



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

September 2008

Item #6: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Process Overview and Framework

Prepared By: Jim Fox, Special Assistant
Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager

Presented By: Jim Fox, Special Assistant

Approved by the Director:

Proposed Action: Briefing

Summary

At its September meeting, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) will be asked to adopt the ranked lists of projects for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). Per RCW 79A.15, the Board must submit these lists to the Governor by November 1, 2008. This memo summarizes the WWRP grants process and outlines the decisions that the Board must make.

Background

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants are made to state and local government bodies, tribes, and in the riparian category, lead entities. The project sponsors use the funds to purchase, develop, renovate, and/or restore parks, open space, farmland, and habitat areas.

The state legislature appropriates funds for the WWRP in the capital budget. The Board uses the formula set in statute to divide the funds between the Outdoor Recreation Account (ORA), Habitat Conservation Account (HCA), Riparian Protection Account (RPA), and the Farmland Preservation Account (FPA). The law also sets the formulae



for dividing the funds between categories within the accounts. More information is in Attachment A, Allocation of WWRP Funds.

Application and Evaluation Process

Announcement of WWRP Grant Cycle

In October 2007, RCO staff began notifying potential applicants about the grants that would be offered in 2008. In January 2008, staff distributed announcements about the grants offered and announced the dates for the grant information workshops. Staff posted the announcement on the RCO web site and sent it to more than 6,000 individuals, agencies, and organizations.

Application Workshops

In February 2008, staff conducted five identical grant workshops in various locations around the state. At the workshops, staff described the application, review, and evaluation processes, answered questions, and distributed computer disks that contained grant program policy manuals, application materials, program schedules, and instructions for using PRISM to submit project proposals. More than 460 individuals attended these workshops.

Grant Manager Site Visits

In the spring, outdoor grant managers met with applicants to review potential projects and discuss grant program requirements.

Application Deadline

The RCO received 370 WWRP applications requesting more than \$272 million by the May 1, 2008 deadline.

Review by Grant Managers

Following the application deadline, RCO staff reviewed each application. They sent a list to each project sponsor to show which application items were incomplete, along with a schedule of key deadlines. Staff also attempted to visit sites they had not seen before. During these visits, staff met with applicants to discuss project eligibility, the technical merits of a proposal, and other issues.

Project Review Meetings

RCO staff and a team of experienced and/or expert volunteers held 18 WWRP project review meetings in June and July. These meetings gave applicants an opportunity to present their projects and receive feedback on the merits of the proposal and suggestions about ways to refine the project scope, design, cost estimates, and graphics. Staff recommended that applicants use this opportunity, but participation in a project review meeting was optional.

Most applicants revised their grant proposals based on comments and recommendations made during the project review meeting. All changes were completed by the technical completion deadline, which varied by category. Between the application deadline and the project evaluation meetings, 99 projects were withdrawn by applicants or terminated by RCO staff because the projects were ineligible or missed established deadlines.

Project Evaluation Meetings

In June, July, and August, volunteer teams evaluated 271 WWRP projects. The evaluation teams included federal, state, and local agency representatives, citizens, scientific experts, and representatives of organizations interested in parks, recreation, and habitat conservation. A separate team evaluated each WWRP category. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked farmland preservation projects.

Applicants had between 20-30 minutes, depending on the category, to present their project, respond to the evaluation criteria, and answer evaluators' questions. Every evaluator scored the project for each criterion. After all presentations, staff tabulated the overall scores for each project and prepared ranked lists of projects for each category.

Post Evaluation Conferences

Staff reconvened the teams a few days after the project evaluation meetings to share the tabulated results and review the evaluation process. Attachment B, Post Evaluation Summaries, provides additional information on evaluators' assessment of the process, the criteria, and the results.

Next Steps

The Board is required to approve ranked lists of WWRP projects for each of the eleven funding categories and submit the lists to the Governor no later than November 1. This notebook includes a preliminary ranked list of projects for each WWRP category and a brief summary of each proposal. At the meeting, staff will present the top two ranked project proposals in each category.

RCW 79A.15.110 requires state and local agencies to review proposed acquisitions with the county or city legislative authority that has jurisdiction over the project area¹. The local legislative body may submit a letter to the Board stating its position about the project. The RCO received seven such letters, and has provided them as Attachment

¹ A state or local agency shall review the proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the board identifying the authority's position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under RCW [79A.15.120](#), [79A.15.060](#), and [79A.15.070](#).

