3	East Lake Sammamish Trail-North Sammamish Development	10.00	11.00				12.00	6.00	2.44	6.89	2.11	0.00	3.00	53.44
4	Susie Stephens Trail Phase 2	11.33	9.67				11.00	6.89	2.67	7.33	3.67	0.00	0.00	52.56
4	Redmond Central Connector Phase 2	10.00	12.33				10.67	5.56	1.78	6.89	2.33	0.00	3.00	52.56
6	Spokane River Centennial Trail-Northwest Extension	10.00	11.00				10.00	6.89	2.44	7.11	3.11	0.00	1.50	52.06
7	Ferry County Rail Trail Phase 2	10.33	9.67				9.33	8.44	2.11	8.89	4.11	-1.00	0.00	51.89
8	Spruce Railroad Trail/Tunnel Restoration Phase 2	11.00	8.00				10.00	9.56	2.67	6.89	2.22	0.00	0.00	50.33
9	Heron Bluff Trail 2012	9.67	9.33				10.67	7.33	1.33	7.11	3.00	-1.00	1.50	48.94
10	Rocky Reach Trailway Phase 2	9.33	9.67				9.33	7.78	2.56	6.22	2.22	0.00	1.50	48.61
11	Riverfront Trail Enhancement	8.00	9.00				10.67	6.22	3.11	7.33	3.22	0.00	0.00	47.56
12	Foothills Trail - Buckley to South Prairie Phase 2A	10.00	10.00				10.67	3.78	2.67	7.78	1.89	-1.00	1.50	47.28
13	Deschutes Valley Trail	9.67	11.00				8.67	4.00	1.89	6.44	2.44	0.00	3.00	47.11
14	Edmonds Sunset Avenue Overlook Trail	8.00	10.00				8.67	7.33	1.56	6.22	1.89	0.00	3.00	46.67
15	Olympic Discovery Trail-Salmon Creek	9.33	8.67				9.67	8.22	2.33	6.22	2.11	0.00	0.00	46.56
16	Barnes Creek Trail Acquisition	9.67			6.67		9.33	5.11	2.56	6.44	1.89	0.00	3.00	44.67
17	Mason County Coulter Creek Trail Development	9.33	7.33				8.33	7.11	2.11	7.11	2.67	0.00	0.00	44.00
18	Japanese Gulch Trail Acquisition	8.67			7.33		6.67	5.11	3.67	6.44	2.11	0.00	3.00	43.00
19	Highway 20 Trail Paving	8.00	9.67				9.33	3.11	1.44	5.56	2.56	0.00	1.50	41.17
20	Rick Tollefson Memorial Trail	8.67		3.67		2.33	7.33	3.78	1.78	5.11	2.11	0.00	0.00	34.78

Evaluators Score Questions 1-10; RCO Staff Scores Questions 11-12

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

Trails Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma **Grant Request: $2,500,000**
Developing the Missing Link in a Point Defiance Trail

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to develop the final half-mile of a 7-mile waterfront trail from downtown Tacoma to the nationally renowned Point Defiance Park. This missing link is the culmination of a decades-old dream to complete the trail. Located on Puget Sound, this segment of trail provides exceptional views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, Vashon Island, and Mount Rainier, and also serves as the keystone by linking the highly popular Ruston Way promenade, the Point Ruston Development, the town of Ruston, the city of Tacoma, Point Defiance Park, and the future 11-acre waterfront park on the peninsula. At 20 feet wide, including a bridge over Pearl Street, the Point Defiance missing link will become THE place to go to enjoy the South Sound waterfront. The park district will contribute $2.5 million in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1549)

Kirkland **Grant Request: $500,000**
Buying Land for the Cross Kirkland Corridor Trail

The City of Kirkland will use this grant to buy 13 acres of a former railroad corridor to develop a recreational trail, called the Cross Kirkland Corridor. The 5.75-mile corridor bisects the city north and south from 108th Avenue Northeast to Slater Avenue Northeast, runs through eight of Kirkland's 13 neighborhoods, and is adjacent to many of the city's parks and schools. The trail will be for non-motorized, recreational use, such as biking, running, walking, and rollerblading. Purchasing the land will allow the City to develop its first recreational trail and expand the regional trail system. Kirkland residents consistently have identified the need for more trails as a top priority. The City will contribute $500,000. (12-1392)

King County **Grant Request: $500,000**
Developing the Missing Link of a Lake Sammamish Trail

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to develop 2.6 miles of trail, running from 187th Avenue Northeast to Inglewood Hill Road along an abandoned railroad corridor. This north Sammamish segment will be 12 feet wide, paved with gravel shoulders. The City will add retaining walls, improve the drainage, and install landscaping, fencing, signs, and traffic controls. This is the third phase of a multi-phase master plan trail that continues build out of the 11-mile trail corridor, which runs along the east side of Lake Sammamish, connecting the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah. This trail is a missing link in a 44-mile, non-motorized trail system extending from Seattle to the Cascade Foothills. Supporters of this project include the Cities of Sammamish, Issaquah, and Redmond; Cascade Bicycle Club; the Bicycle Alliance of Washington; Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust; and

Transportation Choices Coalition. The County will contribute more than $6.1 million from a federal grant and a voter-approved levy. (12-1269)

Winthrop — Grant Request: $365,000
Extending the Susie Stephens Trail

The Town of Winthrop will use this grant to develop three-quarter mile of the Susie Stephens Trail, extending the trail to its southern end near the post office. The Town also will pave three parking places for people with disabilities at the Town Trailhead and add landscaping, water access, benches, garbage cans, bike racks, and interpretive signs at key locations along the trail. The trail will be 12 feet wide and paved. The trail solves a longstanding need for a convenient and safe walking and biking route that connects key commercial areas and links to the broader network of Methow Valley trails. The trail corridor offers wonderful views of the confluence of the Methow and Chewuch Rivers, the Cascade Mountain Range, and both riverbank and shrub-steppe habitat. The Town will contribute $365,000 from state and private grants, labor, and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1122)

Redmond — Grant Request: $500,000
Beginning the Redmond Central Connector Trail

The City of Redmond will use this grant to develop the first mile of the Redmond Central Connector. The trail will connect with other regional trails in King County, as well as downtown, a neighborhood, two major employment centers, and a college. The trail will run along the former Burlington Northern Sante Fe railroad corridor and will extend from east of the Sammamish River Trail to the intersection of Willows Road and the 9900 Block. The City will build a 12-foot-wide, hard surface, regional trail; improve a bridge and viewpoint; improve access to the waterfront; develop a landing for gathering and educational opportunities; and enhance nearly an acre of habitat. There is strong public support for this project, which will provide alternative north-south routes to the Sammamish River Trail and relieve pressure from that trail. This project is supported by King County, Cascade Bicycle Club, and Feet First. The City will contribute more than $1 million in cash and donations of labor. (12-1429)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $664,900
Extending the Spokane River Centennial Trail

State Parks will use this grant to build a nearly 2-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved trail extension from Spokane’s popular 37-mile Spokane River Centennial Trail, linking Avista Utilities' Nine Mile Resort on Lake Spokane with Spokane County's Sontag Park. In addition to expanding the regional trail system and linking recreational areas, the new segment will address the need for a non-motorized trail in the Nine Mile community and neighborhood areas. Both Avista Utilities Corporation and Friends of the Centennial Trail are contributing money for this project. Beyond the trail development, State Parks also is planning a campground development project adjacent to the Avista Nine Mile Resort and the proposed trail extension, providing another recreational

amenity in the area and another key link to the Centennial Trail. State Parks will contribute $120,000 in donations of cash. (12-1240)

Ferry County — Grant Request: $35,000
Developing the Ferry County Rail Trail

Ferry County will use this grant to develop 2.85 miles of a former railroad grade into a non-motorized trail on the west side of Curlew Lake, 7 miles northeast of Republic. The trail will be used primarily by bikers, cross-country skiers, and walkers. The County also will upgrade the information kiosk and install an interpretive sign at Black Beach trailhead and place bollards at private road crossings. The trail offers a safe way to travel away from cars and trucks, with views and access to Curlew Lake, and links the Golden Tiger Pathway and the City of Republic with Curlew Lake. Completion of this project will provide a critical recreation opportunity for our local community, attract visitors to Ferry County, and add to the enjoyment of Curlew Lake State Park visitors. This project has tremendous community support including Ferry County Rail Trail Partners, a local non-profit trail group, which will provide some of the matching funds. The County will contribute $35,000 in donations of cash and labor. (12-1564)

Clallam County — Grant Request: $1,499,000
Restoring the Spruce Railroad Trail and Tunnel

The Clallam County Road Department will use this grant to complete the restoration and reconstruction of 6 miles of a historic railroad grade and two historic tunnels at Lake Crescent. The U.S. Army built 36 miles of rail line west of Port Angeles in a record six months in 1918, including two railroad tunnels, to facilitate delivery of spruce for aircraft involved in World War I. This project builds on County and Olympic National Park efforts to restore 6.4 miles of Spruce Railroad Grade as a shared use path extending from the middle of Lake Crescent west to the top of Fairholm Hill. The final work will provide a safe, traffic-separated, multi-user trail route as a critical segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail, the only land-based trail in Washington named in the federal America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The County will contribute $1.5 million in cash and donations of labor. (12-1117)

Moses Lake — Grant Request: $197,013
Building the Heron Bluff Trail

The City of Moses Lake will use this grant to develop the Heron Bluff Trail, a more than half-mile extension of the Neppel Trail in Blue Heron Park. The Heron Bluff Trail will run along the shoreline of Moses Lake through Blue Heron Park to the Bluff West subdivision. The City will build a 10-foot-wide, hard surface trail that is accessible to people with disabilities and will accommodate users such as bicyclists and walkers. The City also will add lighting, signs, benches, split rail fence, garbage cans, and bike racks. The Heron Bluff Trail is one of the few remaining opportunities for a lakefront trail, and provides a vital link to the Mae Valley area from downtown. The city's Trails Planning Team has been doing extensive fundraising to assist with the matching funds and gathering community support. To date, the City has secured $29,000

and 14 letters of support from advocates, businesses, services clubs, and healthcare facilities. The City will contribute $197,013 in cash and donations of cash. (12-1022)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $297,780
Connecting the Rocky Reach Trailway

State Parks will use this grant to build a half-mile of trail to connect with the Apple Capital Loop Trail. The trail will be 10 feet wide and end at a scenic overlook and interpretive station. State Parks also will add fencing, signs, interpretive panels, and grassland seeding. A long legal battle, culminating with a favorable decision by the State Supreme Court has created a five-year window to begin construction. Failure to implement this project could jeopardize nearly 20 years of planning, design, and permitting. (12-1231)

Castle Rock — Grant Request: $334,750
Enhancing a Riverfront Trail

The City of Castle Rock will use this grant to add more than a half-mile of trail and amenities to the renowned Castle Rock Riverfront Trail System. The addition of scenic views, signs, picnic shelters, and benches will encourage pedestrians to take time to enjoy the emerald green Cowlitz River and panoramic vistas. The City will build restrooms at both a northern and central location along the trail. One of those restrooms will be a prefabricated vault restroom added at the Bike Park along with paved parking and an access driveway to accommodate the ever-expanding need at this central location. A local club has constructed a bicycle park using volunteer labor and recycled and donated materials. This unique park promises to be a regional attraction because bike enthusiasts already are traveling great distances to check it out and ride the Riverfront Trail. The City will contribute $334,750 in equipment, labor, materials, a state grant, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1365)

Pierce County — Grant Request: $775,195
Extending the Foothills Trail from Buckley to South Prairie

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to build more than a half-mile of paved trail and connect it to a trail segment in Buckley. This project is the second phase of four needed to complete 3.5 miles of the Foothills Trail between Buckley and the town of South Prairie. The 12-foot-wide paved trail with a 5-foot-wide equestrian path, will accommodate walking, hiking, biking, and equestrian uses. This trail section is along an abandoned railroad right-of-way that winds through scenic countryside and farmland, at a grade of less than 3 percent, offering views of Mount Rainier and the scenic Cascade Mountain foothills. The entire Foothills Trail is more than 28 miles long and links the cities of Puyallup and Buckley with future plans to link with King County's Interurban Trail in Enumclaw. The Foothills Trail is supported by the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, a non-profit organization with 1,000 members, who provide bike safety patrol, volunteer maintenance crews, and fundraising efforts. Seventeen miles of the Foothills Trail already have been completed. The County will contribute $775,195. (12-1449)

Tumwater — Grant Request: $500,000
Building the Deschutes Valley Trail

The City of Tumwater Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop a 1.53-mile, non-motorized trail in the heart of the Deschutes River valley. The trail will be built in the Tumwater Valley Golf Course, which is owned and operated by the City. The trail will run from a parking lot to T Street Southeast, the location of a future neighborhood park. This trail is the first phase of the planned Deschutes Valley Trail system. Once built, this trail will serve as Tumwater's primary connection to the Thurston County regional trails network, linking Tumwater residents with multiple recreational, historical, and geographical destinations. The trail generally will be a 10-foot-wide, paved path with 2-foot-wide crushed rock shoulders on each side. It will include a 7-foot-wide paved golf cart path in some areas. A tall fence will be built to separate the trail and golf course and to protect trail users from errant golf balls. The City also will add a trail bridge, interpretive signs, and native plantings. This project has strong support from community members and local groups such as the Capital Bicycling Club, Wanderers Hiking Club, Capitol Volkssport Club, Olympia Safe Streets Campaign, and the Woodland Trail Greenway Association. These groups have pledged to contribute a combined $3,100 in cash, $3,750 in materials, and $5,063 in labor. The City will contribute more than $1.7 million in cash, a federal grant, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. (12-1347)

Edmonds — Grant Request: $415,110
Developing the Edmonds Sunset Avenue Overlook Trail

The City of Edmonds will use this grant to develop a pedestrian and bicycle trail from Bell Street to Caspers Street in downtown. The nearly half-mile trail will have expansive views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, and will connect the downtown business district, surrounding neighborhoods, water access points, parks, and trail systems. The City will build the trail by reducing the width of Sunset Avenue and creating a planted barrier between the traffic and the trail. The City also will install benches, garbage cans, utility infrastructure, and signs. The goal of the project is to provide safe and inviting access to the waterfront, while connecting existing features, including the Edmonds ferry terminal, train and bus stations, the pedestrian and bicycle loop trail, and local businesses and restaurants. The City will contribute $415,110 from a local grant. (12-1052)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $799,785
Building the Salmon Creek Segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to build more than a half-mile of the Olympic Discovery Trail on the west side of Discovery Bay near Port Townsend in Jefferson County. The trail will end at the access point to the North Olympic Wildlife Area, at the southwest corner of Discovery Bay near the Salmon Creek confluence. The trail segment is an essential section of the Olympic Discovery Trail, which is a 130-mile, multi user, non-motorized trail extending from Port Townsend to the Pacific Ocean at La Push. A total of 53 miles of the trail have been completed and right-of-way has been secured for an additional 12 miles. The

Olympic Discovery Trail has been designated as a focal project of the Department of Interior's "America's Great Outdoors Initiative." (12-1501)

Des Moines — Grant Request: $750,000
Buying Land for the Barnes Creek Trail

The City of Des Moines will use this grant to buy 25 acres of historic State Route 509 right-of-way along Barnes Creek to build the Barnes Creek Trail. The trail will provide access to the wooded wetlands surrounding Barnes Creek. It also will connect to the Des Moines Creek Trail, which is the Puget Sound segment of South King County's Lake to Sound Trail System. The trail will provide pedestrian links to major public facilities such as Highline Community College, Mount Rainier High School, Pacific Middle School, Midway Elementary School, Mount Rainier Pool, Des Moines Activity Center, Steven J. Underwood Memorial Sports Park, Port of Seattle business center, and light rail stops. The trail corridor also links three park systems, including Des Moines Creek Park, Des Moines Beach Park National Historic District and Tidelands, and Des Moines Marina, providing 101 acres of contiguous park and open land with more than 4 miles of scenic trails and a half-mile of waterfront access. The City will contribute $770,000 in conservation futures[1] and a voter-approved levy. (12-1603)

Mason County — Grant Request: $395,000
Developing a Segment of the Mason County Coulter Creek Trail

Mason County will use this grant to develop a segment of trail connecting the Coulter Creek Trail with Coulter Creek Nature Park at the tip of Case Inlet. The Coulter Creek Trail is a walking and biking trail that runs 1.6 miles from the town of Allyn, beginning at the Port of Allyn Park to the north end of Case Inlet. The trail segment will use county road right-of-way along North Bay County Road and a very small portion of right-of-way along State Route 3. This project is the beginning of a future North Mason regional trail system. Once the Coulter Creek Trail is finished, the County plans to pursue additional trails connections to Belfair, Theler Wetlands, Wagon Wheel Park, and Lakeland Village. Development of this trail project will be a step toward addressing a severe deficiency of walking and biking trails in Mason County. Project partners include Allyn Business Association, Port of Allyn, Taylor Shellfish, Squaxin Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Transportation, and Overton Associates. The County will contribute $416,000 in cash, labor, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (12-1402)

Mukilteo — Grant Request: $1,900,000
Buying Land for the Japanese Gulch Trail

The City of Mukilteo will use this grant to buy nearly 34 acres in Japanese Gulch to extend the existing 3 miles of trails into a 6-mile, looped trail system. The Japanese Gulch trail system, built

[1] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

and maintained by volunteers, has been identified as a regional, multi-purpose trail network linking Mukilteo, Everett, and Snohomish County. The City is partnering with the Japanese Gulch Group to formalize the trails in the gulch to meet city trail standards and to complete key, missing links of this regional trail. The trails can be used by walkers and bicyclists. Users experience a diverse array of outdoor settings as they traverse through an urban forest, cross wetland boardwalks, and rest near Japanese Gulch Creek to view the diverse habitat and enjoy views of Puget Sound. The City will contribute $1.9 million in cash and a local grant. (12-1061)

Skagit County — Grant Request: $45,025
Paving the Highway 20 Trail

Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to pave the last portion of the very popular Highway 20 Trail. The corridor is a rails-to-trails project that travels east and west through pastoral and scenic Skagit County. The Highway 20 trail is the first section of the 26-mile Cascade Trail. This project will increase the quantity and types of trail usage along the western, and most heavily used portion, near the town of Burlington. The County will contribute $45,025 in cash and donations of cash. (12-1129)

Jefferson County — Grant Request: $450,000
Developing the Rick Tollefson Memorial Trail

Jefferson County Public Works will use this grant to buy and develop a one-third mile long, shared-use path called the Rick Tollefson Memorial Trail. The land is in the Port Hadlock-Irondale-Chimacum area, just east of State Route 19. The trail will be the first accessible, share-use path in this community. It will improve safety for Chimacum School students and others who normally travel on busy state highways or county roads, link two popular recreation facilities, and educate trail users through interpretive displays about the habitat restoration activities underway in salmon-bearing Chimacum Creek and the farms in Chimacum Valley. The 10-foot-wide trail will include a 65-foot-long bridge over Chimacum Creek and will be used primary for biking, walking, running, viewing nature, and learning about the ecosystems of the creek and farms. This trail is the critical first phase of a larger, non-motorized trail network connecting schools, parks, and community and business centers in the Chimacum and Port Hadlock area. The County will contribute $491,800 in cash and state and federal grants. (12-1380)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7E**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category Ranked List for 2013-15

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Ten projects in the Water Access category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list, which becomes the basis for awarding funding following legislative appropriation.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-19

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

The Water Access category provides funds for projects that provide physical access to shorelines for non-motorized, water-related recreation activities. These include boating, fishing, swimming, and beach access. Grants may be used to acquire land for, or develop facilities that support, water-dependent recreation such as fishing piers and platforms, boat access facilities, swim beaches, and water trails for canoes and kayaks.

The Water Access category is eligible to receive 15 percent of the WWRP funds in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Seventy-five percent of the funds allocated in this category must be used for acquisition costs. Meeting this statutory requirement may require skipping higher-ranked development projects in favor of acquisition projects.

