

# Grant Summary

## FACT SHEET

### Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917  
Olympia WA 98504-0917  
Telephone: (360) 902-3000  
TTY: (360) 902-1996  
E-mail: [info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

### Who Can Apply?

- Local governments
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Tribes
- Nonprofits
- Private landowners
- Corporations

### Competitive Selection Process

The grant process varies by program but is open and competitive.

Generally, grant applications are reviewed by staff and citizen committees, who score the applications based on criteria established by the funding boards or agencies, or based on their fit to strategic plans or national priorities.

The committees submit ranked lists of projects to the funding boards or agencies for consideration.

In some cases, the boards then submit prioritized lists of projects to the Governor, Legislature, or federal agencies for approval.

## Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Support Washington's Economy

Washington State is blessed with a rich, natural heritage – from the Pacific Ocean, to the Olympic and Cascade Mountain Ranges, to forests, deserts, and lake studded landscapes. These very natural places not only provide residents and visitors with places to relax, rejuvenate, and recreate, but permanently protect these places to help preserve and drive Washington's economy, accounting for 3.5 percent of gross state product.

The national Outdoor Industry Foundation reports that Washington's active outdoor recreation:

- Contributes more than \$11.7 billion annually to Washington's economy.
- Supports 115,000 jobs across the state.
- Generates \$650 million in annual state tax revenue.
- Produces \$8.5 billion annually in retail sales and services

In addition, parks can help people stay healthy, reducing health care costs, and help reduce the costs of flooding, fires, and other natural disasters

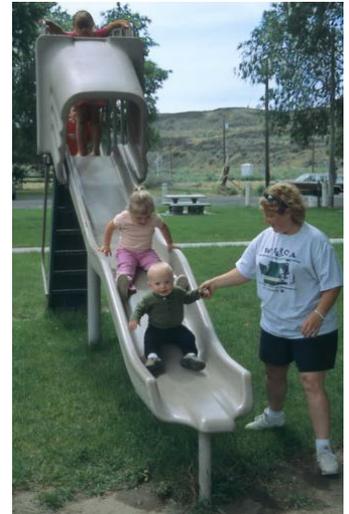
### Ensuring a Wise Investment

The Recreation and Conservation Office administers 15 different grant programs aimed at developing outdoor recreation facilities and conserving wildlife habitat and farmland.

Without this state investment in Washington's great outdoors, many local communities would not have the resources to do this important work and opportunities could be lost.

### Leveraging Outside Funding

Many of these grant programs are funded with federal dollars. Since 2005, the Recreation and Conservation Office has brought in an average of nearly \$54 million in federal funding each biennium.



The town of Wilson Creek, 30 miles north of Moses Lake, used a \$13,000 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant to renovate its community park.

### Case Studies

#### Vancouver's Park Renovation Attracts \$250 million in Investments

The City of Vancouver spent \$6 million to renovate Esther Short Park downtown. The improvements helped attract \$250 million in new capital investment, including apartments and a hotel and convention center.

#### Trail Users Spend \$45 Million

Trail users on the Methow Valley trails system report spending \$1,469 per trip, for direct expenditures of \$45 million in 2005.

People buying real estate in the valley are willing to pay more than 11 percent more for property near natural amenities such as a trail or publicly owned land.

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## INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

In addition to federal funding, Recreation and Conservation Office grants bring in local community funding as well. Most grant recipients are required to match the grant with their own resources—cash, staff labor, equipment, materials, and donations. Grant recipients have contributed more than \$950 million in matching resources.

### Providing for Recreation

#### Parks

Several grant programs provide funding for parks.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- Youth Athletic Facilities

These programs provide funding to acquire land and to renovate, build, and equip outdoor facilities, including parks, ball fields, skateboard parks, spray parks, and pools. Grants also fund projects that create access to the waterfront.

#### Trails

Trails, whether connecting urban areas or providing a backcountry experience, are funded primarily through three grant programs.

- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
- Recreational Trails Program
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

These programs provide grants to buy land, develop trails, and support trail activities, such as planning, maintenance, education, and law enforcement

#### Boating

There are several grant programs that help Washington meet the needs of boaters. These programs provide grants to acquire, develop, and renovate boating facilities for different types of boats from yachts to canoes.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Boating Facilities Program
- Boating Infrastructure Grant

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

#### Shooting Ranges

One grant program, the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation program, provides funding to support archery and firearm ranges. It provides grants to acquire, develop, and renovate firearm and archery training and practice facilities. It also funds equipment purchases, safety and environmental improvements, noise abatement, and liability insurance.

### Conserving Wildlife Habitat and Farmland

#### Conserving Habitat

There are multiple programs aimed at protecting wildlife habitat.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program



These grants allow for land purchases and restoration to help conserve unique sensitive and endangered wildlife and plant species.

#### Salmon Recovery

These programs provide grants to protect and restore salmon habitat.

- Salmon recovery
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration
- Puget Sound Critical Stock

#### Farmland Preservation

One grant program, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, provides grants to protect valuable farmland. Grants may be used to buy voluntary land preservation agreements, also called agricultural conservation easements, which ensure protection of the property for farming into the future.