C. The Board is required to make the letters received available to the Governor and Legislature.

After receiving public testimony, the Board will consider approval of the eleven ranked lists for submission to the Governor.

WWRP Alternates

Current policy states that the Board will submit alternate projects for each account. The alternates must total 50 percent of the dollar amount requested for each account, with no fewer than six alternates in each category. To help ensure an adequate list of alternates, staff recommends that the Board submit the complete ranked list of approved projects.

Board Recommendation

At the June 2008 meeting, Board members directed RCO staff to request \$100 million for WWRP for the next biennium. Staff has already submitted a capital budget request for \$100 million and will forward the final project lists, including alternates, to the Governor by November 1. The ranked lists will be accompanied by a description of each project and any required matching funds, as well as letters of support or opposition received from local legislative bodies.

Legislative Approval

The Governor submits the list of WWRP projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. The Governor may remove projects from the list but cannot add or re-order the list. The 2009 Legislature will set the WWRP appropriation and approve the list of projects in the capital budget. The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the Governor, but cannot add or re-order the list.

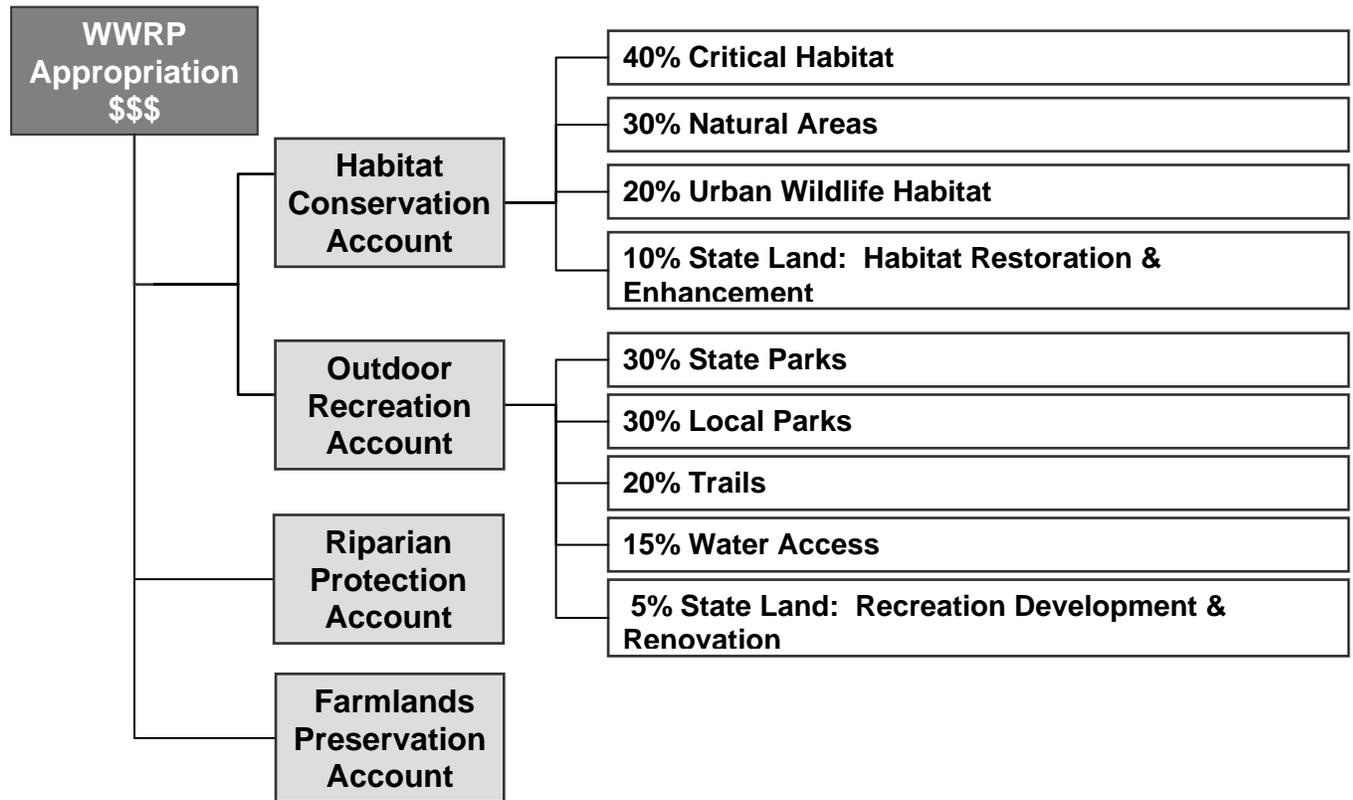
Final Approval

The Board will make final approval and funding decisions at its July 2009 meeting. Until the WWRP appropriation is known, it is difficult to predict exactly which projects will receive funding approval. For example, statute requires that some categories allocate a specific percentage of the funds in that category for acquisition projects, which may result in skipping higher-ranked development projects to meet the acquisition requirement. All parties are cautioned to not consider the September lists to be final.

Attachments

- A. Allocation of WWRP Funds
- B. Post Evaluation Conferences
- C. City/County Legislative Review Letters
- D. General Letters of Support

Attachment A: Allocation of WWRP Funds



WWRP Appropriation \$\$\$	Under \$40 million	\$40 - \$50 million	Over \$50 million
Habitat Conservation Account	50%	\$20M + 10% of amount over \$40M	\$21M + 30% of amount over \$50M
Outdoor Recreation Account	50%	\$20M + 10% of amount over \$40M	\$21M + 30% of amount over \$50M
Riparian Protection Account	0%	40% of amount over \$40M	\$4M + 30% of amount over \$50M
Farmlands Preservation Account	0%	40% of amount over \$40M	\$4M + 10% of amount over \$50M

Attachment B: Post Evaluation Conferences

Recreation and Conservation Office staff conducts two post-evaluation conferences—meetings with staff and evaluators. The first is held immediately after the evaluation meeting, and the second is held a few days later when tabulated rankings are available for review. These conferences allow staff and evaluators to discuss the evaluation process, criteria, and results. Evaluators give feedback at the meetings and through written comments that they submit at their convenience.