Eligible Applicants	Local and state[1] agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, special purpose and port districts
Eligible Project Types	Acquisition, development, and renovation of water access sites or facilities Combination projects involve both acquisition and development/renovation
Funding Limits	No limits
Match Requirements	Local agencies, federally recognized Native American tribes, and special purpose and port districts must provide a 50 percent matching share. There is no match requirement for state agencies.
Public Access	Required

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Ten Water Access category projects requesting $9.1 million were evaluated on August 17 in an open public meeting. Using criteria adopted by the board, a team of nine evaluators reviewed and ranked the projects. The team included the following state and local agency representatives and citizens who are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to water access issues:

Evaluator	Representing
Brooke Guthrie, Oakville	Citizen
Cleve Pinnix, Olympia	Citizen
Ed Field, Port of South Whidbey Island	Local Agency
Curtis Hancock, Tacoma Metropolitan Parks District	Local Agency
Debbi Hanson, Battle Ground Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Camron Parker, City of Bellevue	Local Agency
Dick Weber, Puyallup Parks & Recreation	Local Agency
Randy Kline, State Parks	State Agency
Christopher Donley, Department of Fish & Wildlife	State Agency

The results of the evaluations, provided for board consideration, are in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

[1] State agencies mean the State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of General Administration, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*, via Resolution #2012-19.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The Governor then submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2013 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting. Notebook item #3 describes the full WWRP funding process.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-19

- Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Water Access Category projects

B. Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

C. Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

D. Water Access Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-19
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Water Access Category, 2013-15, Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, ten Water Access category projects are eligible for funding from the Outdoor Recreation Account of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, these Water Access category projects were evaluated using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) members; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all ten Water Access category projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual 10a: *Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account*, thus supporting the board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the projects involve acquisition, development, and/or renovation of properties for recreational access to water, thereby supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15* and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of Water Access category projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 10	46.11	12-1507A	Eddon Boat Waterfront Park Expansion	Gig Harbor	$302,328	$359,927	$662,255	$302,328
2 of 10	45.94	12-1611C	Developing Yakima Rivershore and Trail-Water Access	West Richland	$800,000	$961,689	$1,761,689	$1,102,328
3 of 10	43.94	12-1144A	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project-Shoreline Access	Kitsap County	$1,250,000	$1,250,000	$2,500,000	$2,352,328
4 of 10	42.00	12-1131A	Big Horn-Yakima Access	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,625,000		$1,625,000	$3,977,328
5 of 10	41.00	12-1552D	The Peninsula at Point Defiance	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$4,000,000	$5,977,328
6 of 10	40.78	12-1586A	Buckhorn Road Beach	San Juan County Land Bank	$128,000	$128,000	$256,000	$6,105,328
7 of 10	37.56	12-1551D	Point Defiance Marine Estuary and Boardwalk	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$1,750,000	$1,750,000	$3,500,000	$7,855,328
8 of 10	36.33	12-1149D	Swofford Pond Fishing Access Development	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$296,000	$24,000	$320,000	$8,151,328
9 of 10	33.89	12-1272C	Cedar Grove Road Acquisition and Development	King County	$169,000	$169,000	$338,000	$8,320,328
10 of 10	31.44	12-1130C	Dryden Access	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$785,000		$785,000	$9,105,328
					$9,105,328	**$6,642,616**	**$15,747,944**	

State Map for Water Access Category Projects

6
3
1
7
5
9
10
4
8
2
Richmond
Surrey
Abbotsford
Lynden
Bellingham
Mt Vernon
Oak Harbor
Arlington
Marysville
Everett
Edmonds
Shoreline
Seattle
Bellevue
Bremerton
Renton
Shorewood
Tacoma
Covington
Lakewood
Parkland
Olympia
Lacey
Aberdeen
Elma
Westport
Rochester
Centralia
Chehalis
Winlock
Morton
Longview
Castle Rock
Kelso
Cathlamet
Astoria
Vancouver
St Helens
Goble
Stevenson
Hood River
The Dalles
Goldendale
Klickitat Gorge
Yakima
Toppenish
Sunnyside
Prosser
Kennewick
Pasco
Richland
Tieton
Ellensburg
Cle Elum
Leavenworth
Cashmere
Wenatchee
Quincy
Moses Lake
Ephrata
Ritzville
Warden
Royal City
Othello
Mattawa
Connell
Pomeroy
Dayton
Waitsburg
Walla Walla
Touchet
Milton-Freewater
Hermiston
Boardman
Pendleton
Umatilla
Pilot Rock
Moro
Odell
Hillsboro
Tillamook
Rockaway Beach
Cannon Beach
Seaside
Clatskanie
Vernonia
Long Beach
Ocean Park
Ocean Shores
South Bend
Shelton
Humptulips
Quinault I.R.
Olympic Peninsula
Olympic National Park
Olympic National Forest
Buckhorn Wilderness
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Wenatchee National Forest
Mount Rainier National Park
Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Mount Adams Wilderness
Yakima Indian Reservation
Goat Rocks Wilderness
United States Military Reservation Yakima Training Center
Fort Lewis Military Reservation
Colville Indian Reservation
Colville National Forest
Okanogan National Forest
Pasayten Wilderness
Glacier Peak Wilderness
Spokane I.R.
Spokane
Spokane Valley
Medical Lake
Cheney
Davenport
Colfax
Pullman
Moscow
Lewiston
Umatilla National Forest
Wenaha-Tucannon
Oroville
Curlew
Republic
Kettle Falls
Colville
Okanogan
Chewelah
Brewster
Bridgeport
Coulee Dam
Loon Lake
Deer Park
Colbert
Manson
Chelan
Waterville
Gold Bar
Darrington
Arlington
Tulalip I.R.
Port Townsend
Agnew
Crescent
Forks
Discovery Bay
Poulsbo
Humptulips
Shelton
Elma
Aberdeen
Westport
Ocean Shores
Grays Harbor
Willapa Bay
Copalis Rock National Wildlife Refuge
Makah I.R.
Saanich
Victoria
Matchosin
Strait of Juan de Fuca
Salish Sea
San Juan Islands
Anacortes
Padilla Bay
Bow
Lopez Island
Fidalgo Island
Whidbey Island
Lake Crescent
Lake Milt
Lake Quinault
Lake Cushman
Lake Serene
Green Lake
Baker Lake
Green Lake
Curlew Lake
Kettle Falls
Dogger Lake
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
North Cascades National Park
Mount Baker Wilderness
Banks Lake
Lenore Lake
Soap Lake
Sylvan Lake
Sprague Lake
Crescent Lake
Fan Lake
Kamrock Lake
McBride Lake
Omak Lake
Dawbiful Lake
Steptoe
Moscow
Lewiston
Uniontown
Pullman
Colfax
Pomeroy
Dayton
Waitsburg
Walla Walla
Umatilla National Forest
Wenaha-Tucannon
Milton-Freewater
Hermiston
Boardman
Pendleton
Umatilla I.R.
Elgin
Pilot Rock
Moro
Odell
The Dalles
Hood River
Stevenson
Klickitat Gorge
Goldendale
Toppenish
Satus
Sunnyside
Prosser
Kennewick
Pasco
Richland
Tieton
Yakima
Ellensburg
Cle Elum
Leavenworth
Cashmere
Wenatchee
Quincy
Moses Lake
Ephrata
Ritzville
Warden
Royal City
Othello
Mattawa
Connell
Pomeroy
Dayton
Waitsburg
Walla Walla
Touchet
Milton-Freewater
Hermiston
Boardman
Pendleton
Umatilla

Water Access Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Water access means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, river, or streams. *(Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010)*

Water Access Criteria Analysis					
Score	**#**	**Question**	**Project Type**	**Maximum Points Possible**	**Focus**
Advisory Committee	1	Public Need	Acquisition, Development, Combination	15	Local
Advisory Committee	2	Project Design	Development	10	Technical
			Combination	5	
Advisory Committee	3	Immediacy of Threat	Acquisition	15	Local
			Combination	7.5	
Advisory Committee	4	Site Suitability	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	Technical
Advisory Committee	5	Expansion	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State
Advisory Committee	6	Diversity of Recreational Uses	Development	5	State
			Combination	2.5	
Advisory Committee	7	Project Support	Acquisition, Development, Combination	10	State, Local
Advisory Committee	8	Cost Efficiencies	Acquisition, Development, Combination	5	State, Local
RCO Staff	9	Growth Management Act Preference	Acquisition, Development, Combination	0	State
RCO Staff	10	Population Proximity	Acquisition, Development, Combination	3	State
Total Points Possible:=63					

*Focus: Criteria orientation in accordance with State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) policy of developing evaluation systems based on three need factors:

- State – those that meet general statewide needs (often called for in Revised Codes of Washington or SCORP)
- Local –those that meet local needs (usually an item of narrower purview, often called for in local plans)
- Technical – those that meet technical considerations (usually more objective decisions than those of policy).

Scoring Criteria, Water Access Category

Team Scored Criteria

1. **Public Need**
   Considering the availability of existing public water access sites within at least 15 miles of the project site, what is the need for additional such sites? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v-vi)

2. **Project Design**
   Does the project demonstrate good design criteria; does it make the best use of the site? Development/Combination only

3. **Immediacy of Threat**
   To what extent will this project reduce a threat to the public availability of water access? Acquisition/Combination only RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iii)

4. **Site Suitability**
   Is the site well suited for the intended recreational uses? RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(v)

5. **Expansion**
   Will the project expand an existing recreation area or facility?

6. **Diversity of Recreational Uses**
   To what extent does this project provide diversity of possible water based recreational activities? Development/Combination only RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(iv)

7. **Project Support**
   The extent that the public (statewide, community, and/or user groups) has been provided with an adequate *opportunity to become informed*, and/or *support* for the project seems apparent. RCW 79A.15.070(6)(b)(i)

8. **Cost Efficiencies.**
   The extent that this project demonstrates efficiencies and/or reduces government costs through documented use of:
   a. Volunteers,
   b. Donations,
   c. *Signed* cooperative agreements or
   d. *Signed* memoranda of understanding (such as no cost easements/leases, maintenance/operation arrangements, or similar cost savings).

Scored by RCO Staff

9. **GMA Preference.**
   Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)

10. **Population Proximity.**
    a. The project is located within the urban growth area boundary of a city or town with a population of 5,000 or more. AND
    b. The project is located within a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. RCW 79A.25.250

Water Access Category Projects, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

Rank	Question / Project Name	1 Public Need	2 Project Design Dev.*	2 Project Design Com.*	3 Immediacy of Threat Acq.*	3 Immediacy of Threat Com.*	4 Site Suitability	5 Expansion	6 Diversity of Recreational Uses Dev.*	6 Diversity of Recreational Uses Com.*	7 Project Support	8 Cost Efficiencies	9 GMA Compliance	10 Population Proximity	Total
1	Eddon Boat Waterfront Park Expansion	8.67			12.67		7.78	3.56			7.56	2.89	0.00	3.00	46.11
2	Developing Yakima Rivershore and Trail Water Access	12.00		3.56		4.50	8.00	3.44		1.94	8.44	2.56	0.00	1.50	45.94
3	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project Shoreline Access	10.33			12.00		7.78	2.56			8.22	2.56	-1.00	1.50	43.94
4	Big Horn-Yakima Access	10.00			9.67		8.89	3.33			7.33	2.78	0.00	0.00	42.00
5	The Peninsula at Point Defiance	7.67	6.89				6.22	3.78	2.67		7.78	3.00	0.00	3.00	41.00
6	Buckhorn Road Beach	10.67			11.33		7.78	3.22			6.44	2.33	-1.00	0.00	40.78
7	Point Defiance Marine Estuary and Boardwalk	6.33	6.44				6.44	3.67	1.89		7.11	2.67	0.00	3.00	37.56
8	Swofford Pond Fishing Access Development	8.67	6.89				6.89	3.22	2.89		5.78	2.00	0.00	0.00	36.33
9	Cedar Grove Road Acquisiton / Development	7.67		2.67		3.00	6.22	3.22		1.28	6.22	2.11	0.00	1.50	33.89
10	Dryden Access	8.33		3.11		2.67	6.89	1.89		1.22	5.78	1.56	0.00	0.00	31.44

Evaluators Score Questions 1-11; RCO Staff Scores Questions 12 -

* Dev - Development Projects; Acq = Acquisition Projects; Com = Combination Projects

Water Access Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Gig Harbor — Grant Request: $302,328
Expanding the Eddon Boat Waterfront Park

The City of Gig Harbor will use this grant to buy about a half-acre of waterfront to expand the historic Eddon Boat Waterfront Park. The project will add to an existing multi-use park that includes the historic Eddon boatyard cultural center, kayak launch, dock, open grassy area, beach, and panoramic views of Gig Harbor Bay. Located in the heart of this historic fishing village, the land could be used by anglers, kayakers, and canoeists, and is near restaurants and other recreation amenities. The land is for sale for private development. The City will contribute $359,927 in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1507)

West Richland — Grant Request: $800,000
Developing Yakima River Access and Trail

The City of West Richland will use this grant to buy about 2 acres and develop an access point to the Yakima River, near the Van Giesen Bridge on State Route 224. The access point to the river will for non-motorized recreation and fishing. The City also will build a waterfront trail that will be the beginning of a regional trail system, landscape the area, create viewing and picnic areas, install education kiosks, and build restrooms. The City will contribute $961,689 from state and local grants, cash, and donations of labor. (12-1611)

Kitsap County — Grant Request: $1,250,000
Buying Land to Conserve a Kitsap Forest and Shoreline

Kitsap County will use this grant to buy 600 acres of shoreline and tidelands along the west side of Port Gamble Bay in north Kitsap County. The purchase will protect 1.78 miles of shoreline. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Forterra, Great Peninsula Conservancy, and a coalition of business and community groups are working with Kitsap County on an effort to conserve 6,690 acres surrounding Port Gamble Bay. Acquisition of the shoreline is an important first step. The overall objective is to protect the land, preserve habitat values, protect cultural resources, and create opportunities for educational and low-impact recreation with access to Port Gamble Bay. The North Kitsap community has relied on the generosity of the landowner for the use of the property for recreation; however, this opportunity will disappear if the land is sold to a private buyer. The County will contribute more than $1.2 million in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1144)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $1,625,000
Buying Land at Big Horn for Access to the Yakima River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 689 acres that contain two drift boat launches and 3 miles of the Yakima River. The land, known as Big Horn, is in the department's Wenas Wildlife Area, and is under threat of development. The land lies between Ellensburg and Yakima. The drift boat launches are open seasonally in a section of the river where put-in and take-out opportunities are limited. Additionally, the department will buy both sides of the Yakima River, opening 6 miles of shoreline to the public. The Yakima River Canyon supports a blue-ribbon trout fishery. In the summer, rafting and inner tubing are popular activities. The current Yakima Canyon water access sites serve hundreds of thousands of recreationists annually and are crowded. Securing additional places for people to reach the river will better distribute recreationists in a highly popular reach of the river. (12-1131)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma — Grant Request: $2,000,000
Buying the Peninsula at Point Defiance

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to develop 11 acres along Puget Sound in Point Defiance Park. The peninsula at Point Defiance is one of those rare opportunities to unlock and develop open, passive park space at Point Defiance Park never before available to the public. The Point Defiance Peninsula is surrounded by water and includes just under a half-mile of shoreline, spectacular views of Mount Rainier, the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, Vashon Island, and much more. Being adjacent to a proposed trail that will connect the popular Ruston Way waterfront promenade with Point Defiance Park, this park space will be both a popular destination and stopping point for the more than 2 million visitors to the waterfront. The peninsula also will offer a fishing pier at one of the most popular deep water fishing areas in the Puget Sound. Other amenities include restrooms, paved walking trails, and parking. The park district will contribute $2 million in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1552)

San Juan County Land Bank — Grant Request: $128,000
Creating the Buckhorn Preserve

The San Juan County Land Bank will use this grant buy about a half-acre at the end of a county road to create the Buckhorn Preserve and expand access to an Orcas Island beach. The Buckhorn community on the north shore of Orcas Island has only a narrow, 40-foot county easement at the end of Buckhorn Road to provide legal, public use of the beach. The land bank would add a small amount of low bank waterfront, including 212 feet of pebble beach and tidelands, to the existing easement at the end of Buckhorn Road. The property offers spectacular panoramic views across Georgia Strait to Sucia, Matia, Clark, Barnes, and Lummi Islands, and to the Cascade Mountains and Mount Baker beyond. It is a great place to watch seals, otters, bald eagles, herons, and seabirds, and offers a superb launch point for kayaking to the outer islands. Historically, this area was a hub of island activity. In 1933, the Buckhorn property held the Buckhorn Lodge, one of Orcas' premier resorts. In its heyday, it included 350 acres and featured

accommodations for 100 guests, a dining hall, commissary, boathouse, and riding horses with trails to Mount Constitution. A Buckhorn Preserve would provide public access, in perpetuity, to one of the most remarkable beaches on Orcas. The land bank will contribute $128,000 from a voter-approved levy. (12-1586)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma — Grant Request: $1,750,000
Building the Point Defiance Marine Estuary and Boardwalk

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to remove a bulkhead and road and create 2.5 acres of both saltwater and freshwater estuaries that combine storm water treatment and public access. The district will design the shoreline and estuaries for endangered species such as salmon and sand lance. The habitat also will be a learning laboratory for Tacoma School District's Science and Math Institute, which will be involved in its design, development, maintenance, and monitoring. The park district will install interpretive signs and build a quarter-mile boardwalk that traverses through the area. The park district will contribute $1.75 million in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1551)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $296,000
Developing Access to Swofford Pond

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to develop an accessible fishing area at Swofford Pond, a popular, year-round fishing and wildlife viewing area in Lewis County. Swofford Pond is a 270-acre pond southeast of Mossyrock. It has a reputation as a great bird watching location and is one of the best warm water and trout fisheries in the county. The pond is home to rainbow and brown trout, largemouth bass, perch, bluegill, crappie, brown bullheads, channel catfish, and sturgeon. Currently, access is limited to a gravel and dirt bank and a primitive ramp that parallels the county road. The bank access is not accessible to people with disabilities and can be steep and rough in places. The department will build a fishing platform that is accessible for people with disabilities and a new parking area and pathways that will connect the two. The department will contribute $24,000. (12-1149)

King County — Grant Request: $169,000
Buying and Developing Parking for Cedar Grove Road Natural Area

The King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will use this grant to buy 2.28 acres next to the county's Cedar Grove Road Natural Area, near Maple Valley, and build a 30-40 stall parking lot for people recreating on the Cedar River. The County also will install informational signs and an entry gate and build a small trail to connect the parking lot with the intersection of Cedar Grove Road Southeast and State Route 169/Renton-Maple Valley Road, allowing users to get safely to the put-in and take-out point in Cedar Grove Road Natural Area. . An estimated 800 floaters put in at Cedar Grove Road Natural Area and 120 floaters took out there. Currently, people must park along busy roads, which is dangerous and obstructs traffic,

and cross Cedar Grove Road at an intersection without a traffic light. The County will contribute $169,000 in cash and conservation futures[1]. (12-1272)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Providing Boating Access at Dryden Dam — Grant Request: $785,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy and develop nearly 6 acres of 25 acres at Dryden Dam on the Wenatchee River for recreational boating and fishing access and possible use as a fish acclimation facility. The Wenatchee River is ranked in the top ten of white water rivers for floating and each year hosts more than 10,000 boaters, rafters, and kayakers along this stretch of the river. Expanding fishing seasons in recent years have added additional recreational opportunities with more than 3,400 anglers pursuing steelhead in 2011. The department will pave a parking lot for 30 vehicles with boat trailers and install two boat ramps (above and below Dryden Dam), a vault toilet, a retaining wall, and native landscaping. This development will allow safer boating and fishing access to the Wenatchee River and facilities for floaters that must come ashore while portaging around Dryden Dam. (12-1130)

[1] Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **8**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, 2013-15 Projects
Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Twenty-seven projects in the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account category have been evaluated and ranked. This memo describes the evaluation process, category, and ranked list. Staff will present more information about the projects at the October meeting, and will ask the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve the ranked list which will then be forwarded to the Governor for inclusion in the 2013-2015 capital budget.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-20

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list of projects (Table 1) for submission to the Governor.

Background

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant program funds are used for the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic lands for public purposes. They also can be used to develop or renovate facilities that provide public access to aquatic lands and associated waters. "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. Policies governing the program are outlined in Board Manual #21, *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*.

Eligible Applicants	Native American tribes, local and state agencies
Eligible Project Types	Acquisition, restoration, development, or enhancement
Match Requirements	Minimum 50% matching share is required for all applicants
Funding Limits	• $1,000,000 maximum for acquisition and combination (acquisition and development) projects • $500,000 for restoration or development projects and combination (restoration and development) projects
Public Access	Public access to aquatic lands must exist or be included in the project proposal
Other Program Characteristics	Projects must be adjacent to a "navigable"[1] water body

Revenue and Fund Distribution

The ALEA grant program is funded with revenue generated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the management of state-owned aquatic lands. Revenue sources include the sale or lease of state-owned aquatic lands and the sale of valuable materials (e.g., geoduck harvest rights).

The state treasurer deducts DNR management costs and payments to towns from the total funds that the state receives. The remaining funds are placed into the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account. The legislature appropriates the funds to various state agencies, including RCO, for the following purposes:

- aquatic lands enhancement projects;
- purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes; and
- providing and improving access to the lands.

Analysis

Evaluation Summary

Twenty-seven Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) projects, requesting more than $11.9 million, were submitted for funding consideration.

The ALEA Advisory Committee used board-adopted criteria to review and rank projects on August 8 and 9, 2012, in an open public meeting in Olympia, WA. The ten-member committee included the following representatives all of whom are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge about the enhancement and protection of aquatic resources:

[1] Defined in Washington State Constitution, Article XVII, and 33 Code of Federal Regulations 32 .

Advisory Committee Member	Affiliation
Clay Antieau	Seattle Public Utilities
Thomas Linde	Citizen
Chris Parsons	State Parks
Jason Filan	Kirkland Community Services
Tana Bader Inglima	Port of Kennewick
Christine Hempleman	State Department of Ecology
Betsy Lyons	State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Michael Grilliot	State Department of Natural Resources
Dona Wuthnow	San Juan County Parks
Nicole Hill	Nisqually Land Trust

The results of the evaluations, provided for Board consideration, are found in *Table 1 – ALEA Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitat and recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve *Table 1 – ALEA Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15* via Resolution #2012-20.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for funding consideration for the 2013-2015 biennium. The board will make final approval and funding decisions at its June 2013 meeting.

