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August 30, 2006

TO: IAC Committee Members

FROM: Laura Johnson, Director

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SUBJECT: **Item #9. Legislative Issues**

2006 Legislative Assignments

The 2006 Legislature gave IAC the following projects and programs:

- Administration of Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program grant funds;
- Administration of the Invasive Species Council;
- Recommendations for an ORV noise education and enforcement program and a possible grant program to assist local governments in reducing ORV noise impacts;
- Development of approaches to local and regional park level-of-service standards;
- Preparation of cost estimates for creation of a database of motorized and nonmotorized off-road trails and facilities in Washington State; and
- Administration of a Youth Athletic Facility donor matching program.

Table 1 summarizes each assignment and provides a current status report.

Looking Towards the 2007 Session

Name change. Stakeholder outreach for the IAC name change has been completed and the request package will be submitted to the Governor's office on or before the September 29 deadline. The Governor's decision on agency request bills is expected by the end of November, after which IAC staff will begin soliciting sponsors for a late December or early January submission.

Budget. The 2007 budget will include operating and capital funds for the 2007-09 biennium. This will include appropriations for each of the IAC and SRFB grant programs, the Monitoring Forum, Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council, and any IAC budget decision packages that are approved by OFM for inclusion in the Governor's budget. In addition, the 2007 Legislature must approve the lists of proposed ALEA and WWRP projects.

Although at this time IAC staff is not anticipating any additional IAC request legislation, there are currently a number of proposals being discussed that could affect IAC programs:

Boating issues. Boating organizations may again be seeking to remove the 5-cent "cap" on fuel tax revenues attributed to recreational boating*. One proposal that is being discussed would remove this cap and allocate half of the additional revenues to local boating safety enforcement programs.

Farmland preservation. Several organizations are discussing possible legislation to help preserve farmland in Washington. How these proposals will relate to the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program is currently not clear, but staff will continue to work with these organizations and the affected state agencies to ensure any new programs are coordinated.

Local park funding. The results of the IAC's Recreation Level of Service Study may provide a basis for legislators to seek increased funding for local parks. This could come in the form of legislation or appropriations in the budget, or both.

ORV Noise. The results of IAC's ORV Noise Education and Enforcement Study may lead to legislation and budget appropriations to implement the recommendations in the study, including possible changes in the NOVA grant program.

Trails database. The results of the Trails Database Feasibility Study may lead to legislation and budget appropriations for IAC to go ahead and develop the database.

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* Currently the state tax on gas sold to recreational boaters at the gas pump is later refunded to the boater if requested, with the remainder appropriated to IAC for the Boating Facilities Program, less 5 cents on each gallon, which is transferred back to the motor vehicle fund.

Projects and Programs Assigned to IAC by the 2006 Legislature

Project or Program	Citation	Summary	Status as of August 31, 2006
Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program	Sec. 155, C 371 L 06	IAC will administer the Hood Canal Aquatic Rehabilitation Program grant funds with the Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT). $1 M was appropriated to this program for grants.	PSAT and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council have agreed on a list of five priority projects that address Hood Canal water quality. Staff is currently working with PSAT to get the projects under contract.
Invasive Species Council	C 152 L 06	The new Invasive Species Council will help coordinate the state's approach to combating invasive species and will develop and implement a statewide invasive species strategic plan. Membership includes representatives from six state agencies, two counties, and four (nonvoting) federal agencies. $100,000 was made available for the second year of the biennium.	The first meeting of the council is anticipated to be in October. Twenty-five people applied for the position of ISC Coordinator and an offer is pending. State agencies are in the process of designating representatives to sit on the council.
ORV Noise Education and Enforcement Study	Sec. 170(2), C 371 L 06	Develop recommendations for an ORV noise education and enforcement program and a possible grant program to assist local governments in reducing ORV noise impacts. NOVA funds were made available for this.	Adolphson Associates, Inc. has been awarded the contract to undertake this study. They are partnering with Geomatrix, a firm that specializes in environmental noise measurement.
Recreation Level of Service Standards	Sec. 228, C 371 L 06	Develop of approaches to local and regional park level-of-service standards. YAF funds were made available for this project.	EDAW, Inc. has been awarded the contract to undertake this study.
Trails Database Feasibility Study	Sec. 170(1), C 371 L 06	Prepare cost estimates for creation of a database of motorized and nonmotorized off-road trails and facilities in Washington. NOVA grant funds were made available for this.	Three proposals for this contract were received on August 18th. Members of the NOVA advisory committee, IAC and DNR staff are currently reviewing the proposals.
YAF Contribution Matching Program	Sec. 172, C 371 L 06	Administration of a Youth Athletic Facility donor matching program. $2.5 M was appropriated to provide a state match to private donations.	IAC staff has met with legislators and staff to learn more about the legislative intent of this program. Staff is beginning the process to contract with a professional fundraiser to assist with a major donor strategy.