This year, about half of the evaluators scored WWRP projects for the first time. The evaluators made many positive comments about the openness of the process, the quality of the projects and presentations, and their desire to see as many of the projects funded as is possible. Team members also expressed their thanks for having had the opportunity to be part of the Board's project selection process, and most volunteered to serve as reviewers and evaluators in the future.

Process

The evaluation teams for the WWRP habitat projects were composed of knowledgeable professionals who have a good blend of experience and expertise in natural resources protection. The individuals who evaluated WWRP outdoor recreation projects were selected for their expertise related to local land use issues, park and recreation resource management, and resource protection, as well as their specific experience associated with the various funding categories. The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, which evaluated the farmland projects, was composed primarily of farmers and people working in the agricultural sector from around the state.

Before the evaluations, staff distributed evaluation packets to each team member and conducted a criteria review session for each evaluation team. The session included an overview of the application and evaluation process, information on the responsibilities of the applicant and the evaluators, and instructions for scoring project proposals.

Criteria

At each post evaluation conference, staff asked evaluators for feedback on the evaluation criteria used for each category.

- Criteria for WWRP habitat and riparian categories focus on the quality of the habitat, the species protected, the long-term manageability or viability of the habitat area, threats to the habitat and species, on-going stewardship, public benefits, project support, and public use.
- Criteria for outdoor recreation projects focus on the need for additional recreational facilities, state and local priorities, design, site suitability, threats to the availability of recreational sites, diversity of recreational opportunities, trail connectivity, water access, project support, cost efficiencies, and more.

Evaluators suggested that the Board clarify some of the criteria to make it easier for applicants to present the information needed for scoring. Staff will conduct criteria review sessions with constituents to address some of the recommended revisions. Any substantive changes will be submitted to the Board for approval before the next grant round. Examples of the post evaluation comments, concerns, or suggestions on criteria include the following.

Habitat Conservation Account

Applicants provide a list of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species for each project. The list shows the state, federal, or local status and tells how the site is used. Evaluators would like to ensure that knowledgeable professionals review the list for accuracy. They also want better data about whether the species of concern are found on the properties proposed for acquisition or if they are just in the project area. This information would help evaluators score the “species and communities with special status” criterion.

State Lands Development

- a. Evaluators recommended that the Board delete the performance measure criteria or merge it with the measurable benefits question to make it more meaningful.
- b. Evaluators recommended breaking the “need” criterion into multiple questions that would make it easier for evaluators to score each project.