Attachments

Resolution # 2012-20

- Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

A. State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects
B. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary
C. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15
D. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Project Summaries

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-20
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
2013-15 Ranked List of Projects

WHEREAS, for the 2013-2015 biennium, twenty-seven Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) program projects are eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, these ALEA projects were evaluated using criteria approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board); and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meeting, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all twenty-seven ALEA program projects meet program requirements as stipulated in Manual 21: *Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Grant Program*; and

WHEREAS, the projects enhance, improve, or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to such lands and associated waters, thereby supporting the board's strategies to provide partners with funding for both conservation and recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves the ranked list of projects depicted in *Table 1 – ALEA Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby recommends to the Governor the ranked list of ALEA projects for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Table 1 – Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
1 of 27	56.60	12-1120C	Woodard Bay NRCA Public Access and Education	Washington Department of Natural Resources	$878,900	$918,000	$1,796,900	$878,900
2 of 27	54.00	12-1545A	Whirlwind Beach Aquatic Land Assembly	Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department	$330,066	$330,066	$660,132	$1,208,966
3 of 27	53.80	12-1160D	Edmonds Fishing Pier Renovation	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$1,708,966
4 of 27	52.90	12-1448A	Merrill Lake Shoreline	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,708,966
5 of 27	52.80	12-1143A	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project Shoreline	Kitsap County	$1,000,000	$1,500,000	$2,500,000	$3,708,966
6 of 27	52.20	12-1045C	Belmondo Reach Acquisition and Restoration, Phase 1	Seattle Public Utilities	$338,050	$338,050	$676,100	$4,047,016
7 of 27	51.70	12-1249C	Lake Sammamish State Park--Sunset Beach, Phase 2	State Parks and Recreation	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$4,547,016
8 of 27	51.40	12-1427R	Smith Island Restoration	Snohomish County	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$5,047,016
9 of 27	50.40	12-1351C	Clover Island Riverwalk North Shorline	Port of Kennewick	$500,000	$1,495,078	$1,995,078	$5,547,016
10 of 27	49.70	12-1172C	Bloedel Donovan Park Shoreline Restoration	Bellingham	$150,000	$150,000	$300,000	$5,697,016
11 of 27	49.20	12-1250C	Discovery Bay Shoreline Restoration / Trail Construction	Jefferson County	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000	$6,197,016
12 of 27	49.10	12-1206C	Harper Fishing Pier Reconstruction	Port of Bremerton	$500,000	$812,800	$1,312,800	$6,697,016
12 of 27	49.10	12-1566C	Developing Yakima Rivershore and Trail	West Richland	$500,000	$1,261,689	$1,761,689	$7,197,016
14 of 27	48.80	12-1554C	Point Defiance Marine Estuary and Boardwalk ALEA	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	$500,000	$3,000,000	$3,500,000	$7,697,016
15 of 27	48.50	12-1299C	WTIP - Westend Park	Port Angeles	$468,900	$468,900	$937,800	$8,165,916
16 of 27	48.40	12-1091D	Islands Trailhead Driftboat Access	Spokane County Conservation District	$54,080	$55,600	$109,680	$8,219,996
17 of 27	47.10	12-1404D	Barnum Point Public Access Development	Island County	$211,680	$258,720	$470,400	$8,431,676
18 of 27	46.80	12-1024C	Luther Burbank Park Hand Carry Boat Launch	Mercer Island	$111,680	$111,680	$223,360	$8,543,356
19 of 27	45.40	12-1146R	Duwamish Gardens Estuarine Construction	Tukwila	$500,000	$2,300,000	$2,800,000	$9,043,356
20 of 27	45.20	12-1529C	Freestad Lake Barrier Lagoon Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	$475,000	$498,670	$973,670	$9,518,356
21 of 27	44.80	12-1258C	Bay Street Pedestrian Path--Mosquito Fleet Trail	Port Orchard	$648,000	$648,500	$1,296,500	$10,166,356
22 of 27	44.50	12-1377R	Squalicum Creek Estuary Restoration	Port of Bellingham	$340,000	$3,085,000	$3,425,000	$10,506,356

Table 1 – WWRP, Water Access Category, Ranked List of Projects, 2013-15

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Cumulative Grant Request
23 of 27	42.30	12-1023C	Stevenson Waterfront Enhancement / Public Access	Port of Skamania	$333,945	$334,000	$667,945	$10,840,301
24 of 27	42.10	12-1433C	Riverview Park Pedestrian Bridge and Habitat ALEA	Renton	$496,500	$605,000	$1,101,500	$11,336,801
25 of 27	36.40	12-1585D	Chambers Creek Properties Pier Extension	Pierce County Public Works	$364,000	$364,000	$728,000	$11,700,801
26 of 27	33.90	12-1012C	Roberta Lake Wetland Development	Ferry Conservation District	$119,403	$119,404	$238,807	$11,820,204
27 of 27	31.00	12-1587D	Spurrell Dock Canopy ALEA	South Bend	$90,900	$111,100	$202,000	$11,911,104
					$11,911,104	**$21,766,257**	**$33,677,361**	

State Map for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Projects

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Seattle
Bellevue
Tacoma
Olympia
Spokane
Vancouver
Kennewick
Pasco
Richland
Yakima
Everett
Bellingham
Mt Vernon
Oak Harbor
Marysville
Edmonds
Shoreline
Lakewood
Olympic Peninsula
Olympic National Park
Mount Rainier National Park
Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument
Yakima Indian Reservation
Colville Indian Reservation
Colville National Forest
Okanogan National Forest
Wenatchee National Forest
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Umatilla National Forest
Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness
Goat Rocks Wilderness
Mount Adams Wilderness
Pasayten Wilderness
Glacier Peak Wilderness
Mount Baker Wilderness
North Cascades National Park
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Olympic National Forest
Quinault I.R.
Puyallup I.R.
Tulalip I.R.
Colville I.R.
Spokane I.R.
Fort Lewis Military Reservation
United States Military Reservation Yakima Training Center
Strait of Juan de Fuca
Puget Sound
Hood Canal
Lake Washington
Lake Sammamish
Lake Chelan
Lake Roosevelt
Columbia River
Klickitat Gorge
Hood River
Walla Walla
Pullman
Ellensburg
Wenatchee
Moses Lake
Ocean Shores
Aberdeen
Longview
Kelso
Bellingham
Port Angeles
Sequim
Forks
Astoria
Cathlamet
Ilwaco
Long Beach
Ocean Park
Westport
Raymond
Chehalis
Centralia
Olympia
Shelton
Bremerton
Port Orchard
Poulsbo
Kirkland
Redmond
Issaquah
Snoqualmie
North Bend
Cle Elum
Leavenworth
Cashmere
Chelan
Brewster
Bridgeport
Omak
Okanogan
Oroville
Curlew
Kettle Falls
Colville
Chewelah
Newport
Deer Park
Colbert
Spokane Valley
Cheney
Medical Lake
Davenport
Ephrata
Quincy
Ritzville
Warden
Othello
Mattawa
Royal City
Connell
Pomeroy
Dayton
Waitsburg
Touchet
Prosser
Sunnyside
Toppenish
Tieton
White Swan
Satus
Goldendale
Hood River
The Dalles
Boardman
Hermiston
Pendleton
Pilot Rock
Milton-Freewater
Longview
Kelso
Castle Rock
Woodland
Ridgefield
Washougal
Camas
Vancouver
Portland
Hillsboro
Tillamook
Rockaway Beach
Cannon Beach
Seaside
Astoria
Clatskanie
Vernonia
St Helens
Scappoose
Goble
Rainier
Longview
Kelso
Cathlamet
Ocean Park
Long Beach
Westport
Aberdeen
Hoquiam
Ocean Shores
Shelton
Belfair
Port Orchard
Bremerton
Poulsbo
Kingston
Edmonds
Lynnwood
Everett
Marysville
Arlington
Darrington
Sedro-Woolley
Mount Vernon
Bellingham
Blaine
Lynden
Ferndale
Point Roberts
Friday Harbor
Orcas Island
San Juan Island
Lopez Island
Anacortes
Bellingham
Vancouver
Richmond
Surrey
Abbotsford
Victoria
Saanich
Lake Cowichan
Lake Quinault
Lake Cushman
Lake Crescent
Lake Mills
Lake Serene
Green Lake
Lake Washington
Lake Sammamish
Lake Chelan
Lake Roosevelt
Banks Lake
Lake Sylvan
Lake Spokane
Lake Pend Oreille
Lake Coeur d'Alene
Lake Pend Oreille
Lake Roosevelt
Columbia River
Snake River
Klickitat River
Hood River
Columbia River
Snake River
Pend Oreille River
Spokane River

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Evaluation Criteria Summary

Evaluation Criteria Summary Tables

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Protection or Enhancement

Projects that meet the single program purpose of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands should address those annotated elements within each question under the heading *Protection or Enhancement Projects* for criteria 1 through 3, and 4b, and all elements for criteria 4a and 5.

Scored By	#	Question	Evaluators Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	0-5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	0-5	4	20
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability *(acquisition projects only)*	0-5	2	10
OR					
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability *(restoration and development projects only)*	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	0-5	2	10
RCO Staff	6	GMA Preference	0	1	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	0-1	1	1
				Total Possible Points	66

Projects Meeting the Single Purpose of Public Access

Projects meeting the single program purpose of providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address those annotated elements under the heading *Public Access Projects* for criteria 1 through 3 and 4b, and all elements for criteria 4a and 5.

Scored By	#	Question	Evaluators Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	0-5	3	15
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	0-5	4	20
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability *(acquisition projects only)*	0-5	2	10
OR					
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability *(restoration and development projects only)*	0-5	2	10
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	0-5	2	10
RCO Staff	6	GMA Preference	0	1	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	0-1	1	1
			Total Possible Points	66	

Projects Meeting Both Program Purposes Protection or Enhancement AND Public Access Projects

Applicants whose projects meet both program purposes of protecting or enhancing aquatic lands and providing or improving public access to aquatic lands should address all elements for each criterion.

Scored By	#	Question	Elements	Score	Multiplier	Maximum Points	Total Points
Advisory Committee	1	Fit with ALEA Program Goals	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	2	Project Need	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	2	10	20
			Public Access Elements	0-5	2	10	
Advisory Committee	3	Site Suitability	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
Advisory Committee	4a	Urgency and Viability (acquisition projects only)	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
OR							
Advisory Committee	4b	Project Design and Viability (restoration and development projects only)	Protection and Enhancement Elements	0-5	1	5	10
			Public Access Elements	0-5	1	5	
Advisory Committee	5	Community Involvement and Support	All Elements	0-5	2	10	10
RCO Staff	6	Growth Management Act Preference	All Elements	0	1	0	0
RCO Staff	7	Proximity to People	All Elements	0-1	1	1	1
Total Possible Points						**71**	**71**

ALEA Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored

1. **Fit with ALEA Program Goals:**
   How well does this project fit the ALEA program goals to enhance, improve or protect aquatic lands and provide public access to aquatic lands? (RCW 79.105.150)

2. **Project Need:**
   What is the need for this project?

3. **Site Suitability**
   Is the site well suited for the intended uses?

4. **4a. Urgency and Viability:**
   Why purchase this particular property at this time? How viable are the anticipated future uses and benefits of the site? (Only acquisition projects answer this question.)

   4b. Project Design and Viability:
   (Only restoration and enhancement projects, public access development projects, or combination projects answer this question.)

   How does the project address the stated restoration or enhancement need?
   Is the project well designed? Will the project lead to sustainable ecological functions and processes over time?

   How well does the project address the stated public access need? Is the project well designed? Will the project result in public access to aquatic lands that protect the integrity of the environment?

5. **Community Involvement and Support:**
   To what extent has the community been provided with an adequate opportunity to become informed about the project and provide input? What is the level of community support for the project?

RCO Staff Scored (All projects)

6. **GMA Preference:**
   Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA)? *RCW 43.17.250 (GMA-preference required.)*

7. **Proximity to People:**
   RCO is required by law to give funding preference to projects located in populated areas. Populated areas are defined as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile. *RCW 79A.25.250*

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

	Question #	1			2			3			4A	4B			5	6	7	
		Fit with ALEA			Project Need			Site Suitability			Urgency and Viability	Project Design			Local Community Support	GMA Preference	Proximity to People	Total
Rank	Project Name	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*		One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*				
1	Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area Public Access/ Education		8.00	8.40		7.80	7.20		4.20	4.10			3.80	3.70	8.40	0.00	1.00	56.60
2	Whirlwind Beach Aquatic Land Assembly	12.00			16.40			8.40			5.80	1.60			8.80	0.00	1.00	54.00
3	Edmonds Fishing Pier Renovation	11.40			18.00			8.60				8.20			6.60	0.00	1.00	53.80
4	Merrill Lake Shoreline	11.70			16.40			8.20			5.00	3.80			7.80	0.00	0.00	52.90
5	Kitsap Forest and Bay Project	12.00			15.20			7.80			5.40	3.80			8.60	-1.00	1.00	52.80
6	Belmondo Reach Acquisition / Restoration	12.00			16.00			8.00			5.00	2.80			7.40	0.00	1.00	52.20
7	Lake Sammamish State Park - Sunset Beach, Phase 2	11.10			16.80			7.40				7.40			8.00	0.00	1.00	51.70
8	Smith Island Restoration	12.00			16.40			8.40				7.60			7.00	-1.00	1.00	51.40
9	Clover Island Riverwalk North Shoreline		6.60	6.60		7.20	6.60		3.20	3.70			3.60	3.70	8.20	0.00	1.00	50.40
10	Bloedel Donovan Park Shoreline Restoration		6.20	6.80		6.40	6.60		3.20	3.90			3.50	3.70	8.40	0.00	1.00	49.70
11	Discovery Bay Shoreline Restoration and Trail Construction		7.00	6.80		7.60	6.60		3.40	3.00			3.60	3.60	7.60	0.00	0.00	49.20
12	Harper Fishing Pier Reconstruction	11.10			14.80			7.80				6.80			7.60	0.00	1.00	49.10
13	Developing Yakima Rivershore and Trail	12.30			16.80			5.80				4.80			8.40	0.00	1.00	49.10
14	Point Defiance Marine Estuary and Boardwalk		6.00	7.00		6.00	5.80		3.10	3.70			3.60	4.00	8.60	0.00	1.00	48.80
15	WTIP- Westend Park	9.30			14.40			7.40				7.80			8.60	0.00	1.00	48.50
16	Islands Trailhead Driftboat Access		5.80	7.40		6.60	7.20		3.10	3.30			3.30	3.70	7.00	0.00	1.00	48.40
17	Barnum Point Public Access Development	10.50			14.40			7.60				7.60			7.00	-1.00	1.00	47.10
18	Luther Burbank Park Hand Carry Boat Launch	11.40			12.80			6.80				7.20			7.60	0.00	1.00	46.80

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Evaluation Summary, 2013-15

	Question #	1			2			3			4A	4B			5	6	7	
		Fit with ALEA			Project Need			Site Suitability			Urgency and Viability	Project Design			Local Community Support	GMA Preference	Proximity to People	Total
Rank	Project Name	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*	One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*		One purpose	Dual Purpose *Protection*	Dual Purpose *Access*				
19	Duwamish Gardens Estuarine Construction	10.80			15.20			5.60			1.40	4.40			7.00	0.00	1.00	45.40
19	Freestad Lake Barrier Lagoon Restoration	10.80			14.80			6.40				6.60			6.60	0.00	0.00	45.20
21	Bay Street Pedestrian Path - Mosquito Fleet Trail	9.60			13.60			6.80				6.80			7.00	0.00	1.00	44.80
21	Squalicum Creek Estuary Restoration	8.70			13.60			6.80				7.80			6.60	0.00	1.00	44.50
23	Stevenson Waterfront Enhancement / Public Access	9.90			11.60			6.80				6.60			7.40	0.00	0.00	42.30
24	Riverview Park Pedestrian Bridge and Habitat ALEA	8.70			11.60			7.00				7.40			6.40	0.00	1.00	42.10
25	Chambers Creek Properties Pier Extension	8.40			9.20			6.40				7.00			5.40	-1.00	1.00	36.40
26	Roberta Lake Wetland Development	8.10			11.20			5.40				4.00			5.20	0.00	0.00	33.90
27	Spurrell Dock Canopy ALEA	5.40			8.40			5.80				6.20			5.20	0.00	0.00	31.00

Evaluators Score Questions: #1-14, RCO Staff Scores Questions: #15-16

ALEA Project Summaries
(In Rank Order)

Washington Department of Natural Resources — Grant Request: $878,900
Improving Waterfront Access at Woodard Bay Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to improve its interpretive program by adding an environmental learning shelter, upgrading the parking lot and non-motorized boat launch, buying nearby land, and providing safe access to the beach in the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area. Work also will include restoring the Woodard Bay and Chapman Bay estuaries. The work is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the conservation area and to enhance recreation and environmental education there. Located in Thurston County, the conservation area encompasses 865 acres of forests, estuaries, and tidelands in Puget Sound. It is at the end of the Chehalis-Western Trail, which is a 22-mile, multi-use trail that links Olympia to Yelm. The conservation area's three hiking trails provide panoramic views of Woodard Bay, Chapman Bay, and Henderson Inlet as well as views of harbor seals, yuma myotis and little brown bats, and great blue herons. The conservation area also offers primitive beach access and the only seasonal, non-motorized public boat launch to Henderson Inlet. The department will contribute $918,000 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1120)

Bellingham — Grant Request: $330,066
Buying Whirlwind Beach

The Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy 20.4 acres on northeast Bellingham Bay and 200 acres of state tidelands. These tidelands are popular with kiteboarders, skimboarders, and for wading, birding, beach walking, and picnicking. The land provides stunning views of Bellingham Bay and offers a wide variety of water-based recreational activities. The land lies on the wildest shoreline on Bellingham Bay and the beach is the bay's largest and sandiest, nourished and secluded by bluffs and forested slopes to be bought under this project. The project protects bluffs and sloping upper beach areas, and anchors two designated city greenways on the bay shore. The acquisition is part of an ongoing effort to provide direct and visual access to Bellingham Bay via public trails and park sites. The City will contribute $330,066 from a voter-approved levy. (12-1545)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $500,000
Renovating the Edmonds Fishing Pier

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to repair the Edmonds Pier on Puget Sound. The pier, 17 miles north of Seattle, was built in 1977 and was the first publicly funded pier dedicated to recreational fishing in the state. The pier is a popular and rare asset for boatless anglers and the public. The pier is rusted and damaged by saltwater. Work will include restoring the concrete cover, repairing the deck, fixing the wind shelter, replacing the roof on the fish cleaning station, and repairing the hand rail, signs, and electrical outlets. The

department will contribute $500,000 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1160)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Request: $1,000,000
Protecting the Merrill Lake Shoreline

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to help buy 1,400 acres between Merrill Lake and the Kalama River in Cowlitz County. The land has many incredibly unique features including lava beds with tree casts; high volume springs feeding the Kalama river; small, old growth trees; waterfalls; and high quality native plant communities. The land includes 112 acres along the Merrill Lake shoreline that adjoins the Merrill Lake Natural Resources Conservation Area. Buying the land will protect the conservation area from damage by recreational development and maintain the beauty of the area for users of the lake. The land connects to a national forest to the north and another conservation area to the south. Merrill Lake is managed as a fishing lake and much of the Kalama River bordering this land could be used to help recover bull trout. Many animals will benefit from protection of the land, including steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon, elk, Martin, western toads, spotted owls, and osprey. The department will contribute $1 million from a federal grant. (12-1448)

Kitsap County — Grant Request: $1,000,000
Protecting Port Gamble Bay Shoreline

Kitsap County will use this grant to buy 600 acres of shoreline and tidelands along the west side of Port Gamble Bay in north Kitsap County. Buying the land will protect
1.78 miles of shoreline and provide access to the beach for the public. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Forterra, Great Peninsula Conservancy, and a coalition of business and community groups are working with Kitsap County to conserve 6,690 acres surrounding Port Gamble Bay. The overall objective is to protect the land, preserve wildlife habitat, and create opportunities for education and recreation on the bay. The creation of more public places on the bay will decrease the pressure placed on the few public waterfront areas that currently exist. The County will contribute $1,500,000 in cash and another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1143)

Seattle — Grant Request: $338,050
Buying and Restoring Belmondo Reach

Seattle Public Utilities will use this grant to purchase and restore 12.65 acres on the lower Cedar River in King County. The land is in the Belmondo Reach near the city of Maple Valley. Buying the land will protect some of the best remaining salmon habitat in the lower Cedar River. This project is part of a larger effort by the utility and King County to protect and restore habitat for Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, and steelhead trout. If not protected, the property will be listed on the open real estate market. Protection of this land would provide the missing link in a 1-mile chain of protected lands, preventing potential development of three homes. Restoration includes removing invasive plants and replanting the area with native plants. Seattle Public Utilities will use other funding to build a soft-surface trail connecting the adjacent Cedar River

Trail, a small parking area, and interpretive signs highlighting salmon recovery and habitat restoration efforts. Seattle Public Utilities will contribute $338,050 in cash and another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1045)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission — Grant Request: $500,000
Renovating Lake Sammamish State Park's Sunset Beach

State Parks will use this grant to complete renovation of the Sunset Beach swimming area in Lake Sammamish State Park. Work will include expanding the beach, replacing the sand, improving the grass, adding a new children's interpretive feature, and restoring the shoreline. Sunset Beach was built in 1951. The once enormously popular swimming area is virtually unusable. The beach is overgrown with weeds and the underwater part is pocked with sink holes. Renovation will draw more of the park's 1.2 million annual visitors from the state's largest metropolitan area back to a restored, more durable beach and provide them a highly demanded swimming opportunity on Lake Sammamish. State Parks will contribute $500,000. (12-1249)

Snohomish County — Grant Request: $500,000
Restoring the Smith Island Estuary

Snohomish County will use this grant to restore 250 acres of tidal marsh within the Snohomish River estuary. Work will include removing about a half-mile of levee and building about 1 mile of setback levee. Chinook salmon entering the estuary from Puget Sound swim about 21 miles past the cities of Everett, Lake Stevens, and Marysville up to where the Snohomish River splits into the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers near Monroe. Beginning in the 1860s, the estuary was damaged as settlers logged, drained thousands of acres of marsh, ditched river tributaries, and built more than 44 miles of levees. Of the 16 river deltas in Puget Sound, about 90 percent of estuarine emergent marsh, scrub shrub, and tidal forested wetlands were lost in Puget Sound. The Smith Island project is part of a larger restoration effort that will return the tides to more than 1,200 acres of river deltas, the third largest estuary restoration effort in the state. The project will help recover shorebirds and salmon species using the Snohomish River estuary. Snohomish County will contribute $100,000 in cash and another Recreation and Conservation Office grant. (12-1427)

