

Schedule Change: Recreation and Conservation Grants Offered Every Other Year

Starting in 2012, RCO will accept applications for grants administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board only in even-numbered years, to improve efficiency for grant applicants and staff. Those grants are:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) including farmland preservation

RCO does not plan to solicit applications for Boating Activities Program or Youth Athletic Facilities projects, because no funding exists.

The board administers 10 grant programs, and in the past, applicants submitted grant requests annually for some and every other year for others. RCO commissioned studies in 2008 and 2009 that looked at ways to improve business processes, and both studies recommended offering grants biennially. RCO's assessment and comments from the public determined that biennial grants would be less time consuming for applicants, volunteer evaluators, and staff. Although applications will be accepted every other year, RCO will award grants generally at the beginning of the state fiscal year (July 1) in odd-numbered years.

The director may offer supplemental grant rounds when funding levels or other circumstances warrant such an action.

To apply for BFP, LWCF, NOVA, or WWRP grants, applicants must establish planning eligibility by March 1, 2012. Learn more about RCO's [planning requirements](#).

Evaluation Criteria Changes for Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board modified one of the Land and Water Conservation Fund evaluation questions. RCO staff had asked the board to reduce the points available for the Applicant Compliance question because it didn't have enough information to score the question with a high degree of confidence. An applicant could

get up to 5 points for demonstrating “good grant stewardship.” The newly adopted question deducts up to two points if the applicant is “out of compliance” with the terms of any RCO agreement. RCO staff will use the revised question for scoring applications due May 2. The revised evaluation question is included on page 32 of the [LWCF manual](#), updated in April.

Grant Limits Increase for Two Grant Programs

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board increased grant limits for the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation program and the Recreational Trails Program.

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation grants are used to acquire or develop firearm and archery facilities for training and recreational use. The board recognized that capital improvement, permitting, and costs for assessing impacts to cultural resources are increasing. After considering public comment on this proposal, the board, at its March 31 meeting, increased the grant limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000. This change is effective immediately and is reflected in some of the 2011 grant proposals.

Recreational Trails Program provides grants for development and maintenance of trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Grants also are used for educational activities related to backcountry recreation. The board raised the grant limit from \$75,000 to \$150,000, recognizing that the existing grant limits might hamper maintenance activities during a two-year period and don't provide enough money for some capital improvement projects. In 2012 applicants may request up to \$150,000 for development or maintenance projects. The board did not specifically address increasing the limit for education projects. RCO staff plans to ask the board (at its upcoming June meeting) to consider increasing the limit for education projects. Currently, the maximum grant limit is \$10,000.

New Members Appointed to the Funding Boards

Governor Chris Gregoire has appointed Elizabeth “Betsy” Bloomfield, Yakima, and Peter Mayer, Vancouver, to serve on the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. She also reappointed Bill Chapman, Mercer Island as the board's chair.

The Governor also appointed Okanogan County Commissioner Donald “Bud” Hover to chair the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Josh Brown, Kitsap County, as a board member. [Read More](#).

Report Pegs Cost of State and Regional Salmon Recovery

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office has just released a report that estimates the cost of salmon recovery for the next decade. The report, from Evergreen Funding Consultants, reviews the funding strategy for salmon recovery that has evolved since the

first listings of Washington salmon stocks under the Endangered Species Act in the late 1990s and the more recent development of recovery plans. The report estimated the costs of salmon recovery, the funding available, and the need to address gaps in funding. The consultants estimated the regional costs for salmon recovery from 2010-2019 at \$5.5 billion, with \$4.7 billion in capital costs and nearly \$800 million in non-capital costs. Read the full [funding report](#).

Statewide Vendor Program

There is a transition underway to a single vendor code for payments received from the entire State of Washington. The vendor code is the way that the state processes all of its payments. Previously each agency could establish their own vendor codes as well as use the Office of Financial Management's statewide vendor codes. That meant that some organizations doing business with Washington might have to fill out a different form and keep track of a different code for each agency they did business with. Effective May 1, agencies will not establish their own vendor codes for payments, but will use the statewide vendor codes.

All of RCO's existing vendor codes will be transitioned to statewide vendor codes, and will be available for other state agencies to use. If your organization already has an established vendor code with RCO or a statewide vendor code, this change will not be a major issue. If a new vendor code is required, the Office of Financial Management will establish the codes.

Did You Miss the Successful Applicant Workshops?

Salmon staff hosted two online Successful Applicant Workshops in April. All grant recipients were invited to attend. If you missed the training, you can still see the PowerPoint.

Expanded Monitoring for All RCO Grants in Place

In an effort to meet federal and state auditing requirements, RCO has changed the amount of documentation that grant recipients will submit with their bills. Grant recipients are assigned a category. The category determines the amount of documentation that must be submitted with each bill.

All grant recipients have been alerted to their classification. If you have questions about your classification, please contact your grant manager. For information about the current process, please see this [Questions and Answers document](#) and [presentation](#).