Trails

- a. Evaluators stated that the “water access and scenic values” criterion does not appear to meet the legislative intent. This was originally two separate questions. Evaluators thought that the new combined wording made it appear that views of the water are the only scenic value to consider. This criterion and its explanation need modification.
- b. Evaluators noted that the “wildlife habitat connectivity” question is a challenge for applicants and evaluators. The team would like to see if there is a better question to address this statutory requirement.

State Parks

State Parks staff made several post-evaluation revisions to the ranked list, suggesting that the newly adopted evaluation instrument does not adequately address key priorities. State Parks may need to ask the Board to modify the instrument so that the criteria address key priorities such as urgency and matching resources.

Local Parks

Evaluators struggled with scoring the “immediacy of threat” criterion, particularly when an applicant already had purchased the property under a waiver of retroactivity. The concern is the difficulty in scoring these projects puts them at a disadvantage compared to development projects, which are scored on design, rather than immediacy of threat

and site suitability. Evaluators in other categories, such as trails and water access, also have raised this issue in the past.

Various Concerns or Comments

1. Applicants and evaluators gave positive responses about the new process that gave applicants an uninterrupted block of time to present their project, followed by time for questions from evaluators. It was easier for applicants to present the complete proposal and cover the criteria within the allotted time and reduced redundancy and minimized the number of follow-up questions.
2. Evaluators were concerned about a project whenever it appeared that it is being constructed or built primarily for a special group or organization (e.g., sailing club, soccer association, boys or girls club, etc.).
3. Evaluators are concerned about local ordinances that do not appear to adequately protect shorelines, wetlands, and other critical areas.
4. The “farmland preservation” category does not have enough projects to use anticipated funds.
5. Applicants sometimes submit projects that are eligible in more than one WWRP category. Choosing the right category to give a project a competitive edge can be challenging. Applicants and staff are looking for ways to better categorize projects and enhance each project’s opportunity for funding success.
6. There are concerns about whether applicants are meeting the intent of the law to provide city-county legislative authority review of proposed acquisitions. Staff will look at developing better procedures to ensure this is adequately addressed.
7. Concerns and challenges with matching one RCFB grant against another.
 - a. Meeting the ten percent non-state, non-federal match is proving to be a mathematical challenge. Clarifying the policy could reduce some of the anxiety and frustration of applicants.
 - b. Evaluators expressed concern about whether this policy helps to leverage investments in natural resources, or simply provides match for another state or federal source.
 - c. There was also a concern about grant requests intended to supplant a previously certified match from a previously received RCO grant.

Results

Evaluation results for the various WWRP categories were generally consistent with how evaluators anticipated the projects would rank. Individual evaluators were occasionally surprised about where a project ranked, but the reasons behind the scores often became clear during the post-evaluation conference.

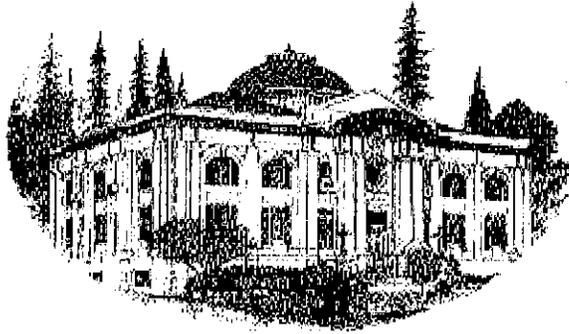
PACIFIC COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners

Jon Kaino
District #1

Norman "Bud" Cuffel
District #2

Clay Harwood
District #3



PACIFIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE
National Historic Site

Commissioners Office/ Meeting Room
1216 W. Robert Bush Drive
P.O. Box 187
South Bend, WA 98586
knoren@co.pacific.wa.us

Willapa Harbor Area – (360) 875-9337
Peninsula Area – (360) 642-9337
Naselle – (360) 484-7337
North Cove Area – (360) 267-8337
FAX – (360) 875-9335
TDD – (360) 875-9400

**WWRP Natural Areas
Rank #5
Bone River & Niawaikum River
NAPs 2008**

July 22, 2008

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Washington State Recreation and Conservation:

The Board of Pacific County Commissioners are respectfully submitting this letter of objection in accordance with RCW 79A.15.110 with regards to the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) grant application to fund land acquisitions in the Bone River and Niawaikum River Natural Area Preserves (NAP's) located within Pacific County.

