

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account



FACT SHEET

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Who can Apply?

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

Types of Projects Funded

- Acquisition
- Development
- Restoration

Funding

Funding comes from money raised by the state Department of Natural Resources as it manages the state's 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands. The agency raises money through activities such as leasing waterfront sites for marinas, public ports, log storage, restaurants, aquaculture, and selling harvest rights for geoducks and other shellfish.

Leveraging State Dollars

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

Providing Access to Washington's Shorelines

For Washingtonians, water is all around us – whether we call the Puget Sound home or we visit the many rivers and lakes in Eastern Washington. Water activities are the sixth most popular outdoor activities for people living in the state.

Most beaches and shorelines are privately owned

Yet, all too often, people must crowd onto the few beaches open to the public and wait in long lines to launch their boats at public launches. Only one-fifth of the state's shorelines are open to the public. Crowding and over use can damage the natural environment, causing us to "love to death" the few places open to the public.

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 money generated from the use of state-owned aquatic lands was used to protect and improve those lands.

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.

Protecting and Improving our Shorelines

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



Children enjoy the beach at Seahurst Park. Burien has received 11 grants, including two ALEA grants, to develop and later 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

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

A national report noted that active outdoor recreation contributes more than \$11.7 billion annually to Washington's economy, supports 115,000 jobs across the state, and generates \$650 million in annual state tax revenue and \$8.5 billion annually in retail sales and services across Washington.

Conserving and re-investing in our shorelines will ensure a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and great places for Washingtonians to recreate.

Funding Only the Best Projects

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications for ALEA projects every two years, in even-numbered years. Citizen evaluation committees made of up individuals 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 (1985-2011)

Anderson Island Park District
Bainbridge Island
Bainbridge Island Park District
Bellingham
Burien
Castle Rock
Cheney
Clallam County
Clark County
Cusick
Entiat
Everett
Gig Harbor
Island County
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Jefferson County
Kent
Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District
King County
King County Conservation District
Kirkland
Kitsap County
Lake Forest Park
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Makah Tribe

Manson Park and Recreation District
Mason County
Medical Lake
Mercer Island
Mount Vernon
Mukilteo
North Mason School District
Olympia
Pacific County
Pend Oreille Conservation District
Peninsula College
Port Angeles
Port of Anacortes
Port of Bremerton
Port of Brownsville
Port of Kennewick
Port of Seattle
Port of Silverdale
Port of Whitman County
Port Townsend
Poulsbo
Quileute Tribe
San Juan County
San Juan County Land Bank
Seattle

Skagit County Dike District #12
Snohomish County
Spokane
Sultan
Swinomish Tribe
Tacoma
Thurston County
Tukwila
Tulalip Tribes
Vancouver
Vashon Park District
Washougal
Whatcom County
Woodinville

State Agencies

Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation
State Parks and Recreation Commission



The City of Tacoma used a \$455,000 ALEA grant to build a landscaped shoreline trail to the beach, restore the shoreline intertidal area to provide additional habitat, and construct an entrance gate to the Chinese Garden and Reconciliation Park on Commencement Bay.