Port of Kennewick — Grant Request: $500,000
Restoring the Clover Island Shoreline for People and Fish

The Port of Kennewick will use this grant to restore the north shoreline of Clover Island and build a waterfront trail. Work will include stabilizing the north shoreline and enhancing habitat for Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon and upper and middle Columbia River steelhead, all of which are endangered, as well as for mid-Columbia River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Port will remove the concrete from the shoreline and replace it with rocks, tree root wads, and plants to make the beach more suitable for salmon and other wildlife. The Port also will make the area better for people by building part of the riverfront pathway, renovating a

viewpoint, building a new viewing plaza, making boat docks and viewpoints accessible to people with disabilities, and installing benches, safety railings, lights, and signs. This is the second phase of a seven-phase plan for Clover Island. The Port will contribute $1,495,078 in cash and staff labor. (12-1351)

Bellingham — Grant Request: $150,000
Restoring Bloedel Donovan Park Shoreline

The Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to develop and restore the shoreline of Lake Whatcom at Bloedel Donovan Park. The City will remove a failing concrete bulkhead, enhance the beach, and build a new trail at Bloedel Donovan Park. This project will improve water quality and beach access and stabilize the shoreline. Bloedel Donovan is a 28-acre, city-owned park adjacent to Lake Whatcom. The park is a popular destination for boating, fishing, off-leash dog areas, and community events. The Lake Whatcom reservoir is the primary source of drinking water for Bellingham and portions of Whatcom County. It has low dissolved oxygen levels and high levels of bacteria from human and animal waste and is listed as an impaired water body The City will contribute $150,000. (12-1172)

Jefferson County — Grant Request: $500,000
Restoring the Discovery Bay Shoreline and Building a Trail

Jefferson County will use this grant to restore 1,800 feet of shoreline to improve habitat for salmon, spawning forage fish, and shellfish. The County will remove industrial fill, shoreline armoring, a creosote railway trestle, a defunct tide gate, and part of an old railroad grade. The County then will create a 1-acre estuary where an artificial, freshwater pond now exists. The County also will clean 2 acres of beach and re-grade it to a natural slope. Finally, the County will build about a half-mile of the Olympic Discovery Trail where a community water main must be removed. The 130-mile Olympic Discovery Trail is identified in the U.S. Department of Interior's 'America's Great Outdoors Initiative,' and as a priority in the county's comprehensive, non-motorized transportation plan. Partners are contributing to the project: Jefferson County will contribute $500,000 from a federal grant and donations of cash and labor. This grant is from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Acct program. (12-1250)

Port of Bremerton — Grant Request: $500,000
Rebuilding the Harper Fishing Pier

The Port of Bremerton will use this grant to reconstruct the Harper Fishing Pier. The Port will demolish the existing pier, remove 130 creosote piles, and erect a modern, recreational pier built with ecologically sound building materials. Harper Pier, originally built in the late 1800s and rebuilt in 1919 to support the Mosquito Fleet ferries, has a long and historically significant record of service. The pier, located at Yukon Bay in Kitsap County, today is a popular location for local residents and visitors for fishing, crabbing, squidding, and scuba diving. The Port has invested about $400,000 into the operations and maintenance of the pier since 2000, which

includes about $250,000 in improvements. Further repair of the pier is not cost-effective. The Port will contribute $812,800. (12-1206)

West Richland — Grant Request: $500,000
Developing Yakima River Shoreline and Trail

The City of West Richland will use this grant to by land along the Yakima River at the Van Giesen bridge for public access to the river. The City will buy 2.15 acres, providing a place for anglers, people with non-motorized boats, and others to get to the river. The City also will build a half-mile trail, complete with viewing and picnic areas, restrooms, and educational kiosks. The trail will connect to adjacent natural wildlife areas and regional trail systems. Finally, the City will begin restoring native species and natural areas. The City will contribute $1,261,689 in cash, a local grant, another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office, and donated labor. (12-1566)

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma — Grant Request: $500,000
Building an Estuary and Boardwalk in Point Defiance Park

The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma will use this grant to create a small estuary and build a boardwalk at the southeastern edge of Point Defiance Park. The project involves removing a bulkhead and road to create 2.5 acres of both saltwater and freshwater estuaries that combine storm water treatment and public access and education through interpretive signs and a 1,300-foot boardwalk that traverses the area. The shoreline and estuaries will be designed for endangered species such as salmon and sand lance. The estuaries will be a learning laboratory for Tacoma School District's Science and Math Institute, which will be involved in its design, development, maintenance, and monitoring. Being adjacent to land that will connect the popular Ruston Way waterfront pedestrian promenade with Point Defiance Park, this unique place will be both a popular destination and stopping point for the 2 million plus visitors to the waterfront. The park district will contribute $3 million in cash and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1554)

Port Angeles — Grant Request: $468,900
Beginning Development of Westend Park

The City of Port Angeles will use this grant to develop .8 acre of the 3.1-acre Westend Park that will include a small extension of the Olympic Discovery bike trail, trail markers, open areas, a rain garden, a restroom, water fountains, and other site furnishings. Located in downtown Port Angeles, the park has long been seen as an environmentally and culturally significant area in the city. It is just 500 feet from the ferry terminal with service to Victoria, B.C., and just west of an existing esplanade that is being redeveloped. This project is part of a larger, urban waterfront development project and will provide both visual and physical access to the water. The City will contribute $468,900. (12-1299)

Spokane Conservation District — Grant Request: $54,080
Providing Access to the Spokane River

The Spokane Conservation District will use this grant to develop non-motorized boat access to the Spokane River. The conservation district will build a take-out point, a slide rail system, and stairs at the site, which is in northeast Spokane County on the north shoreline of the Spokane River adjacent to the Islands Trailhead access point to the Centennial Trail. The conservation district also will plant native plants along 500 feet of shoreline and uplands surrounding this river access. The plants will improve the riverbanks by reducing erosion and providing shade to cool the water in the summer, which are critical for the survival of a declining salmon species. The conservation district will contribute $55,600 from a state grant and donations of cash, labor, and materials. (12-1091)

Island County — Grant Request: $211,680
Developing Public Access at Barnum Point

Island County will use this grant to develop trails on Barnum Point. Adjacent to 7,100 acres of protected aquatic lands at Port Susan Bay, Barnum Point is unique both for its high ecological value and the high quality recreation opportunity. The point's network of trails loops through mature forests, with spectacular views east across Port Susan Bay and west to Triangle Cove. . Eighteen acres of tidelands and .4 mile of natural shoreline provide one of the longest, uninterrupted stretches of public water access on Camano Island. The County will build 1.25 miles of trails, including a trail for public access to the beach via an existing easement on private property, two viewing platforms, interpretive signs, and a gravel parking area, and install a portable restroom. The County will contribute $258,720 from a private grant and another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office. (12-1404)

Mercer Island — Grant Request: $111,680
Building a Launch for Hand-Carry Boats at Luther Burbank Park

The City of Mercer Island will use this grant to build a launch for hand-carry boats at Luther Burbank Park. The City will remove an existing dock, build a floating dock and ramp, rebuild and widen the existing boardwalk, remove invasive plants, restore a wetland, and install interpretive and safety signs. While there are many de facto launches for hand-carry boats on Lake Washington, there are few that have been designed to meet the needs of kayakers, canoeists, and other such boaters. This is particularly true for people with physical disabilities. The proposed dock system provides users in wheelchairs or with other physical limitations easy access to the lake for their personal watercraft in a site that provides shelter from winds. The reconstructed boardwalk will allow for wheelchair access and dolly use from the parking lot. The City will contribute $111,680 from a voter-approved levy and cash. (12-1024)

Tukwila — Grant Request: $500,000

Building Salmon Habitat in the Duwamish Gardens Estuary

The City of Tukwila will use this grant to build shallow water habitat for migrating salmon. The City will excavate material, and create 1.3 acres of mudflat and marsh habitat on a 2.16-acre site on the right bank of the Duwamish River, immediately below the Sound Transit LINK light rail bridge. In this stretch of the Duwamish River, shallow places give young fish a chance to move out of the main channel of the river to places where they can feed and rear. When fish stay longer in the estuary they grow larger and healthier before their treacherous migration to the sea. The City also will plant nearly an acre with native plants. The property is among the largest available sites for habitat restoration remaining in along the Duwamish River. When restored, it will be the largest, off-channel habitat between the Codiga Farms restoration and North Wind's Weir restoration. The City also will add parking, a paved trail, a viewpoint and interpretive signs. The City will contribute $2.3 million from two grants. (12-1146)

Skagit County — Grant Request: $475,000

Restoring Freestad Lake Barrier Lagoon

The Skagit County Public Works Department will use this grant to acquire a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, and restore a pocket estuary on the southeast shore of Samish Island in Skagit County. The land is a wet pasture with a levee and tide gates. The County will remove a portion of the levee, construct a setback levee, and make channel modifications to allow the saltwater to enter, restoring 26.5 acres of tidal wetland habitat. The County will build a trail on the levee, a small parking area, and install interpretive signs. A portion of the saltwater lake remains for recreation so that the landowner can continue to allow public use of the nearby camp and trails; the agreement will ensure ongoing public access. The County will contribute $498,670 in cash, a federal grant, another grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office, and donations of labor, materials, and property interest. (12-1529)

Port Orchard — Grant Request: $648,000

Building the Bay Street Pedestrian Path-Mosquito Fleet Trail

The City of Port Orchard will use this grant to develop a .4-mile trail and construct a trail bridge over Blackjack Creek for use by walkers and bicyclists. The waterfront trail will make it easier for people to walk safely into downtown and connects Waterfront Park to the Annapolis ferry facility providing views of Sinclair Inlet. A broad coalition of citizens, local public service clubs, non-profits, and special interest groups promoting bicycling, tourism, and pedestrian activities support the project. Additional support has been expressed by both Kitsap Transit and the Port of Bremerton. The City will contribute $648,500 from a state appropriation and cash. (12-1258)

Port of Bellingham — Grant Request: $340,000
Restoring the Squalicum Creek Estuary

The Port of Bellingham will use this grant to restore the Squalicum Creek estuary. The Port will remove 6,850 square feet of fill in the estuary, move a spring creek into the new estuary to cool the water for salmon, and build an overlook with interpretive signs. Squalicum Creek supports the largest number of salmon in the city and provides rearing and migration habitat for Chinook salmon, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and bull trout as well as sea-run cutthroat, coho, chum, and steelhead. This project will result in modifying two bridges and removing a concrete liner on the river bottom to open up 10 miles of habitat to fish. The Port will contribute $3,085,000 in staff labor, and state and local grants. (12-1377)

Port of Skamania — Grant Request: $333,945
Building the Stevenson Waterfront Trail

The Port of Skamania will use this grant to build a new public beach access and about 330 feet of a waterfront trail along the Columbia River in the city of Stevenson. The new trail will connect two existing interpretive trails: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the National Park Service's Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. These trails connect to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center museum, Skamania Lodge, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Forest Service Center, Skamania County Fairgrounds, several public parks, Stevenson Landing Pier, public parking, three public restrooms, and several pieces of public art. This project will serve a wide range of recreation including fishing, swimming, kayaking, kite boarding, windsurfing, walking, birding, picnicking, sightseeing, and more. The Port will contribute $334,000 in cash, a local grant, and donated materials. (12-1023)

Renton — Grant Request: $496,500
Replacing the Riverview Park Bridge

The City of Renton will use this grant to remove a 1960s era, wood bridge over the Cedar River at Riverview Park, which is 1.5 miles from the city center, and replace it with a galvanized steel bridge. The City also will add three interpretive signs focusing on Chinook salmon, which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, the City will remove invasive plants and replant the area with native trees and shrubs. The bridge provides salmon viewing and interpretive opportunities as part of the Cedar River Salmon Journey Program conducted in partnership with the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, as well as access to Riverview Park, the Cedar River Trail, and more than 250 acres of natural area. In the past five years, two floods have washed large tree root wads and woody materials downstream, catching on the bridge and closing it until the debris was removed. The City will contribute $605,000 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant and donations of cash. (12-1433)

Pierce County — Grant Request: $364,000
Extending the Chambers Creek Pier

The Pierce County Public Works and Utilities will use this grant to extend the Bridge to the Beach at the Chambers Creek Properties. The Bridge to the Beach provides access to the beach, and the extension will create unobstructed views into clear shoreline waters for seeing eelgrass beds and salmon, as well as boats, the surrounding islands, eagles, ospreys, and at certain times of the year, Orcas. The extension is 340 linear feet and will replace a 100-year old, creosote piling, wood dock. Chambers Creek is a salmon bearing stream and removal of 300 creosote pilings will improve water quality and allow re-establishment of eelgrass beds used by salmon. It also will remove structures that threaten navigation. The County will contribute $364,000. (12-1585)

Ferry Conservation District — Grant Request: $119,403
Developing the Roberta Lake Wetland Trail

The Ferry Conservation District will use this grant to renovate a 1.75-mile nature trail along Roberta Lake, which is the southern extension of Curlew Lake, in Ferry County. The trail is just south of Roberta Lake and resides on 89 acres of mixed upland and wetland natural area. The trail and lake waterfront are in need of renovation to make them safe for the public. The conservation district will improve the entry road and build a newly designed and enlarged trail head, which would include parking for people with disabilities, vault toilets, signs, and a water well powered by a solar pump. Work also will include creating a pathway to the lake shoreline, building wildlife viewing stations along the trail, building about 300 feet of new boardwalk and two small bridges across Roberta Creek, installing interpretive signs, and planting native plants for erosion control and shade. The trail will connect with the Rail Corridor Trail, which extends to Canada. The conservation district will contribute $119,404 in staff equipment, labor, and materials, a state grant, and donations of equipment, labor, land, and materials. (12-1012)

South Bend — Grant Request: $90,900
Adding a Canopy to Spurrell Dock

The City of South Bend will use this grant to add a canopy over the Spurrell dock to protect visitors from the rain. The canopy will allow multi-seasonal use of the existing dock for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, outdoor theatre and music, community events, and education. The dock is in the heart of downtown South Bend and provides the connecting link between the South Bend floating recreational dock on the Willapa River and the upland Robert Bush Memorial Park and boardwalk. The City will contribute $111,100 from another Recreation and Conservation Office grant and cash. (12-1587)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **9**

Meeting Date: October 2012
Title: Update of Communication Plan
Prepared By: Susan Zemek, Communications Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has a plan that guides the communications work of staff and board members. Staff will present a proposed update to the seven-year-old plan.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

A formal communications program is a fairly new concept for this 48-year-old agency. The communications program began in 2004, at a time when the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) was beginning a growth spurt that soon would double its size and expand its mission. The agency would see the addition of three new boards, expansion of its core clients, and growth of its staff. The agency's first communication plan helped guide the agency during this period of growth and set the foundation for this updated communications plan.

The First Communications Plan

The agency's first communication plan focused on increasing support and recognition of the agency. Its four goals were:

1. Increase awareness and build support of outdoor recreation and salmon recovery by the general public and key stakeholders.
2. Position the agency as a leader in providing information on outdoor recreation and salmon recovery.
3. Strengthen the identity of the agency.
4. Increase the ability of staff to be good communicators of the agency's mission and values.

Much was accomplished under the agency's first communication plan. Following are a few of those accomplishments:

- Agency name was changed
- New logo was developed
- Agency slogan, *Investing in Washington's Great Outdoors,* was developed
- Big Check recognition program created
- A media outreach program was created
- Graphic templates were created for agency publications
- A policy was developed for attendance at project groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings to prioritize staff and agency leadership time
- Agency external and internal Web sites were redesigned
- Two educational Web sites were created (boating and invasive species)
- An Invasive Species Council Web site was created
- Customizable trade show booths were created for use at conferences
- Grant program fact sheets were developed
- Agency reception area was redesigned

Developing the Second Communications Plan

In March 2012, staff briefed the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) on the approach that would be used to update the communications plan. Through the process, staff interviewed 31 people in leadership positions of key partner organizations. Staff also reviewed the 2010 customer survey, analyzed use of the agency's Web site, and assessed the effectiveness of the media outreach efforts. Staff also considered the feedback provided by members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board about their communication priorities.

Staff will present the revised communication plan to the board at its October 2012 meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

The communications plan is a key element in the board's strategic plan, supporting Goal 3, which states, "We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management."

Specifically, the communications plan contributes to four of the five strategies under Goal 3's sole objective of broadening public support and the applicant pool for grant programs.

The communications plan will map out a route for expanding the board's support by developing key partnerships (Strategy 3.A.1.), increasing the public's understanding of project benefits (Strategy 3.A.2.), advocating for the protection of habitat and recreation through multiple venues (Strategy 3.A.4.), and expanding the reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grants (Strategy 3.A.5.)

The communications plan also plays a role in Goal 1, which states "We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems." Specifically, it addresses Strategy 1.A.3, which states, "Coordinate recreation resources information and priorities." The communications coordinates this information on the agency Web site and in its publications.

Analysis of Current Communication Efforts

To assess the agency's current communications, staff talked directly with customers and reviewed the use of agency materials. Specifically, staff:

- Interviewed key partners
- Analyzed media coverage
- Analyzed Web usage statistics
- Reviewed comments from a 2010 customer survey.

Stakeholder Interviews

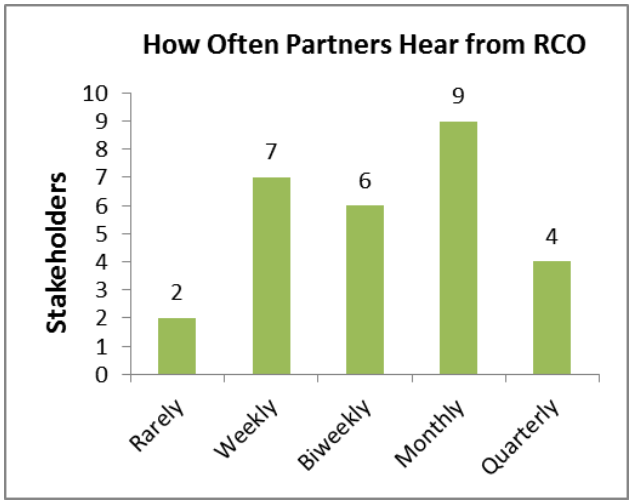
Communications staff interviewed 31 people in leadership positions of the following key partner organizations:

- User groups (trail users, gun clubs, etc.)
- State and federal agencies
- Advisory committees
- Professional associations
- Non-profit partners
- Board members

In addition, staff reviewed the 2010 survey of nearly 130 customers from local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, salmon groups, and others.

Is RCO Communicating at the Right Level?

Most stakeholders felt the communication was at the right frequency. As shown in the chart, they most often heard from RCO between weekly and quarterly. They noted that RCO increased communication when something important was happening, such as a grant round. They also felt that they could contact staff easily if they needed something.



The 2010 customer survey revealed similar contentment. In that survey, respondents reported that the amount of communication from the RCO was just right (87 percent). Another 12 percent stated that it was not enough.

Stakeholders are hearing a mix of information from RCO, including details about grants, policy changes, and legislative issues. Nearly all of them felt it was the type of information they need to hear.

Several stakeholders said they would like to get more information from RCO about:

- Trends (what is being funded, how RCO grants fit into overall conservation financing, and if federal salmon funds are drying up).
- Bigger policy issues.
- Changes made to manuals.

Most stakeholders felt they were informed about major agency decisions. They also found the information we ask them to pass along to their members was helpful and does not need editing. Similar satisfaction was revealed in the 2010 customer survey where 96 percent found RCO's e-mails and letters easy to understand.

The only criticism RCO received was for not providing information more quickly. Some stakeholders requested that we provide the following information, or provide it sooner:

- Manual updates
- Evaluation schedules
- Quick links on the Web for grant applicants (What to do with the application, what qualifies as match, how applications are scored)
- More information on the benefits of salmon recovery
- Notices about when the Web site is updated
- Map of funded projects
- Annual summary of grants given to cities
- Reinstatement of last year's application checklists and the printable directory of shooting ranges

What is RCO's Reputation?

Overall, RCO is well regarded. Stakeholders think RCO is administered well, has an overhead rate that is acceptable, is very practical, and gets a lot done with few staff. RCO is viewed as an entity with a focused purpose that does its job very well, and sees itself in an appropriate way.

Some areas for change mentioned by stakeholders:

- The amount of match required.
- The increasing complexity of some programs (e.g., ALEA criteria practically require a wildlife biologist on staff).
- Urban park amenities (amphitheaters, downtown plazas, aquatics facilities) are not funded currently by RCO.

Stakeholders also had some suggestions for improvements:

- Better differentiation between the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and RCO.
- Do a better job of telling the story about what the grants are getting us. The more RCO can tell its story, the more people realize that not all government is out to get you.

- Do an "in the news" blog or newsletter.
- Increase visibility of salmon recovery in salmon regions and with the public.
- Ensure the information on Web and in manuals match.
- Consider refining how manual changes are made. There is a feeling that the manuals change without a lot of communication and that staff interpretation of how to implement board policy at the manual level is not clear. One stakeholder requested creation of a log of changes in each manual and clear information about if those changes are retroactive.
- Do not make last minute changes in direction, interpretation, or application process right before the application cycle begins.

Where do Stakeholders Get Information about RCO?