While the proposed acquisitions are within the existing expansion boundaries of the NAP's, the Board strongly feels that assurances given during that boundary setting process have not been fulfilled. Primary among these concerns is the fact that even after nearly twenty years, a permanent management plan has yet to be written and adopted for these lands. Due to that fact, these lands continue to have very limited public access despite the original promise that the management plan would accommodate low impact public uses. In fact, only 17 of 81 NAP's and NRCA's statewide currently have permanent management plans and lands continue to be added at a faster rate than plans are being written and adopted.

In addition, the continual purchases of private lands for preservation purposes in Pacific County have contributed to a significant erosion of our property tax base and especially our timber revenue, leading to a massive tax shift to our remaining private property owners. Just fifteen years ago, timber revenue comprised approximately 30% of the County's General Fund revenue while property taxes comprised about 25%. Today, timber revenue comprises less than 10% while property tax revenue exceeds 40%. While NAP's are not the sole culprit, they are a major contributor to this trend.

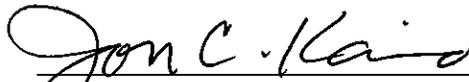
The Board has grave concerns that the proliferation of public land acquisitions will eventually lead to revenue impacts that will threaten the very survival of our county. It should also be pointed out that many of these same impacts are being felt by the fire districts, hospitals, schools, and other public service districts in Pacific County that rely on these revenues to provide their services.

We understand that the DNR is obligated to provide payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to counties impacted by these acquisitions and that discussions are currently underway to determine an appropriate formula for these payments. While we are encouraged by these actions, any successful formula must address county revenue losses of the forest excise tax these lands generate, as that amount is generally five to ten times more than the property tax revenue generated.

Until these critical issues are addressed, the Board of County Commissioners of Pacific County strongly oppose the placement of any additional lands within our County into preservation status.

Sincerely,

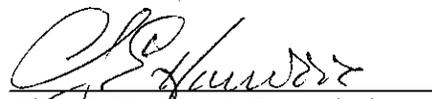
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON



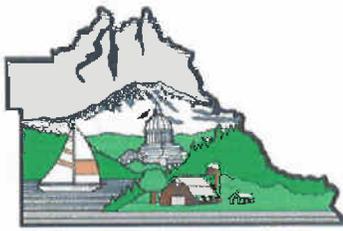
Jon C. Kaino, Chairman



Norman B. Cuffel, Commissioner



Clay E. Harwood, Commissioner



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JUL 23 2008

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Cathy Wolfe
 District One
 Diane Oberquell
 District Two
 Robert N. Macleod
 District Three

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 21, 2008

Recreation and Conservation Office
 PO Box 40917
 Olympia WA 98504-0917

**WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat
 Rank #2 - Woodard Bay NRCA 2008**
**WWRP Riparian Protection
 Rank #5 - Woodard Bay NRCA
 Riparian 2008**

Re: RCO Project #'s 08-1187A and 08-1188A

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for a grant application being submitted for funding by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for land acquisitions at the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA).

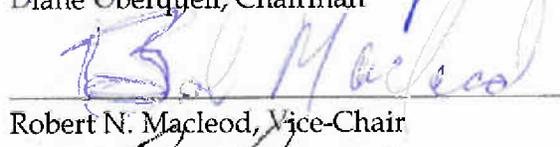
We highly value the preservation of the current area. This wildlife sanctuary protects the marine shoreline, wetlands, and mature second growth forest as well as providing habitat for shorebirds and songbirds, harbor seals, river otters, bald eagles and one of the most significant heron rookeries in the state. Its history ranges from Native American inhabitants to early European settlement of southern Puget Sound through the logging era.

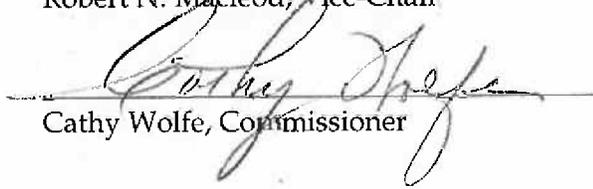
The acquisition of the proposed additional lands would provide for expanded and more consistent boundaries for the natural habitat by removing "islands" located within the vicinity that are in private ownership. This would also increase its natural habitat value. