

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account



FACT SHEET

Who may Apply?

- Local governments
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Tribes

Types of Projects Funded

- Land acquisition
- Development
- Restoration

Funding

Funding comes from the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) management of 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic land. The DNR generates revenue through activities such as leasing sites for marinas, public ports, restaurants, utilities, and aquaculture, and selling harvest rights for shellfish.

Leveraging State Dollars

Grant recipients must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources.

Aquatic Lands Defined

Aquatic lands lie at the bottom of navigable water bodies, such as Puget Sound and the Columbia River, and include the surrounding shore lands, harbor areas, and tidelands.

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Opening Washington's Shorelines to the Public

Most beaches and shorelines in Washington are privately owned – only one-fifth of the state's shorelines are open to the public.

Yet, water activities are the fifth most popular outdoor activity for Washingtonians.¹ That means that all too often, people must crowd onto the few public beaches or wait in long lines at public boat launches.

Crowding and over use can damage the natural environment, causing us to "love to death" the few places open to the public.

Purpose

In 1984, the Washington Legislature created the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) to buy and develop places where people can enjoy the waterfront. The account also ensures that revenue generated from the use of state-owned aquatic lands is re-invested to protect and improve those lands.

Protecting and Improving our Shorelines

ALEA grants may be used for acquiring, restoring, or improving aquatic lands for public purposes. The grants also may be used to provide or improve interpretation and public access to those lands and associated waters.

Contributing to the Economy

Washington's aquatic lands are rich in natural resources and have great commercial, recreational, and aesthetic value.

People participating in water activities, including boating, fishing, and shellfishing, spend \$8 billion in Washington on equipment, travel, lodging, entrance fees, food, and other related items.² Conserving and re-investing in shorelines will ensure a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and great places for Washingtonians to recreate.



Burien used a \$466,000 ALEA grant to renovate this popular waterfront park.



Boaters crowd the beach at Quilomene Bar near Ellensburg.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Fact Sheet

INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Funding Only the Best Projects

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications for ALEA projects in even-numbered years. Committees made of up people knowledgeable in aquatic lands issues score the projects based on criteria established by the board and submit a ranked list to the board for consideration. The grant process is open and competitive, ensuring only the best projects are funded. The board submits a prioritized list of projects to the Governor and Legislature for funding.

Grant Recipients (1985-2015)

Aberdeen	Lacey
Adopt-A-Beach	Lake Forest Park
Anacortes	Lake Stevens
Anderson Island Park District	Leavenworth
Bainbridge Island	Lewis County
Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District	Long Beach
Bellingham	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Blaine	Makah Tribe
Bothell	Manson Park and Recreation District
Bremerton	Marysville
Brewster	Mason County
Burien	Medical Lake
Cashmere	Mercer Island
Castle Rock	Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma
Cathlamet	Monroe
Chelan	Mount Vernon
Cheney	Mountlake Terrace
Clallam County	Mukilteo
Clark County	Normandy Park
Cusick	North Mason School District
Douglas County	Okanogan
Edmonds	Okanogan County
Everett	Olympia
Everson	Pacific County
Federal Way	Pend Oreille Conservation District
Ferndale	Peninsula College
Gig Harbor	Pierce County
Grays Harbor County	Port Angeles
Ilwaco	Port of Anacortes
Island County	Port of Bremerton
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Port of Brownsville
Jefferson County	Port of Centralia
Kent	Port of Hoodspport
Kettle Falls	Port of Kennewick
Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	Port of Klickitat
King County	Port of Manchester
King County Conservation District	Port of Peninsula
Kirkland	Port of Port Townsend
Kitsap County	Port of Seattle
La Conner	Port of Silverdale



The City of Tacoma used a \$455,000 ALEA grant to to build a landscaped trail to the beach and restore the intertidal area.

Port of Skamania	Steilacoom
Port of South Whidbey Island	Stevens County
Port of Waterman	Sultan
Port of Willapa Harbor	Swinomish Tribe
Port Townsend	Tacoma
Poulsbo	Thurston County
Prosser	Thurston Regional Planning Council
Quileute Tribe	Tonasket
Raymond	Tukwila
Renton	Tulalip Tribes
Sacheen Lake Sewer and Water District	University of Washington
San Juan County	Vancouver
San Juan County Land Bank	Vashon Park District
Seattle	Washougal
Selah	Westport
Skagit County	Whatcom County
Skagit County Dike District 12	Whitman County
Snohomish County	Woodinville
South Bend	Yakima County
South Puget Sound Community College	State Departments of
Spokane	Ecology
Spokane County	Fish and Wildlife
Spokane County Conservation District	Natural Resources
	Transportation
	State Parks and Recreation Commission

¹Amanda C. Ritchie et al., "Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan," Responsive Management, Harrisonburg, VA, May 2013, pp. 160-165.

²Tania Briceno and Greg Schundler, "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State," Earth Economics, Tacoma, WA, January 2015, pp. 69-70.