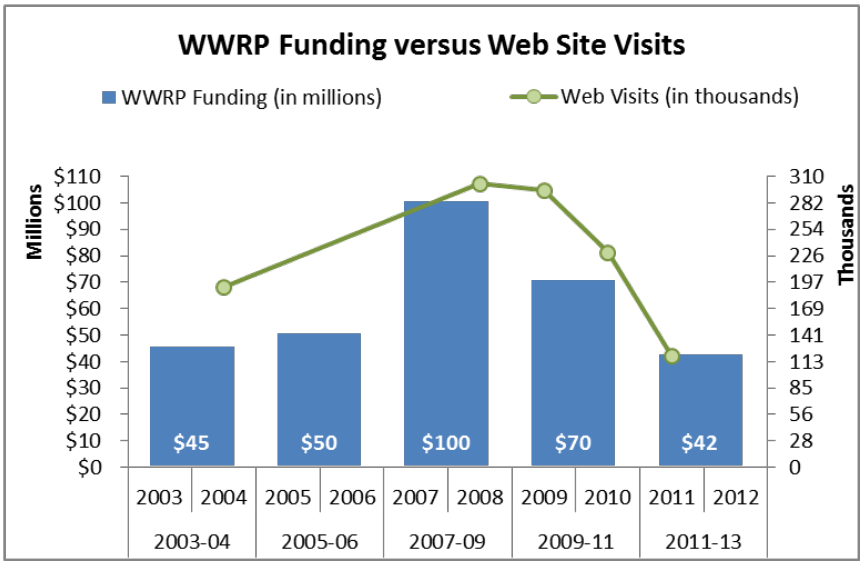
Most (70 percent) stakeholders visit RCO's Web site first when they need information, then they call staff. While most stakeholder organizations use social media, the stakeholders said they did not use social media professionally and that it was not where they went for information. Most stakeholders advised the agency to put its resources into Web information.

How can RCO Improve its Web Site?

Generally, stakeholders found the Web site easy to use and the information they needed easy to find. The only suggestions for improvement were to eliminate some of the circular navigation (sending readers back to their start point after several clicks) and consider making quick links to things that viewers need the most.

Web Site Usage

Visits to RCO's Web site vary with the amount of grant money offered. As shown in the chart, when WWRP funds are up, so are the agency's Web visits. This makes sense because RCO's core customers are grant applicants and recipients. The agency's Web site does not offer very much information for the general public, outside of salmon recovery and invasive species information.



Most Web visitors (80 percent) come once and then do not return. This could be because people find RCO's Web site when they search for "Recreation in Washington State."[1] Visitors to the site do not find much information about where to go hiking or fishing, so they move on.

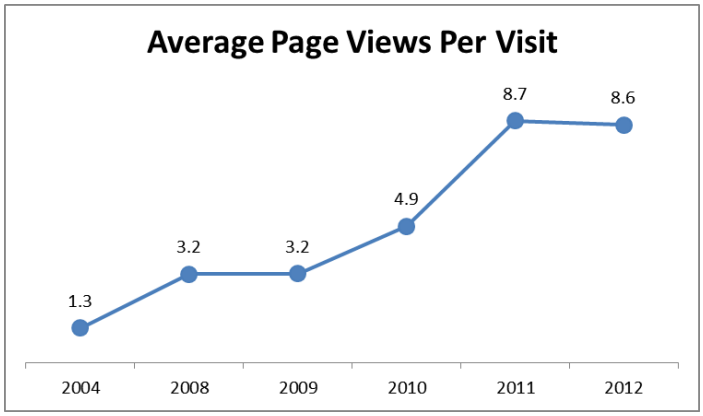
Essentially, intentional visitors come to the Web site when they are applying for a grant. The 2010 customer survey revealed similar results. In that survey, about 60 percent of customers said they visited the RCO Web site once or twice a month, usually to get RCO documents or contact information for staff; 20 percent visited only once or twice a year.

However, the number of people who are returning to our site has been increasing steadily since that customer survey. In 2010, 20,000 people were return visitors; in the first eight months of 2012, more than 24,000 were returning visitors.

When survey respondents visited, they were looking for:

Answer Options	Response Percent
Read or download policy manuals	83.6%
Get contact information	60.0%
Research available grants	52.7%
Find out how to apply for a grant	45.5%
Read or download "Grant News You Can Use"	23.6%
Find information about board meetings	13.6%

Another sign of engagement in the RCO Web site is how many pages people view when they get to the site. That number too, has been increasing steadily in the past few years from an average of three pages viewed per visit in 2009 to more than eight pages viewed per visit so far in 2012.

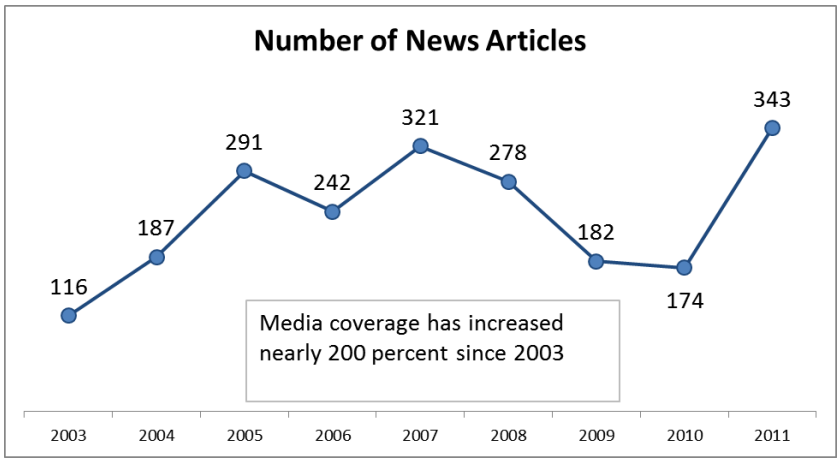


[1] For example, when this search is entered into Google, RCO is the fourth site listed.

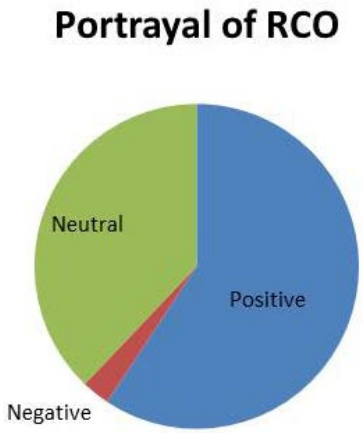
Media coverage

Media coverage of RCO, its boards, and missions is strong and generally well above what was generated without a communications program.

As shown in the chart to the right, the communications program has increased the number of news articles written about the agency by nearly 200 percent since 2003.



In addition, RCO is shaping that coverage. The number of news articles written as the result of news releases has increased from 10 in 2003 to 94 in 2011. The number of times an RCO representative is quoted in articles has increased as well from 5 times in 2003 to an average of 35 times in the succeeding years. The best news is that the portrayal of the RCO is positive in most stories. Articles are counted as positive if they present RCO in a way that the average person would consider good, such as giving money to build a community park or recover salmon. Articles are considered neutral when they advertise the start of a grant round, the need for volunteer grant evaluators, or that a local community is considering applying for a grant. Articles are considered negative when they question RCO's decisions or quote someone bashing the agency.



The number of media impressions – the number of newspaper subscribers who could see any article – has topped 39 million.

2012 Communications Plan Update

The entire communications plan is included as Attachment A. The following is a summary of the plan's focus, followed by its goals, strategies, and key activities.

Note: In the Communications Plan, RCO is generally used as an umbrella term and includes the agency and the boards it supports.

2012 Communications Plan Focus

While much has changed with RCO in the past near decade, three of the goals of the initial communications plan remain relevant. The 2012 communications plan will continue work on those three goals but also will incorporate new technology and focus communications staff efforts on more proactive media outreach, more work with partners to share RCO information with their constituents, and more public celebration of RCO accomplishments.

The three main goals for the 2012 communications plan are:

Goal 1: Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.

Goal 2: Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.

Goal 3: Strengthen RCO's internal communications.

To accomplish Goal 1, communications staff will focus on creating a compelling story about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions and then working with the media and partners to help spread those messages. Part of this work will include a revamped Big Check award strategy.

For Goal 2, communications staff will focus on keeping partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues. Work will include coordinating with project sponsors and partners to schedule community celebrations, especially around the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and use those celebrations as opportunities to explain RCO's role in those projects and the value of its grant programs.

For Goal 3, communications staff will focus on ensuring other RCO staff have the tools they need to be good communicators and ambassadors of RCO.

Communications Plan Summary

Goal 1: Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.

Strategy	Activities
Create compelling information about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.	• Develop key messages.
Engage the media in telling the story of RCO's missions.	• Promote RCO's missions to the media through a combination of news releases, editorial boards, guest editorials, letters to the editor, reporters' tours, and interviews. • Update the media distribution list. Try to add blogs and other social media outlets.
Engage partners in educating their constituents about RCO's missions.	• Ask partners to share information with their constituents about RCO's missions. • Recognize top ranking projects through RCO awards. • Attend annual meetings and conferences of key partners to share RCO's missions.
Educate the public.	• Make our Web sites and publications sources of information about the benefits of RCO's missions. • Develop social media tools to draw people to RCO's Web sites. • Schedule agency leaders to speak at community events.

Goal 2: Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.

Strategy	Activities
Increase partners' understanding of RCO grant processes and programs.	• Keep partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues. Work will include creating an electronic director's newsletter that informs partners of RCO activities and ways to participate.
Ensure RCO's grant processes and programs are accessible to the public.	• Make our Web sites, publications, social media, and news media efforts sources of information about RCO's grant programs and processes. • Proactively work with project sponsors and partners to schedule community celebrations for WWRP and LWCF projects and use the opportunity to explain RCO's role in those projects. This will include developing an automatic PRISM trigger for projects nearing completion, so that celebrations can be encouraged. • Look for ways to share RCO information on the publications and Web sites of our partners.
Strengthen agency identity.	• Develop a unified look for agency publications, presentations, and e-mail.
Provide tools for staff to be RCO brand ambassadors.	• Ensure staff has the communications tools they need to do their jobs successfully and understand their role as RCO brand ambassadors.

Goal 3: Strengthen RCO's internal communications

Strategy	Activities
Ensure there are adequate tools to keep staff involved in and informed of agency activities.	• Survey staff about use of internal communications tools. • Develop routine ways for staff to stay informed and engaged in agency activities.

Communication Plan Measurements

- Development of key messages for all three boards
- Increased media coverage generated by RCO outreach efforts
- Increased visits to places on the RCO Web sites targeted by social media tools
- Appearance by RCO at partner annual meetings and community events to share RCO's missions
- Development of products contained in this communications plan

Attachments

A. Communications plan detail and schedule

B. Trade show analysis

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2013-2018

WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Office

Communication Plan Details

Goal 1: Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.

RCO's missions help keep Washington a great place to live, economically, environmentally, and culturally. It is important for RCO's survival to build long-term support among decision-makers and the public for these missions.

Strategy 1: Create compelling information about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.

Activity 1: Develop Key Messages.

Develop key messages that demonstrate the value of recreation, conservation, salmon recovery, and invasive species management, economically, environmentally, and culturally. These messages should be used throughout agency communications: Web, publications, newsletters, speeches, news releases, etc.

Task 1: Develop messages for RCFB. Consider messages that show:

- Recreation and conservation as drivers for the economy and tourism.
- The quality of life in Washington is tied directly to richness of our recreation and conservation.
- The economic benefits of the projects funded by the board.
- RCFB is strategic in its decision-making.
- RCFB grants create a legacy across the state, touching nearly every community.
- The health and well-being of people and wildlife are depended on RCFB grant programs.
- Grants help ensure clean air, clean water.

Task 2: Develop messages for SRFB. Work with federal, state, and regional partners to develop common messages about the value of and need for salmon recovery. Consider messages that show:

- Salmon recovery is a driver for the economy and tourism. (Will include stories of real businesses to illustrate this.)
- The economic benefits of the projects funded by the board.

- Washington's approach to salmon recovery combines local interests with scientific priorities to ensure projects have the best chances of success and the highest benefits to salmon.
- SRFB is strategic in its decision-making.
- Washington is making progress and slowing the decline of salmon. However, salmon recovery will not happen overnight and will take a partnership between people and organizations at all levels.
- Emphasize the need for sustained funding to reach the goals established in the federally approved recovery plans.

Task 3: Develop messages for Washington Invasive Species Council about the value of and need for invasive species management and the council itself. Consider working with other states to develop common messages. Consider messages that show:

- Invasive species can devastate Washington's rich natural legacy, if left unchecked.
- Invasives species can have a huge negative economic impact to keep industries and facilities.
- The Invasive Species Council serves the vital role of coordination for the state.
- Prevention and swift response to outbreaks will save state money in the long-term and protect our natural resources.

Strategy 2: Engage the media in telling the story of RCO's missions.

To increase support of RCO's missions, the agency needs to enlist the media, which can reach large, statewide audiences quickly, to tell the RCO story and the value of investing in its missions.

Activity 1: Promote RCO's missions to the media through a combination of news releases, editorial boards, guest editorials, letters to the editor, reporters' tours, and interviews.

Staff will produce and distribute information for the news media on a variety of subjects, including grant making, published reports, trends, outstanding projects, and board appointments. The releases should include the key messages. New work will include proactively pitching more news releases and increasing the number of opportunities to promote WWRP, LWCF, salmon recovery, SCORP, and the Invasive Species Council, specifically. Also consider writing guest editorials timed to coincide with RCO awards or attendance at ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings.

News releases

Task 1: Create RCFB news releases that on focus key times in the grant cycle as well as trend information produced by SCORP and reports produced by the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group. Possible topics include:

- Grant application deadlines
- Volunteer recruitment
- Grant evaluation scores
- RCFB decisions on grant lists (both preliminary, final)
- Recreation trends revealed by SCORP
- SCORP public participation opportunities
- Lands' Group report on state agency land purchases and other reports
- Special recognition of top scoring projects
- Special recognition of exemplary projects completed each year

Task 2: Create SRFB news releases that focus on the salmon grant awards and release of the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report. Possible topics covered include:

- Grant applications open for salmon recovery projects
- SRFB grant awards
- State of Salmon in Watersheds report
- Any significant scientific or monitoring reports issued
- Special recognition of SRFB "Wow" projects
- PCSRF award
- Salmon Recovery Conference
- Salmon returning to rivers
- Stories about businesses who benefit from salmon recovery

Task 3: Create Invasive Species Council news releases that focus on prevention campaigns and significant council milestones. Possible topics covered include:

- Puget Sound basin assessment
- Work to remove invasive species from classroom science kits
- Feature stories on how to prevent invasive species spread
- Feral pig and don't move firewood campaigns

Other media

Task 4: Pitching stories to newspaper editors for editorial boards, guest editorials, letters to the editor, reporters' tours, interviews, blogs, and other social media venues is a key way to reach the public and decision-makers. Because these are hard to get and require much staff work, RCO will consider them only for significant topics. Consider pitching stories to news media on the following topics:

RCFB

- Editorial boards on SCORP, WWRP.
- Guest editorial on WWRP, LWCF

SRFB

- Editorial boards, guest editorials on salmon recovery funding
- Letters to editor on lead entities
- Reporter tours on SRFB "Wow" projects

Washington Invasive Species Council

- Guest editorials or letters to the editor on campaigns
- Reporter tours of infested areas

Activity 2: Update the media distribution list. Try to add blogs and other social media outlets.

Strategy 3: Engage partners in educating their constituents about RCO's missions.

To expand the reach of RCO's messages, RCO will engage partner organizations to help spread the word to their constituents.

Activity 1: Ask partners to share information with their constituents about RCO's missions.

Task 1: Share media releases, key messages, and specially written stories with key partners, asking them to use the information on their Web sites and in their constituent newsletters and social media. A few partners to consider are:

RCFB

- Washington Recreation and Park Association
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Washington Port Association
- Northwest Marine Trade Association
- Associations of counties and cities (WSAC and AWC)
- Recreation trade groups and clubs
- Farming associations
- Sister state agencies
- Legislators (state and federal)
- Boating associations

SRFB

- Regional salmon recovery organizations
- Lead entities
- Salmon fisheries enhancement groups
- Sister state agencies
- Tribes
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission
- Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Authority
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Conservation districts
- Sport fishing associations Legislators (state and federal)

Washington Invasive Species Council

- Sister state agencies
- Legislators (state and federal)
- Conservation districts
- Farming associations
- NW Power and Conservation Council

Activity 2: Recognize top ranking projects through RCO awards.

One way to build support for RCO's missions is to highlight projects in local communities. By working with our partners to arrange recognition events, we not only can showcase the local benefits of RCO's missions but also engage our partners in spreading the word.

Task 1: Create a recognition award for top ranked projects completed each year. Consider converting the big check awards to a different award for top ranked projects. Agency leadership will visit select communities to present project sponsors with public recognition. The award gives the agency a chance to promote sponsors and RCO's missions to event attendees, to the media, and to the community.

Task 2: Promote the noteworthy project designated by the RCFB and the "Wow" projects designated by the SRFB through news releases, Web postings, and social media.

Activity 3: Attend annual meetings and conferences of key partners to share RCO's missions.

Another way to engage our partners and their constituents in supporting RCO's missions is to share those missions at large gatherings, such as annual conferences and trade shows of partner organizations.

Task 1: Attend annual conferences and trade shows of key partners. Chose venues based on the trade show analysis in Appendix A or based on opportunities for exposure at the conferences.

Strategy 4: Educate the Public.

In addition to educating the public through the media and our partners, RCO will try to reach the public through the agency's Web site and social media tools and by appearing at public events. The agency has considered other methods, such as advertising campaigns, marketing events, fairs, electronic newsletters, and doesn't have the resources for those efforts.

Activity 1: Make our Web sites and publications sources of information about the benefits of RCO's missions.

To educate the public, RCO must first attract them to the Web sites. RCO will enhance its five public Web sites to better engage the public.

Task 1: Develop interactive features that engage the public, such as voting for their favorite parks, photography contests, customer surveys, changing metric charts that display number of jobs created or miles of trail completed. Share links to these interactive features with our partners.

Task 2: Incorporate more videos on our Web sites.

Activity 2: Develop social media tools to draw people to RCO's Web sites.

Task 1: Develop a facebook site or blog to highlight projects, the benefits of RCO's mission, and the work of our partners.

Activity 3: Schedule agency leaders to speak at community events.

By appearing at public celebrations, RCO has an opportunity to educate the public about the agency's missions.

Task 1: Schedule agency representatives to share RCO's missions at special communities events and large gatherings of stakeholders.

Goal 2: Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.

RCO is a small state agency, and fairly unknown. Among its clients, it has a stellar reputation. This goal is aimed at increasing the awareness of RCO and its brand as an exemplary grant agency among and beyond its core clients.

Strategy 1: Increase partners' understanding of RCO grant processes and programs.

RCO desires to work with its partners in meaningful ways. It is important for the agency to keep its partners informed of RCO activities, policy changes, and issues and to work with them collaboratively on issues.

Activity 1: Keep partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues.

Task 1: Create a director's electronic newsletter that informs partners of RCO activities and ways to participate. This would expand the director's current update to staff and would be sent to key stakeholders and posted online.

Task 2: Convert *Grant News You Can Use* into an electronic newsletter.

Task 3: Schedule regular meetings between the director and key stakeholder groups and elected officials to discussion issues and hear the latest RCO activities.

Task 4: Participate in the annual meetings and conferences of key stakeholders.

Task 5: When seeking comment from partners on policy issues, ensure adequate response time and wide distribution of information. Consider special outreach to eastern Washington.

Task 6: Educate legislators, the congressional delegation, and other elected officials about RCO's grant processes and programs by sending periodic updates and scheduled meetings.

Task 7: Continue support of agency's online grant workshops as a means of delivering information about RCO processes to partners.

Strategy 2: Ensure RCO's grant processes and programs are accessible to the public.

To help the public better understand the role of RCO, the agency needs to ensure information on its grant rounds is clear and easily understood. A second way to reach the public is to go directly to their communities. Through public appearances, RCO leadership can explain the agency's role in grant making.

Activity 1: Make our Web sites, publications, social media, and news media efforts sources of information about RCO's grant programs and processes.

Task 1: Regularly review materials to ensure they are up-to-date, easily understood by the public, and clearly explain our grant processes.

Task 2: Develop information graphics that explain the relationship between RCO and its partners (WWRC, WWRP, lead entities, regional salmon recovery organizations, etc.)

Task 3: Develop generic PowerPoint presentations and talking points about the agency and its grant processes for use by staff and board members.

Activity 2: Proactively work with project sponsors and partners to schedule community celebrations for WWRP and LWCF projects and use the opportunity to explain RCO's role in those projects.

Task 1: Develop a priority list of special events that kick off new projects and celebrate the completion of projects to attend. Proactively work with sponsors and partner organizations to promote the events.

Task 2: Develop an automatic PRISM trigger for projects nearing completion, so that celebrations can be encouraged.

Activity 3: Look for ways to share RCO information on the publications and Web sites of our partners.

Task 1: Investigate getting grant information in the grant portals of other organizations, such as those of the Washington Association of Cities and Senator Patty Murray.

Strategy 3: Strengthen agency identity.

In the recent past, RCO changed its name and created a new logo. Now is the time to strengthen the agency's identity by developing a unified look for the agency's publications and presentations.

Activity 1: Develop a unified look for agency publications, presentations and e-mail.

Task 1: Develop graphic standards and templates for agency publications, presentations, and Internet presence.

Strategy 4: Provide tools for staff to be RCO brand ambassadors

Activity 1: Ensure staff has the communications tools they need to do their jobs successfully and understand their role as RCO brand ambassadors.

Task 1: Regularly visit section meetings to discuss communications issues and query staff on needs for communications products.

Task 2: Develop template talking points for when they are at speaking engagements.

Task 3: Collect and distribute links of all news coverage of RCO programs to help staff stay informed. Distribute weekly to RCO staff and monthly to board members.

Goal 3: Strengthen RCO's internal communications.

Strategy 1: Ensure there are adequate tools to keep staff involved in and informed of agency activities.

RCO has seen a rise and then a fall of staff members and it is time to check in to ensure we have a good plan for keeping open communication with staff.

Activity 1: Survey staff about use of internal communications tools.

Task 1: Survey staff to see if the current communication tools are useful: Monthly director's report, all staff meetings, director e-mails, electronic and physical employee

suggestion boxes, Intranet site, section meetings, etc. Gauge how well agency leadership is keeping them informed of major decisions and recognizing their valuable contributions.

Activity 2: Develop routine ways for staff to stay informed and engaged in agency activities.

Task 1: Develop a plan for improving internal communications.

- Some examples mentioned by staff for communication tools they would like include creating information about long-term responsibilities for grant recipients and a tutorial on project search

Measurements

- Development of key messages for all three boards
- Increased media coverage generated by RCO outreach efforts
- Increased visits to places on the RCO Web sites targeted by social media tools
- Appearance by RCO at annual meetings and community events to share RCO's missions
- Development of products contained in this communications plan
- Improvements in ratings by RCO customers as shown in the agency customer survey

Implementation

Year 1

- Develop key messages for all boards
- Recognize top ranking projects through RCO awards.
- Director's newsletter and electronic grant newsletter
- Proactively work with project sponsors and partners to schedule community celebrations for WWRP and LWCF projects and use the opportunity to explain RCO's role in those projects.
- Look for ways to share RCO information on the publications and Web sites of our partners.
- Survey staff about use of internal communications tools.

Year 2

- Develop social media tools to draw people to RCO's Web sites.
- Update the media distribution list. Try to add blogs and other social media outlets.
- Ensure staff has the communications tools they need to do their jobs successfully and understand their role as RCO brand ambassadors.
- Develop routine ways for staff to stay informed and engaged in agency activities.

Year 3

- Develop a unified look for agency publications, presentations, and e-mail.

Ongoing

- Promote RCO's missions to the media through a combination of news releases, editorial boards, guest editorials, letters to the editor, reporters' tours, and interviews.
- Ask partners to share information with their constituents about RCO's missions.
- Recognize top ranking projects through RCO awards.
- Attend annual meetings and conferences of key partners to share RCO's missions.
- Make our Web sites and publications sources of information about the benefits of RCO's missions and sources of information about grant programs and processes.
- Schedule agency leaders to speak at community events.
- Keep partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2013-2018

WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Office

Appendix A: Assessment of RCO Participation in Conferences

RCO has goals to educate its key partners about the agency and the grant programs offered, as well as recruit more grant applicants to those programs. One of the ways RCO meets those goals is to participate in about a half dozen annual conferences of our key partners. Often RCO hosts workshops at those conferences and sets up a trade show booth.

Traditionally, RCO has attended the annual conferences of the following partners:

- Washington Recreation and Parks Association (two conferences a year)
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington State Association of Counties
- Washington State Trails Coalition

In addition to conferences sponsored by other organizations, RCO hosts a conference every other year for salmon recovery grant recipients, lead entities, and recovery organizations. The conference, which draws about 500 people, is a chance for grant recipients to share information about what types of projects are working and to learn about emerging trends.

Benefits

Participating in events important to our core clients is a great way to better understand their issues and connect with them on their home turfs. RCO benefits by generating good will with its partners for participating in their events. The conferences also give RCO a way to talk directly to future grant applicants.

Costs

RCO has not tracked the costs of participating, but absorbed them in its daily work. RCO tries to get free trade show booth space whenever possible. When not possible, booth space runs between $500-$1,000 for each event. In addition, there is travel costs for the employees staffing these events. Several years ago, RCO purchased a traveling exhibit and paid for graphics. Those graphics are now produced in-house and customized for the events.

Recommendations

As staffing has become constrained, RCO needs to take a fresh look at which annual conferences are most beneficial. The following list contains the organizations or conferences with the greatest opportunities for achieving results:

Washington Recreation and Parks Association

- Participate only by providing workshops, not with a trade show booth: In the past, visitation to the trade show booth has been minimal. It could be that many of the park and recreation professionals already are aware of RCO's grant programs and don't feel the need to stop by the booth.

  RCO is often asked to pull together panels or workshops for these conferences, which continues to be a valuable way to connect with RCO's core clients and recruit new grant applicants. To minimize staff impact, staff recommends attending only one of the two annual conferences. Also suggest attending conferences in WWRP promotion years only.

Washington Public Ports Association

- RCO is often asked to provide workshops at these annual meetings and that work should continue. Trade show booth is not essential.

Association of Washington Cities

- This annual conference is often attended by council members and mayors of cities of all sizes. Because of the turnover in these elected officials, many are new and unaware of RCO or its grant programs. Attendance at the RCO trade show booth has been frequent and well received. RCO should continue attendance at this annual conference. Opportunities to host workshops should be considered if staff time allows.

Washington State Association of Counties

- This annual conference is often attended by county commissioners. Because of the turnover in these elected officials, many are new and unaware of RCO or its grant programs. Attendance at the RCO trade show booth has been frequent and well received. RCO should continue attendance at this annual conference. Opportunities to host workshops should be considered if staff time allows.

Other

- RCO doesn't attend conferences related to salmon recovery or invasive species and should look for opportunities that would hit its core audiences in these subject matters. RCO should continue, contingent on available funding, of sponsoring the biennial Salmon Recovery Conference.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

To: Bill Chapman, Chair
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

From: Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Subject: My performance assessment for 2012

Date: August 23, 2012

This is my self-assessment for the past fiscal year (July 2011 to June 2012). I have attached RCO's 2012 GMAP document, which tracks our work plan and our performance measures, and RCO's biennial work plan. As with previous years, I will highlight some accomplishments and provide some anecdotal information to explain my assessment.

The seven priorities I set forth when I auditioned for this job in 2007 are as relevant today as they were then. A dramatic change in the context, however, was created by the recession, which resulted in less staff and funding and changed how we operate. Flat revenue projections for the coming biennium look to be a continuation of the past year, which will likely mean the role and size of government programs will continue to constrict and cause us to shed "nice to do" activities in order to maintain essential or core functions.

Here is a summary of the seven overarching priorities that I keep front and center:

1. **Fairness** – maintaining the integrity and reputation of a fair and impartial system of evaluating and selecting worthy projects for funding;
2. **Strategic Investments** – helping the boards and the agency to be leaders in making strategic investments in our natural infrastructure. Making sure that the state has a long-term look at what the conservation and recreation funding needs will be and coordinating with others to make sure we are operating strategically;
3. **Programmatic Assessment** – making sure that existing and new programs are working smoothly and addressing the pressing investment needs;
4. **Advocacy** – making sure to be a public advocate on behalf of the funding needs in recreation and conservation.
5. **Re-appropriation Rate** – addressing the problems causing a high re-appropriation rate;
6. **Coordination –** integrating the various grant programs with other state agencies' grant programs and working with the natural resources sub-cabinet to reform the way we manage our natural resources; and
7. **Puget Sound Partnership** – helping the Puget Sound Partnership succeed.

General Assessment

Much of this year has been spent streamlining our grant programs and maintaining our stellar reputation for excellent program management. We did all of this with a substantially reduced staff. The transition following the retirement of Rachael Langen to Scott Robinson as RCO's deputy director has been smooth. We used this opportunity to restructure the organization from three grant sections to two (one for each funding board) and to reduce the number of managers. The pending retirement of Steve McLellan (policy director) and the transfer of Megan Duffy (coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office) to another agency will result in more work by many in RCO. While it might look very smooth to the outside, these kinds of transitions take management time and are stressful on the organization. I hope that my efforts to be open about how we intend to fill positions or reorganize have minimized any angst.

We have all been tasked this past year with finding new and more efficient ways to do our business and to manage our programs. These economy-driven expectations will continue to play a role in my work in the coming biennium as we expect the Legislature will be faced with making further budget cuts to address the court-mandated spending for education and Congress will be faced with the potential sequestration of all of our federal pass-through funds.

The seven areas noted above have been fully integrated into the agency's plan. The 2012 work plan included other priorities deemed important for either the whole agency or for specific programs within the agency.

Despite the economy and our budget, this agency continues to perform incredible work. Here's a quick look at RCO accomplishments by the numbers:

- Distributed nearly $83 million for 893 grants across all of our programs.
- Closed one incredibly large conversion, probably the largest ever processed by the National Park Service.
- Conducted 229 inspections of completed projects.
- Recruited 87 new volunteers and renewed the appointments for another 54 to serve on our advisory committees and review/evaluation teams. These volunteers logged 598 hours of public service reviewing and evaluating our recreation and conservation grants.
- Received 688 grant applications during the year and closed 737 projects.
- Issued 1,590 grant amendments to modify, extend, or improve our projects or programs.

All in all a lot of work was done by an incredible group of staff and volunteers.

Over the past year, we've adjusted to being a smaller agency. For example, we no longer support the Biodiversity Council or the Monitoring Forum, as both of those efforts reached their sunset dates and were disbanded.

The RCO staff has shrunk from a high of 58 employees to 49 employees. Nearly 15 percent of our employees retired or moved to other jobs this year. During the same period, we hired and trained five new employees.

A result of this reduced workforce is the loss of the flexibility to do the "other duties as assigned." The loss of this staff capacity has meant saying no to "nice to do" activities. Our expertise has long been used to assist other agencies in related work (helping agencies with accessibility issues, helping with land use planning issues, inter-agency programmatic coordination, etc.) This year, we've narrowed our external activities to matters that directly relate to our programs (like involvement in the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and the inter-agency grants and loans coordination).

Capital budget funding for grants and administration is down 27 percent for the biennium from $130.5 million in the 2009-2011 biennium to $104.7 million for the 2011-2013 biennium. In addition, state general funds have been reduced by 38 percent for the 2011-2013 biennium. We also lost $3.3 million in boating funds for projects already under contract, which will affect next biennium's grant round unless remedied by the Legislature. On the positive side, we did receive an additional $10 million dollars for one of our grant programs (Family Forest Fish Passage Program), which will allow us to fund an additional 100 to 110 salmon barrier removal projects.

Given the uncertainty of future funding, we continue to discuss ways we can streamline our grant processes and maintain RCO's high quality of work and reputation. That being said, RCO staff continue to be optimistic about the future and their role in contributing to a better Washington State. That optimism makes me grateful to be their leader.

One of the ways we have streamlined is through continued improvement to the technology associated with grant and data management. We've developed tools to help grant managers be more efficient with better mapping tools and better status reporting tools. We continue to get kudos from many people who find our new Web accessible project information an incredible resource. From legislative staff to the general public, they all now have easy access to detailed information on most grant projects, including information on funding, status, milestones, photographs, maps, and other grant agreement documents.

We have streamlined our grant process for the applications coming through the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB). We converted some processes from in-person evaluations to written evaluations and some from external review to staff review. We moved from an in-person grant workshop to an online workshop as well as an online successful applicant workshop. We also converted to Webinars for our salmon grant applicants. We are using electronic status reports from grant sponsors and having PRISM generate notices and automatic messaging. We converted to distributing all of our grant documents electronically, substantially saving printing and mailing costs.

On the salmon side of the agency, we focused on finding efficiencies in lead entities, including consolidating two lead entities in the Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. We've streamlined the review panel process, relying heavily on shared documents and calendars via SharePoint. We asked one member of the review panel to be the chair, thereby reducing RCO workload. And finally, we hosted a Webinar with all the other state natural resources agencies to describe all available grants and loans for the coming year. Nearly 400 people participated in that Webinar. All of these efforts are aimed at providing exemplary service in a more frugal way. The feedback we've been receiving tells us that our grant sponsors (and potential grant sponsors) appreciate the more cost-conscious approach to

information dissemination and the professional manner in which we've conducted the electronic workshops.

We, like most state agencies, receive many public disclosure requests for massive amounts of information. Our disclosure officer (Rebecca Connolly) has streamlined our approach using state of the art software to search our records to respond to these requests. Her approach has saved us countless hours of time that otherwise would have been spent by staff searching through their e-mails and records. We also trained two other staff as back-up to Rebecca.

We successfully applied for a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to update the boat launch and moorage data on our Web site and to create a smart phone application to improve the accessibility of the information to our boating constituency.

We continue to implement improvements to our fiscal accountability flowing from several audit findings. The sponsor profile used to identify which sponsors are required to submit full cost documentation was expanded from just the salmon projects to all RCO-managed grant projects. This is our first full year of having all grants subject to this accountability effort. We have had turnover in our fiscal staff, but we have continued to focus on training our sponsors on what it means to comply with our new requirements. We did have two of our salmon sponsors (both regional fisheries enhancement groups) have serious financial issues that required many hours of staff work to hold them accountable and assure ourselves that public funds had not been inappropriately used.

We continue to focus on reducing project delays, re-appropriations, and grant management, as well as improving our grant business processes. We have asked Leslie Ryan-Connelly to implement the more strategic approach to compliance and conversions. We completed the efforts of getting all our grant manuals adopted and ready for the new grant round. We have developed an approach for updating the manuals for the next grant round and will be bringing an overview of that to RCFB this fall. Our goal is to have the salmon manual (Manual 18) updated at the December meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the manuals for the RCFB updated by January 2014. We are also in the final stages of updating Manual 19 (which governs the contracts we have with the salmon recovery regions and lead entities). I hope this manual will be finalized by late fall 2012. We finished the new operations manual (also called the Employee Handbook) due to some great work by our senior grant managers. This manual is intended to bring more consistency between decisions made by grant managers and give a better road map for the daily management of our grant programs.

All of these efforts have been done in a year that has seen budget reductions, legislative requests for information, legislative efforts to extend several councils (Invasive Species and Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group), programmatic performance audits, and several retirements. Again, our successes are a testament to the professionalism and commitment of RCO staff. However, given the pending transition in the Governor's Office, continued uncertainty about the budget in the next biennium, reduced staffing, and other down-sizing efforts, it will be important that we carefully set expectations for the coming biennium.

The Seven Priorities

Although this is my personal performance assessment, I believe RCO staff are really the ones responsible for the incredible results of this agency. The senior management team has been very helpful in carefully managing the agency budget, prioritizing policies for developing or modifying, managing our IT projects, and helping to communicate changes throughout the agency. Below is an assessment of our accomplishments in the seven priority areas.

1. Fairness

In 2010 we surveyed key participants in our grant processes to get a better understanding of how they view our processes and to ensure that those processes remain fair and impartial. We intend to conduct a survey again after the 2012 grant round is completed. As with the earlier survey, most sponsors report that they are generally satisfied with our agency and processes. We have made numerous changes this past year to address some previous comments:

- **Simplified application manuals**. We have tried to make the manuals easier to understand and added checklists when appropriate. We hope to continue to make improvements to our manuals every grant cycle. This past year we updated 13 manuals.

- **Made it easier to find information on projects**. We made incredible changes by connecting PRISM to the Web via project snapshot and simplifying PRISM screens and navigation for sponsors.

- **Made applying for grants less costly**. We focused on streamlining the grant evaluation process this year and once again allowed sponsors to attend project reviews via the Web. This has reduced the cost to sponsors. We also shifted from an in-person workshop to a Webinar, which significantly reduced travel and costs. Our focus in the coming year will be on making the electronic mapping functions much easier for staff and grant sponsors. We also intend to continue our efforts towards electronic billing.

- **Improved transparency in evaluations**. We revised the charters for our advisory committees and recruited many new members to evaluate our recreation and conservation grant applications. Information about who the evaluators are, as well as what the questions are, and how projects are scored are available for all to see on the Web.

- **Paid invoices more quickly and/or provided regular status updates**. While we didn't meet our annual target to pay bills in less than 30 days, we have lessened the time it takes to a pay them, dropping from an average of 23 days to pay in 2011 to 19 days this year. The delays often are caused by incomplete back-up materials from our sponsors. We hope that our future approach to electronic billing will be able to address that issue.

2. Strategic Investments

As with every budget cycle, RCO updated its strategic plan (as did RCFB and SRFB). Our current work plan is a biennial work plan, which will be updated before the end of the biennium next June. We are mid-way through the biennium. This is the important stage for developing our strategy for the next biennium. We are currently evaluating the grants to be awarded in the next biennium and crafting our budget proposals for the Governor (and next Governor) to

include in their proposed budgets. We continue to make strategic investments in information technology that will allow us to function more efficiently and help us meet our goals and mandates. As with previous years, requests for funding far outstrip the available resources. Our processes continue to be viewed as prioritizing the best projects to be funded.

3. Programmatic Assessment

We continue to use performance data to assess how we are doing and what factors influence our performance. I have attached a summary chart of RCO's performance measures for fiscal year 2012 and our results. As you can see (and also later in the document), we have much to celebrate, but we also have work to do. The budget and staffing reductions we have seen to date, and those that may come if the state economy continues to struggle, will impair our ability to meet all performance targets.

In addition to the performance data, we had the opportunity to assess the effectiveness of several of our programs via the following audits or efforts:

- **Federal Programmatic Audit of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund**. The result of this programmatic audit was the revision of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) priorities. We modified our 2012 grant application to fit these new priorities and will continue to work with NOAA to be as competitive as possible for these funds.

- **State review of the tribal white paper entitled "Treaty Rights at Risk."** This critical look at how we are doing with managing and protecting salmon focuses primarily on the lack of progress in stopping continued destruction of salmon habitat. The state and federal agencies are discussing the best response to this white paper. Generally, the efforts focused on restoration are viewed positively, although the need for additional funding is noted.

- **SRFB's efforts to find efficiencies in our salmon grant process.** In light of expected reductions in federal funds, the SRFB asked RCO to work with the regions and lead entities to find efficiency efforts that might reduce costs, rather than resorting to across the board cuts or reductions to project funding. This work is ongoing.

- **State Auditor's annual review of RCO.** The State Auditor found fault with the historical way in which RCO allocated the costs for administrative functions. The historical 40-60 percent split between salmon and Recreation/Conservation was found to be insufficient. As a result, RCO has changed to using an indirect rate to collect administrative costs.

- **Statewide look at all grant programs by the State Auditor.** As part of this review, some of RCO's grant management practices were identified as "best practices." The Office of Financial Management has convened a work group to develop statewide best practices guidance for all grant managing agencies. RCO fiscal staff, Mark Jarasitis and Brent Hedden, participated on the committee.

- **Security audit of Information Technology (IT).** RCO contracted with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to audit whether RCO's IT security practices met the state's security standards. This audit, which is required every three years, found RCO in full compliance with the state standards.

- **Statewide benchmark study of IT "Total Cost of Ownership."** RCO and 40 other state agencies participated in the Office of Financial Management's review of the full costs associated with IT services. For this study, agencies submitted total costs (including hardware, software, data, contract services, and staff time) and work volumes for ten IT infrastructure indicators and three IT application indicators. The findings were that Washington agencies generally spent only slightly more than the middle of the range of its peer organizations. Typically, state governments spend 15 percent more. RCO was near the middle of Washington agencies and spent 10 percent less than its mid-range peers. I will be sitting down with the auditors in the near future to discuss this audit.

In addition, RCO used several other efforts to assess changing opinions and to position itself for the future. First was the RCFB's effort to adopt an allowable uses policy. Second, is our early thinking about policies and rules that may need to be modified in response to State Parks' transformation. Third, based on our assessment of our costs, the National Park Service increased the indirect reimbursement rate for the costs of implementing the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

4. Advocacy

One of the key roles for the director is communicating with our key stakeholders, the public, and public officials. This past year, the primary communications emphasis was with our key partners and elected officials (and their staff), as well as at dedications, celebrations, and conferences. The 2012 legislative session was not a budget year, although capital funding (Jobs Bill) and the debt commission did take work on our part. We also worked to extend the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group and the Invasive Species Council (both successfully extended). We have spent a great deal of time presenting materials to our two boards to position ourselves for the coming budget cycle. Decisions on budget levels will be made in late summer. Our focus in the coming months will be educating new legislators and a new governor on our key funding programs (WWRP and salmon recovery, in particular). We also have spent (and will continue to spend) time educating our new budget advisors in the Office of Financial Management and with the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The coming year may have a performance audit conducted by the State Auditor on salmon recovery. This has taken some time in presenting our issues and process to the auditing staff. I anticipate spending significant time with all of these staff in the coming months bringing them up-to-speed on our programs.

And finally, I traveled to Washington D.C. on three separate occasions to advocate for continued funding for our programs. Since our biggest source of federal funding is for salmon recovery, much of my federal interactions are salmon related. Early in the year, we participated in an educational tour of salmon recovery projects for the Washington congressional staff in Skagit and San Juan Counties. Later in the year, I had the opportunity to participate in the White House Conference on Conservation, including informal discussions with several agency secretaries and key staff (Interior, Agriculture, EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers). I am planning a fall trip to attend the annual meeting of state agencies who implement the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Communication with Partners

I regularly meet with several of our biggest advocacy groups (Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Washington Association of Land Trusts, and the Washington Parks and Recreation Association). This year I added the Washington State Trails Coalition to my schedule, as well as the local park directors gathering (with directors from King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties). I also gave talks to the annual meetings for the Recreational Boating Association and the Washington Boating Alliance.

I continue to focus on solving project level conflicts or issues with many of our sponsors. This year, we've had several projects or organizations with high public and media attention (both positive and negative) that warranted my involvement. Examples have included Donovan Creek in Hood Canal, the unraveling of the Sound Salmon Solutions RFEG, Kai Tai Park litigation, Ellensburg school conversion, the Black River Ranch complications, and the Beaconsfield prescriptive easement litigation.

I believe one of my continuing strengths is maintaining a high level of comfort by staff, board members, and external partners about what is happening at RCO. At every board meeting, I have provided both a monthly management report and an integrated performance management report. I continue to route a monthly update to my staff, the board, and key staff in the Governor's office.

We have started gearing up for two biennial conferences: the salmon conference, which RCO sponsors, and the trails conference, on which RCO assists. The salmon conference is scheduled for May 2013 and we expect 600 attendees. The trails conference is scheduled for October 23-28, 2012, with 100 to 200 attendees expected. Sara Gage is staffing the salmon conference and Darrell Jennings is our liaison on the trails conference. Our outreach to these groups is noticed and appreciated.

I have not spent as much time this year with project sponsors and RCO staff on-the-ground looking at the incredible work being done with our grant funding. I have, however, attended some really awesome project dedications. While my focus needs to be on the higher level relationships, the nature of our business will always find me meeting local sponsors on politically sensitive or delayed projects or just to see how they can best use our staff support.

Here is a brief list of some of the dedications and celebrations I attended. This does not include the myriad of events attended by board members or staff:

- Percival Boardwalk dedication in Olympia
- Elwha Dam removal celebration near Port Angeles
- Lions Park dedication in Bremerton
- Riverfront Trail ribbon cutting in Castle Rock
- DNR's McLain Nature Trail restoration in Thurston County
- William O. Douglas Trail ribbon cutting in Yakima

- Port of Anacortes Marina ribbon cutting
- Black River Ranch acquisition celebration in Thurston County

Web site

This past year we received 216,204 visits to the Web site, which on its face appears lower than last year. We started collecting this data using new software that filters out the non-relevant hits (called "non-human" hits, such as those done by search crawlers). We have really started seeing the benefits of linking our Web site with PRISM through project snapshot. It is so much easier for the public to see the work that we do through the Web site. We have received numerous compliments from legislators and legislative staff on the snapshot feature. We also now use links to help minimize paper usage with our grant evaluators and review panels.

We also have improved the mapping functions both in PRISM and on our Web site. We expect some of these efforts to come online in the next five months. We have started work on the project to update boating information and make our data accessible by smart phones. We expect this project to be complete in late summer 2013.

We created a Web page for collecting and disseminating information on sustainability for our grant applicants. This is one of the suggestions from the RCFB following the adoption of the sustainability policy. The Web site can be found at www.rco.wa.gov/grants/sustainability.shtml.

The biennial *State of the Salmon* report is due this December. We have completely changed the way we present this report. No longer will it be a publication on paper. It will be a Web report in which the data and regional reporting function will all be funneled into RCO electronically. This is a major shift in how we collect and display data and information and should simplify data collection in the future.

Board Communication

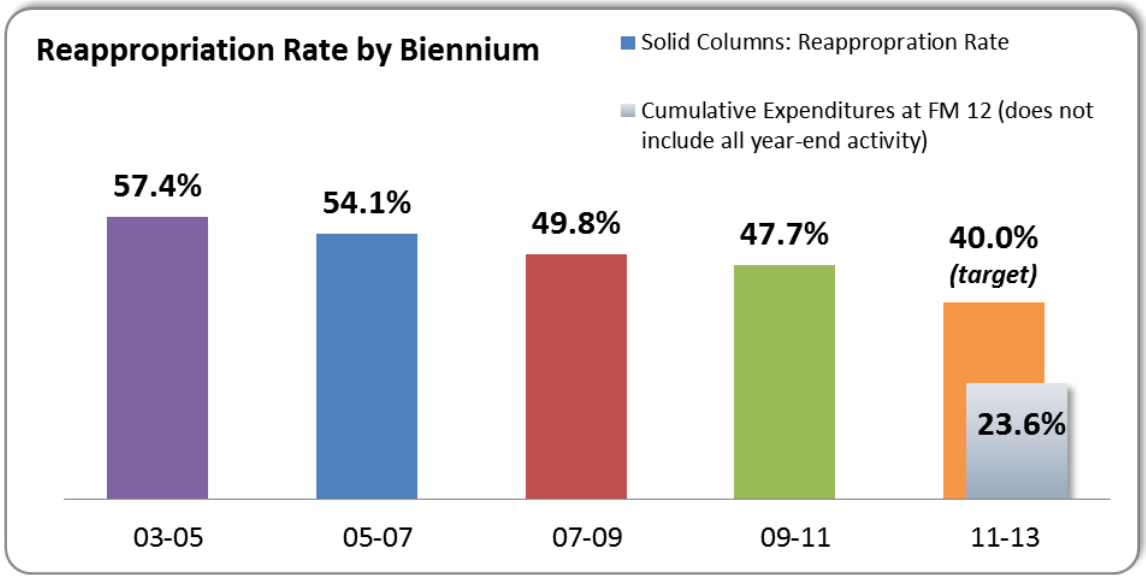
This year we welcomed several new board members: on the RCFB, the Governor appointed Ted Willhite from Twisp and the Commissioner of Public Lands designated Craig Partridge as the interim representative for DNR; on the SRFB, the Governor appointed Phil Rockefeller and the Director designated Bob Everitt to represent WDFW. We established a legislative goal to get all of our gubernatorial appointees confirmed by the Senate. We were successful in getting all RCFB members confirmed; we still have two SRFB members awaiting confirmation (Hover and Brown).

I spend direct time with all of the boards that are supported by RCO staff. We have four boards (RCFB, SRFB, Invasive Species, and the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group). Both the Invasive Species Council and the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group were extended by the Legislature, although without dedicated funding. Our challenge this coming session will be to ask for funding to maintain the Invasive Species Council and to conduct a special coordinating project for the lands group. The monitoring forum reached its sunset date and was not extended. We worked with the chair of the monitoring forum to document the accomplishments of the forum and to identify for the Governor the monitoring challenges the state faces. Some of the functions previously done by the monitoring forum will be done by RCO staff.

I attended all of the grant-making board meetings (SRFB and RCFB) and the monitoring forum. I meet (or talk) routinely with the chairs of the various boards supported by the RCO. I work closely with the chairs and staff on the development of agendas and discuss the materials prepared for the meetings. I also spend time before each meeting of the RCFB and SRFB with each member highlighting issues on the agenda and discussing various options and concerns.

5. Re-appropriation rate

The chart below shows the incredible downward trend of our re-appropriation rate. This is due in no small part to the work of our grant management staff in managing the grants to key milestones and deliverables.



We've automated status reporting and have a much better handle on projects that are languishing. Getting our sponsors to complete projects in a timely way is complicated when those agencies are reducing their workforces. We currently do not have incentives to finish projects on time, just the possibility of project termination. We have worked hard at inserting specific milestones into every contract, as a means to keep on top of projects that might lag. There are many external, complicating factors that push projects back (like federal permits and cultural resources reviews). Getting our sponsors to better anticipate the time and costs needed to get a project ready to construct is a big challenge, especially with smaller jurisdictions that might only build one boat ramp in a decade.

6. Coordination

Here are some examples of our efforts this past year to enhance our role through partnerships and related activities:

- **Cabinet coordination.** I continue to serve on the Governor's small agency cabinet and the Natural Resources Cabinet, although the latter has not met much this past year.

- **Grants and Loans coordination**. I served as the initial chair of the inter-agency Natural Resources Grants and Loans sub-committee. RCO continues to be represented by the deputy director. As mentioned earlier, RCO's fiscal staff have participated with the Office of Financial Management grants best practices committee.

- **The President's Great Outdoors Initiative.** Working with the Governor's staff we provided ideas for inclusion in the final proposal and I attended the Seattle event.

- **Western Governor's Get Out West Initiative.** We provided information to the Governor's office for inclusion in this effort.

- **White House Conference on Conservation.** I attended this event, which focused on collaborative conservation efforts around the country.

- **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Groups biennial forum.** The lands group held its annual forum in March for local governments, citizens, state agencies, legislators, and others to learn about lands that state agencies hope to buy in the 2013-15 biennium. The meeting included policy discussion on how proposed state land acquisitions will be managed over time. The lands group is planning to focus the next five years on centralizing and monitoring state land acquisition data, and making it Web-accessible, if our request for funding is accepted. The lands group is preparing to publish the second *State Land Acquisition Forecast Report* in September 2012. The report will show maps and other information about projects proposed for funding in the 2013-15.

- **Regional Open Space Strategy effort for central Puget Sound.** I serve on the executive committee for this regional effort to pull together all the various efforts on protecting open space. It is likely to be modeled on a Portland area effort (called "The Intertwine) that links all the green belts, parks, and trails.

- **Lead Entities Advisory Group's annual retreat.** RCO helped organize the annual gathering of all 27 of the salmon recovery lead entities. I participated and spoke to the group about the future of salmon recovery and funding.

- **Council of Region's efforts to hold the state agencies accountable** for salmon recovery commitments. RCO staff helped facilitate conversations between the seven regional salmon organizations and each of the state agencies to discuss accomplishments and future focus. In addition, I met with the group to outline where RCO is and what we expect to accomplish in the future.

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approach to bull trout recovery planning.** The Service is approaching the development of a recovery plan for bull trout differently than NOAA approached recovery planning for salmon. We agreed that RCO would help facilitate conversations between the Service and the regions to better integrate bull trout recovery with the bottom-up approach taken on salmon recovery.

- **Washington Recreation and Parks Association's Leadership Institute.** I agreed to moderate a panel of conservation and recreation leaders at the association's annual leadership institute. I was joined by Matt Hyde (VP REI), Mike Deller (Washington State Director Trust for Public Lands), and Ron Sims (Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council) and we had a good discussion about the future of parks and recreation funding.

- **Washington Recreation and Parks Association's Funding Summit.** I was one of the luncheon speakers at the annual Olympia meeting talking about the future of funding for parks and recreation.

7. Puget Sound Partnership

We have worked diligently to assist the Puget Sound Partnership during the past year. We continue to jointly manage back office staff, including expanding the loaned staff during some particularly trying times for the Partnership. This consortium likely will continue into the coming biennium. I should note that the consortium involves a number of key RCO staff providing services to the Partnership on a regular basis, particularly in information technology. We also continue to manage many of the funds dedicated to restoring Puget Sound and work closely with the Partnership to assure that the projects selected are linked to the *Action Agenda*. During the past biennium, RCO (through its various funding boards) funded 50 projects totaling $24.3 million in the Puget Sound basin ($17.9 million from RCO funds and $6.4 million in matching funds) and began work on phase 2 of the invasive species baseline assessment. All of these helped us implement our assignments under the Puget Sound *Action Agenda*. We worked diligently on issues needing to be included in the update to the *Action Agenda*. The two areas that were included of interest to RCO are related to invasive species and salmon recovery. I have had initial conversations with the new director of the Partnership and expect those will continue in the coming months.

Accomplishments for 2012

In my evaluation last year, I identified numerous priorities for the agency in 2012. The board emphasized the continued need for the director to focus on the core priorities listed above (fairness, strategic investments, programmatic assessments, etc.). The additional priorities and actions were noted as ambitious. I am going to focus on specific elements that reflect the core priorities:

- **Complete the operations manual** – Done

- **Streamline the application process** – Done; additional efforts will always be ongoing.

- **Adopt and implement the sustainability policy for funded projects** -- Done

- **Retain a contractor for the SCORP process** -- Done

- **Update and implement a new communications plan** – Scheduled for fall 2012

- **Development of enhanced products in PRISM**
    - Conversion/compliance module – Will be phased over several years if funding is available. Phase 1 should be done by December 2013.
    - Electronic billing – Aiming for late 2014/early 2015.
    - PSAR allotment tracking – due out this fall
    - GIS mapping – will roll out this fall as part of several other IT/PRISM products
- **Complete the work required of the lands group** – Done
- **Begin preparations for a gubernatorial transition** – Scheduled for fall 2012

The Work Plan for 2013

Working with the management team, we developed a new work plan for the entire biennium.

Here are some of the remaining deliverables for the current biennium (2011-2013) that will require my personal attention in the coming year:

- Recommend board recognition of noteworthy sustainable projects.
- Collect, integrate, and refine information for the 2012 *State of Salmon in Watersheds Report*.
- Work with salmon recovery regions to develop a data management approach for monitoring results so that information can be shared and compared.
- Retain contractor to compile information so that SCORP can be updated by June 2013.
- Update and implement communication plan.
- Further develop and design conversion/compliance module in PRISM.
- Design and begin development of electronic billing in PRISM.
- Begin preparations for a gubernatorial transition.

And finally, in addition to work plan priorities, my priorities for the coming year are:

- Continue to manage our budget in the face of the historic economic downturn.
- Maintain good working relationships with the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature on budget related matters.
- Continue to work with our key partners on fiscal issues and priorities.

- Find more efficient ways of doing business.
- Manage change while maintaining high staff morale.
- Continued focus on reducing re-appropriations.
- Strengthen alliances with other natural resource agencies.

Summary

It has been a tough year, given the economic conditions affecting the state. Despite this, RCO continues to deliver quality work and important projects all while maintaining good standing with partners. We have adopted numerous new or revised policies and issued thousands of grant agreements and amendments.

In the coming year we will continue to build on efforts started in the current year and will focus on continued efforts to find efficiencies in our processes.

Performance At A Glance, Fiscal Year 2012

Project Delivery and Delay	Target	Fiscal YTD	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	75%	**93%**	●	358 of 383 agreements were issued on time in this fiscal year. Staff has consistently exceeded this measure since fiscal year 2009.
Percent of Projects Under Agreement within 180 Days of Board Funding	95%	**93%**	●	358 of 383 agreements were signed on time in this fiscal year. This is just shy of the target, and primarily a reflection of external delays. This is consistent with performance in previous years.
Number of Projects Inspected (Post-Completion)	None	**229**	●	All of the required LWCF inspections for this fiscal year were completed by December 2011. Other programs with high numbers of inspections include WWRP, YAF, Bonds, and Boating Facilities. For all programs, this is about half of the number of inspections that were performed in previous years when the RCO benefited from summer interns who were dedicated to performing site inspections.
Progress Reports Responded to On Time	60%	**84%**	●	Staff continues to exceed the target for this measure. Sponsors submitted 976 progress reports during this fiscal year. Staff responded to 820 of them within 15 days; another 140 received a response within 27 days.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	Varies	**63**	●	The backlog target varies based on the number of projects expected to close in each month. Fiscal year 2012 ended with the same number of backlog projects it started with -- 63.
Percent of Projects in Backlog Closed within 60 days	75%	**38%**	●	The target for this measure is a stretch; actual performance is between 25% and 50%. In fiscal year 2012, 163 projects closed from the backlog, in an average of 94 days (the median number of days is 60).
Percent of Projects Closed within 120 Days of Funding End Date	70%	**59%**	●	Staff exceeded the performance target in 7 out of 12 months, but performance lagged due to other months in which the number of projects due to be closed was significant.
Percent of Projects Closed without Time Extension	50%	**63%**	●	Of the 214 projects closed on time or early in this fiscal year, 79 needed time extensions.
Percent of Projects Receiving Second or Higher Time Extension	No Target Set	**44%**	●	219 time extensions were granted during this fiscal year. Of those, 97 received their second or greater extension.
Percent of Funds Expended	23.1%	**23.5%**	●	As of the second closing of FM 12, we are slightly ahead of our stretch target for this biennium. This does not reflect the closure information for all of the year end accruals. As Fiscal continues to close June, the funds will be further spent.

Project Delivery and Delay	Target	Fiscal YTD	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	**80%**	●	This performance is a slight improvement over previous fiscal years. The percent of bills paid on time stayed very steady (80 - 85%) each month, except September -- a change from the past, which saw greater monthly fluctuation. The average days to pay this fiscal year was 19, compared to 23 in fiscal year 2011. Accurate data continues to be a challenge for this measure, however, because bills that are incomplete and/or being audited are mixed in with complete bills, thus skewing the data.
Percent of Project Sponsors Submitting Annual Bill	100%	**89%**	●	This is above the percentage in 2011 (80% of sponsors). However, in 2011, sponsors had submitted bills for 91% of the projects compared to only 87% in 2012.
Number of Grant Applications	No Target Set	**584**		This reflects applications for both SRFB and RCFB grant programs as of July 2, 2012. Based on applications in the past, we could have expected about 550 applications to the programs.

Communication and Outreach	Target	Fiscal YTD		Notes
Number of Grant Applicants	No Target Set	191		There are 126 organizations that have submitted applications in the current RCFB grant cycles. Another 83 submitted applications in the 2011 SRFB grant cycle. Some of the 209 total applicants applied in both the RCFB and SRFB programs, leaving a total of 191 applicants.
% of Grant Applicants that are New	No Target Set	5%		Of the 126 applicants to the RCFB, twelve have not sponsored an RCFB project before. There were no new sponsors for the SRFB this year.
Number of Web Visits	No Target Set	216,204	●	A switch to Google Analytics in March makes it impossible to compare the data with previous years because they use an entirely different method of counting visits and visitors. This new approach removes the influence of search engines, so we anticipate that reports of web site visits in the future will be lower than the numbers historically reported. We will continue to gauge customer use through surveys.
Calls to Invasive Species Hotline	No Target Set	67	●	The invasive species hotline received its highest number of calls yet in this fiscal year. The second, third, and fourth quarter each showed higher numbers than in the same period of fiscal year 2011. Outreach events and growing awareness may be having an effect.

Quality and Accountability	Target	Fiscal YTD		Notes
Percent of Anticipated Miles of Habitat Made Accessible to Salmon	100%	**99%**	●	About 138 miles of habitat were opened through completed projects in the fiscal year 2012.
Percent of Anticipated Acres of Habitat Protected	90%	**95%**	●	About 6200 acres of habitat were protected through completed projects in the fiscal year 2012.

Agency Administration	Target	Fiscal YTD		Notes
Annual Expectations Documents Completed by January 31	100%	77%	●	Competing priorities made it a challenge for staff to complete the expectations documents before the end of January. All expectations were ultimately completed. Eleven documents were not completed on time by four supervisors; one of these was for an employee who left the agency early in calendar year 2012.
Annual Performance Evaluations Completed by January 31	100%	78%	●	Competing priorities made it a challenge for staff to complete the evaluations before the end of January. All evaluations were ultimately completed. Ten documents were not completed on time by three supervisors.
Overall average employee satisfaction	4.00	4.23	●	This is done through a biennial survey conducted by the Department of Personnel. The highest possible score is a 5. RCO employees continue to be satisfied at work.
Overall score: evaluation provides meaningful information about performance.	4.00	4.00	●	This is done through a biennial survey conducted by the Department of Personnel. The highest possible score is a 5. RCO employees continue to find their evaluations meaningful, but there is room for improvement. The Deputy Director has assigned staff to work on it for calendar year 2013 evaluations.
Agency Ability to Provide Clear Expectations, Support, and Resources to do Work	No Target Set	3.53	●	This is done through the survey we do in lieu of WSQA. The ranking means that the agency is making good progress toward achieving the "ideal state" described in the survey. Questions are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating “no progress” and 5 indicating “solid success.”
Agency Ability to Recognize and Connect Employee Performance to Agency Goals	No Target Set	3.50	●	This is done through the survey we do in lieu of WSQA. The ranking means that the agency is making good progress toward achieving the "ideal state" described in the survey. Questions are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating “no progress” and 5 indicating “solid success.”

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
1A	**Increase the efficiency of grant processes and reduce the number and length of project delays**				
1A.1	Increase use of technology to improve grant processes and business operations	Implement electronic billing in PRISM	In progress	We continue to have design/analysis meetings. Still a lot of work to do. We are spelling out our details and questioning how we do things. Analysis continues. We are meeting with sections to flesh out some ideas and answer some questions.	FY 2013
		Upgrade fiscal & group workbenches	On Target	Critical pieces of the Fiscal and Group Workbenches have been upgraded. Remaining portions have been put on hold for other priorities.	FY 2012
1A.2	Update agency technology and improve PRISM functionality	Further develop and design conversion/compliance module in PRISM	In progress	Work reassigned, rescoping effort started in May.	FY 2013
		Improve access to GIS and PRISM data internally and externally	On Target	Meeting with business representatives on a regular basis to develop specific map products and document the map development process. Working with GeoEngineers to spatially enable the PRISM database, develop new GIS tables, and revise the editing process. GeoEngineers developing PRISM Project Search Map, Pin-the-Point Map, and Dashboard Map. Migrating to the geometry storage for SQL Server spatial queries.	FY 2012
1A.3	Review policies to streamline, reduce duplication or conflict, and align with agency goals	Review manuals for consistency with the recently approved agreement	Completed	Completed	FY 2012
1A.4	Improve grant processes	Create operations manual for grant management	Completed	Completed	FY 2012
		Streamline the application process for RCFB programs in advance of 2012 application cycle	Completed	Streamlining measures are all in place for the 2012 RCFB cycle. We will evaluate the measures in October of 2012	FY 2012
1A.5	Improve our use of project milestones and other tools to monitor project progress	Expand the use of data to set project timelines and milestones	Not Started	Continuing to calculate and provide data to staff about typical project length for use as needed.	FY 2012
		Continue development of tools to help grant management (e.g., absent progress reports)	On Target		FY 2013

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
1B	**Maintain the high quality, impartiality, and accountability of grant programs**				
1B.6	Review program policies (including evaluation criteria) to ensure that they are consistent with state priorities, federal mandates, and statutory intent	As manuals are updated, ensure policies are aligned (e.g., administration of matching funds)	Completed	Reviewed manuals that were updated this year to identify items inconsistent with the project agreement.	FY 2012 & FY 2013
1B.7	Explore use of technology to assist with project evaluations	Scope project evaluation technologies/services in time for the 2012 grant cycle.	Completed		FY 2012
1B.8	Maintain customer satisfaction with workshops and grant management	Ongoing work; note streamlining process above	see above.		Ongoing
1B.9	Expand the use of the sponsor profile for risk management purposes	Analyze the results of the fiscal monitoring program and provide recommendations for changes and process improvement	On Target	We continue to request expanded back up, tracking this on a spreadsheet. We have completed several fiscal reviews. Once we are done with more analysis, we can provide ideas for changes and improvements.	FY 2012
1B.10	Expand our outreach for the volunteer evaluation and advisory committees so that we have a broader pool of evaluators	Ongoing work; evaluator pool to be established for 2012 grant cycles	On Target	Recruitment is complete and all committees and teams needed for the 2012 RCFB grant cycle. The committees are working hard to evaluate and score projects.	FY 2012
1C	**Maintain the state's existing investment in recreation, conservation, and salmon recovery**				
1C.11	Improve RCO's ability and funding structure to support long-term grant and contract obligations	Work with boards and staff to scope potential options re: funding structure, including viability of options	Progress, but completion date delayed	Discussions with OFM begun. Also early stage discussions with key stakeholder representatives. Work to continue through fall. No package/proposal expected for 2013 session. Instead expecting to have discussion with policy/budget staff of incoming administration and continue stakeholder work over 2013 interim.	FY 2012
		Review effectiveness of the change to a biennial cycle	On Target	Data are in place to review whether change has any effect on kay agency measures.	FY 2013
1C.12	Improve compliance systems (organizational practices and structure)	Ongoing work, including addressing inspections backlog, sharing best practices, and implementing inspection agreement with LWCF. Implement self-certification approach to inspections with select sponsors	On Target	The LWCF inspections due in calendar years 2012 and 2013 have been prioritzed and are posted in Sharepopint. Staff have inspecting sites.	FY 2013
1C.13	Promote economically sustainable projects and practices	Adopt and implement sustainability policy for projects	Completed	Approved in September 2011. Expansion to other programs may be needed in future.	FY 2012

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
1C.14	Develop and refine implementation of compliance policies, including consequences and sponsor education	Respond to NPS audit recommending development of GIS-based tracking system for lands acquired with LWCF funds	Slow progress	Staff is working with IT and our contractors on GIS products to incorporate into PRISM and our online workbench. We should be ready to roll out products in the next few months.	FY 2013
1C.15	Improve the ability to map existing investments	Implement NPS recommendations for all grant programs, pending fund availability (see above)	On Target	Eight recommendations made and all are in various stages of implementation. Completed appraisal training. Currently monitoring new inspection protocols. GIS development in the works. Submitting application to NPS for compliance funding.	FY 2013
		Improve boat mapping database, pending fund availability	Moving Slowly	Developing work plan and beginning outreach.	FY 2012
1D	**Increase the efficiency of the salmon recovery local support structure**				
1D.16	Regularly review region and lead entity performance	Ongoing work that will be continued in FY 2012	On Target	Routine work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	Ongoing
1D.17	Use the operating grant agreements to improve the integration between regional salmon recovery organizations and lead entities	Managed through performance reviews	On Target	Routine work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	Ongoing
1D.18	Obtain comprehensive, annual information on operating funds from all sources available to regional and lead entity organizations	Ongoing work that will be continued in FY 2012	On Target	Routine work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	Ongoing
1D.19	Explore options to support local sponsor capacity	Completed in FY 2011	Completed		FY 2011
1D.20	Provide grant management support for the Puget Sound Partnership	Complete PSAR allotment tracking module	Completed	The module is complete. Other work to support the Partnership is ongoing.	FY 2012
2A	**Increase the state's ability to refine and implement salmon recovery plans**				
2A.21	Help regions and lead entities coordinate with salmon recovery partners	Help regions and lead entities use monitoring results to analyze the effectiveness of recovery plan actions and approaches. Redirect plan focus and actions to improve implementation. Provide policy and/or editorial support for recovery plan revisions	Moving Slowly	Jennifer Johnson has been working on tracking recovery plan implementation as part of the State of the Salmon effort and updates to HWS. It continues to move slowly as the challenges to identifying specific goals in each watershed against which to measure progress are signficant.	FY 2013

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
2A.22	Help develop strategies to secure funding for the full implementation of salmon recovery plans	Monitor performance of regional organizations as they implement finance strategies for operations and implementation. Provide help as needed.	On Target	Routine work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	FY 2013
		Help the regions to (1) identify highest priority funding strategies from the *Funding for Salmon Recovery in Washington State (March 2011)* report and (2) determine approaches and paths forward for those strategies.	Not Started		FY 2013
2A.23	Continue to integrate the Habitat Work Schedule and PRISM and associated business processes	Ongoing work that will be continued in FY 2012	On Target	Routine work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	Ongoing
2B	**Support implementation of the five priority Invasive Species Council strategy recommendations**				
2B.24	Increase public involvement in reporting invasive species	Promote reporting hotline and web site by attending outreach events and distributing materials. Produce additional outreach materials containing hotline number and web	On Target	No additional outreach events were attended in June.	FY 2013
2B.25	Expand the baseline assessment of programs and activities that address invasive species beyond Puget Sound	Seek federal grant funds to expand this project.		Work request was posted to WEBS on May 22nd with a deadline of June 29th. One proposal was received and is being reviewed.	FY 2013
2B.26	Maintain a Web clearinghouse for information	Major work completed in FY 2011			FY 2013
2B.27	Develop an early detection and rapid response network	Develop an MOU among state agencies with responsibilities for rapid response.	On Target	Projects completed: SEPA guidance. Working on feral pig outreach campaign with ID and OR and Puget Sound invasive species monitoring.	FY 2013
			On Target		
		In the Puget Sound Basin, seek funds to expand current citizen science monitoring (early detection) and reporting of invasive species.	On Target	Council meeting was on June 14th. Staff is preparing the agenda and materials for the next meeting on September 27, 2012.	
2B.28	Improve agency coordination and collaboration on Invasive Species response	Continue quarterly Council meetings.	On Target	Staff attended the Conservation Section staff meeting and reviewed the prevention field protocols.	FY 2013

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
2C	**Support the state's implementation of its Biodiversity Conservation Strategy**				
2C.29	Successfully transition the work of the Biodiversity Council to appropriate entities	Work completed in FY 2011			
2D	**Increase the environmental sustainability of grant-funded projects**				
2D.30	Develop policies for sustainable practices	Adopt and implement board policy for sustainable projects funded by RCFB	Completed	Approved in September 2011	FY 2012
2D.31	Share information and best practices with local communities, project sponsors, and state agencies	Implement board policies on sustainability through the web site and at grant workshops/webinars before 2012 grant round	Completed	Shared the boards proposed policy during the August 2011 Successful Applicant Workshop, Shared the adopted policy during the 2012 Application Webinar. Sustainability web page added to RCO's Web site. Policy added to grant program policy manuals.	FY 2012
2D.32	Help sponsors create sustainable recreational opportunities	Recommend board recognition of noteworthy sustainable projects.	On Target	Recognition plan shared with the executive team. Refining criteria for project selection. Staff will submit the first recommendations to the Board in June 2013.	FY 2013
2D.33	Educate sponsors about best practices regarding invasive species	Create an electronic training module on Council's field protocols to prevent the spread of invasive species.			FY 2012
2E	**Improve RCO's ability to measure and report progress toward achieving conservation and salmon recovery goals**				
2E.34	Improve the usability of information about salmon recovery and watershed health reported in the "State of Salmon in Watersheds" report	Collect, integrate, and refine information for the *2012 State of Salmon in Watersheds Report*. Determine reporting platform and reportable data for the 2012 report.	On Target	Drafting summary and next steps with WDOE on flow indicator. Working with WDFW on next steps for fish population indicator development after meetings with regional organizations and biologists. Ongoing coordination with agencies and regions regarding content, timelines, and data delivery process. Drafted scope of work for building reporting platform.	FY 2013
2E.35	Develop systems and metrics for tracking and reporting progress in recovery plan implementation	Develop a reporting platform and metrics for data collection and analysis re: status of local salmon recovery activities across watersheds. Work with lead entities to develop elements of the HWS to improve tracking of local recovery efforts	On Target	Identifying key metrics with partners to report in SOS and HWS. Analyzing system capabilities for reporting data from multiple sources. Completed training for users to establish initial links with the interface application features. Scoping and drafting work order for next phase: viewable metrics between HWS/PRISM.	FY 2013

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
2E.36	Help regional salmon recovery organizations coordinate monitoring and evaluation of regional progress in salmon recovery with statewide monitoring programs	Work with salmon recovery regions to develop a data management approach for monitoring results so that information can be shared and compared.	Moving Slowly	Continuing discussions with regions and lead entities which metrics to track, how to track them in HWS, and which to report in the SOS.	FY 2013
	Other Areas of Focus: Work with other agencies to coordinate measurement and progress reporting systems	Support development of Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and performance metrics.	On Target	Tracking Action Agenda update process and sub-strategy prioritization process. Coordinating with PSP and RCO staff.	FY 2013
3A	**Increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation statewide**				
3A.38	Collect, use, and share data regarding recreation	Retain contractor to compile information so that SCORP can be updated by June 2013	On Target	Pre-tested and revised general population survey. Finalizing provider survey. Developed workplan for public participation. Creating online forum. Scoping wetlands component. Developed outreach plan for GIS component. Scoping adding state trails plan.	FY 2012 & FY 2013
3A.39	Help communities provide active recreation that offers opportunities to improve physical health	Begin 2012 grant cycles.			Ongoing
3B	**Improve our ability to measure and report progress toward achieving statewide recreation goals**				
3B.40	Implement 2011-13 communication plan	Update and implement communication plan.	On Target	Arranged for director's participation in the several park ribbon cuttings, including Tacoma's Frontier Park and the Capitol Land Trust's Black River Ranch celebration. Prepared materials for the director's trip to Washington D.C. Interviewed key stakeholders for updating the agency's communication plan, as well as analyzed data on media coverage and interviewed other natural resources agencies about their use of social media.	FY 2013
		Implement communication activities outlined in RCFB work plan		The director and board members participated in a number of ribbon cuttings and other events during the	

	Objective and Strategy from 2011-13 Strategic Plan Update	Actions	Status	Notes	Due Date
Other Areas of Focus					
		Complete the work required of the Lands Group	On Target	Planning for second biennial forecast report. Preparing to update the charter and develop a new work plan.	FY 2012
		Implement the Governor's LEAN initiative	Started	Completed initial work on internet posting process and policy development process.	FY 2013
		Complete the WSQA application		It appears that this may no longer be required, per the Governor's Office, due to resource constraints.	FY 2013
		Support the Governor's Western Governor's Assoc. recreation initiative	Completed	Provided assistance to WGA coordinator. Will provide other information on request.	FY 2012 & FY 2013
		Continue to implement the consortium with the Puget Sound Partnership	Ongoing	The RCO continues to provide back office support.	Ongoing
		Implement executive order regarding performance based contracts	Ongoing	Quarterly reports are provided to the Governor's GMAP office demonstrating agency compliance.	Ongoing

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **10**

Meeting Date: October 2012

Title: Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses

Prepared By: Dominga Soliz, Policy Specialist

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This memo presents the final board subcommittee proposals on the allowable uses "grey areas" framework and programmatic policies (i.e., livestock grazing, telecommunications facilities, and tree removal) for board approval.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-21

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the proposed policies regarding allowable uses.

Background

Board Meeting, March 2012

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed its subcommittee proposals for policies related to "allowable uses" in March 2012. The policies were the result of work and discussion that started in 2011.

At the meeting in March, the board requested some adjustments to the policy language, and directed staff to submit the policies for public comment[1].

[1] The public comment drafts are included in the June 2012 board memo.

Staff posted the policies on the Recreation and Conservation Office web site and e-mailed them to interested party lists of about 8000 individuals on April 23 and 24, 2012 for a 30-day public comment period. Other outreach included sending news releases to 127 media outlets.

Public Comment and Board Revisions, June 2012

In June, staff presented the public comments received on the proposed policies and subcommittee recommendations for improving them. The board recommended that the subcommittee consider additional revisions, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Proposal	Board Recommendations in June 2012
Livestock Grazing	Require leases to be at market rate
Telecommunications Facilities	Clarify that telecommunications facilities can be attached to new or existing buildings or structures that further the outdoor recreation purposes of the grant
Tree Removal	• Use clear external standards for tree removal, such as the International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, rather than creating standards in RCO policy • Add language that indicates that while revenue may be derived from tree removal, revenue generation cannot be its sole purpose • Clarify that a park master plan is included in "site specific stewardship plan"
Allowable Uses Framework	Clarify that "all of the criteria" for the framework must be met

Following the discussion, the board said the proposal did not need another formal public comment review period. The board also requested that staff brief the board when the allowable uses procedure is used, until its use becomes routine.

Board Decision Requested

Staff is asking the board to approve the proposed policies shown in Attachment A.

Analysis

Changes to Policies Following June Board Meeting

After the June board meeting, the subcommittee finalized the proposals based on the public comments received and discussion with the board. The changes are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2

Proposal	Recommendations
Livestock grazing	• Remove the references to HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards, which reviewers considered to be out of date and unclear. • In lieu of HB 1309, require that grazing be implemented in accordance with a site-specific management plan that incorporates current laws, rules, and guidelines to protect or enhance the health of species targeted by the grant. • Require grazing management plans to include a duration and periodic renewal schedule • Add requirement that leases must be equivalent to market rate and must be managed in accordance with RCO policy on leases and concessions • Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing income use policy • Clarify the policy to state that if a request fails to meet the criteria, or is on a board-funded project site in another grant category or program, then it must be reviewed under the Allowable Uses Framework.
Telecommunications facilities	• Clarify that telecommunications facilities can be attached to new or existing buildings or structures that further the outdoor recreation purposes of the grant • Definitions of "telecommunications facility" and "antenna" should refer to the Federal Communications Commission definitions (rather than including the FCC definitions in the policy) • Add requirement that leases must be equivalent to market rate and must be managed in accordance with RCO policy on leases and concessions • Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing income use policy • Clarify the policy to state that if a telecommunications facility request fails to meet the criteria, or is on a board-funded project site in another grant category or program, then it must be reviewed under the Allowable Uses Framework.

Proposal	Recommendations

Tree removal	• Clarify that tree removal is allowed if:
	  o Tree removal is included in the project evaluation materials and project agreement, or
	  o Trees are removed to prevent potential risk to public safety, or
	  o Trees are removed in accordance with a State Parks tree assessment or an approved site-specific stewardship plan, including a park master plan, to protect or enhance forest health or the health of species targeted by the grant
	• Replace "imminent threat" with "potential risk" to public safety so that trees can be removed before the hazard is imminent.
	• Clarify that the State Park's tree assessment practice is allowed
	• Clarify that a park master plan is included in "site specific stewardship plan"
	• Use clear external standards for tree removal, such as the International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, rather than creating standards in RCO policy
	• Add language that indicates that while revenue may be derived from tree removal, revenue generation cannot be its sole purpose
	• Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing income use policy
	• Clarify the policy to state that if a tree removal request fails to meet the criteria, then it must be reviewed under the Allowable Uses Framework.

Framework	• Clarify that "all of the criteria" for the framework must be met • Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing income use policy • Clarify that the policy will not change other RCO policies such as cultural resources policies
Conveyance of a property interest	• Removed from consideration based on public comment.

Strategic Plan Link

These policies support the board's strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs. Further, the process and consideration given to public input supports the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the proposals for allowable uses of board-funded project sites that were developed and refined by the board subcommittee. The proposals are included as Attachment A.

Next Steps

If the board approves the proposals, they will be included in the policy manuals for use in the 2014 grant round. Staff also will develop a method for tracking allowable use decisions to provide staff and the board information about the facts and rationale for allowable uses decisions. Staff will continue to brief the board as the framework is used.

Attachments

Resolution 2012-21

A. Policy Proposals

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-21
Approving the Allowable Uses Policy Proposals

WHEREAS, recipients of grant funds frequently ask Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to make determinations regarding whether certain uses are permitted on grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff currently has no policy or standard practice for determining whether certain uses are permitted on grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, governing statutes and rules state that grant-funded land and facilities may not, without prior approval of the board, be converted to a use other than that for which funds were originally approved; and

WHEREAS, allowable uses of grant-funded land and facilities are distinguished from those eligible for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff have responded to these inquiries by developing proposed policies regarding allowable uses of grant-funded land and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the policies will help staff make clear, consistent, and more streamlined decisions about how to determine whether certain uses are consistent with the grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the policies are critical to ensuring that the board investments are maintained, and that the statutory intent of the programs is upheld; and

WHEREAS, these policies support the board's strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs; and

WHEREAS, the policy was published for 30-day public review, thereby supporting the board's goal to perform its work in an open manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board directs RCO staff to incorporate the policy statements in Attachment A of this memo into the applicable manuals with language that reflects the policy intent.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Attachment A – Policy Proposals

Livestock Grazing

For inclusion in Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account, for the Critical Habitat Category

Livestock grazing is allowed on funded project sites provided that the grazing does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and:

- Grazing is included in the project agreement and project evaluation materials, or
- Grazing is a continuing use of the project area.

Livestock grazing must be managed in accordance with a site-specific management plan that incorporates current laws, rules, and guidelines to protect or enhance the health of species targeted by the grant. Grazing management plans must include a duration and periodic renewal schedule.

Leases or permits issued by the grant recipient for livestock grazing are allowed in this grant category. Leases must be equivalent to market rate and managed in accordance with RCO policies on Leases and Concessions. (*Manual 7, Funded Projects.*)

Income generated on the project site must be managed in accordance with RCO policies on Income and Income Use. (*Manual 7, Funded Projects.*)

Requests for livestock grazing that do not meet the criteria in this policy or are on board-funded project sites in other grant categories or programs must be reviewed under the allowable uses framework (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*).

Telecommunications Facilities

For inclusion in Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account, for the Local Parks Category

Telecommunications facilities[1] and equipment cabinets are allowed on funded project sites provided that their placement, construction, modification, or servicing does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and all of the following criteria are satisfied:

[1] "Telecommunications facility" and "antenna" are defined by Federal Standard 1037C at http://www.its.bldrdoc.gov/fs-1037/fs-1037c.htm.

- The antenna[1] is attached to a new or existing building or structure that furthers the outdoor recreation purposes of the grant, such as a utility pole, sign, or restroom rooftop.
- The footprint of the equipment cabinet is the minimum necessary.
- The facility and equipment cabinet are placed, constructed, and modified to have the least impairments, including cumulative impairments, to outdoor recreation opportunities. Concealed or camouflaged facilities and equipment cabinets are preferred.
- Servicing does not interfere with the recreational use of the project area.
- The building or structure to which the facility is attached is not damaged by the facility.
- Facilities and equipment cabinets no longer in use or determined to be obsolete are removed within 12 months of the cessation of use.

Leases or permits issued by the grant recipient for telecommunications facilities are allowed in this grant category. Leases must be equivalent to market rate and managed in accordance with RCO policies on Leases and Concessions. (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Income generated on the project site must be managed in accordance with RCO policies on Income and Income Use. (*Manual 7, Funded Project*)

Requests for telecommunications facilities that do not meet the criteria in this policy or are on board-funded project sites in other grant categories or programs must be reviewed under the allowable uses framework (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Tree Removal

For inclusion in Manual 7, Funded Projects

Tree removal is allowed on funded project sites provided it does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and:

- Tree removal is included in the project agreement and project evaluation materials, or
- Trees are removed to prevent potential risk to public safety, or
- Trees are removed in accordance with a state parks tree assessment or an approved site-specific stewardship plan, including a park master plan, to protect or enhance forest health or the health of species targeted by the grant.

Tree removal must be managed consistently with International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) guidelines and in compliance with the Washington Forest Practices Act (Revised Code of Washington 76.09) and Forest Practices Rules (Title 222 Washington Administrative Code). While revenue may be derived from tree removal, revenue generation must not be its primary purpose.

Income generated on the project site must be managed in accordance with RCO policies on Income and Income Use. (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Requests for tree removal that do not meet the criteria in this policy must be reviewed under the allowable uses framework (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Proposed Deletion from Manual 3, Acquisition Projects

~~Compatible Uses~~

~~RCO allows non-outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or habitat conservation use of acquisition projects, such as timber management, grazing, and other natural resource uses. These uses must be:~~

> ~~Clearly compatible with the outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or~~
>
> ~~Clearly secondary to the outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or habitat conservation use approved in the project agreement~~
>
> ~~Approved by RCO in writing~~

Allowable Uses Framework

For inclusion in Manual 7, Funded Projects

RCO grants are intended to support Washington State's habitat, outdoor recreation, and salmon habitat resources. Uses of project sites must have no overall impairment to the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource funded by RCO.

To be in compliance with the grant, uses of grant-assisted project sites must be either:

A. Identified in the project agreement; OR

B. Allowed by RCO policy; OR

C. Approved by RCO or the funding board.

For the use to be approved by RCO or the funding board (Option C, above) it must meet all of the following criteria:

- The use must be consistent with the essential purposes of the grant (i.e., consistent with the grant agreement and grant program)
- All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, must have been considered and rejected on a sound basis

- The use must achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource
    - If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it also must provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource so there is no overall impairment

An approved use of a project site must continue in the way it was approved to remain in compliance with the grant. This policy does not modify other RCO policies, such as cultural resource policies.

Income generated on the project site must be managed in accordance with RCO policies on Income and Income Use. (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*).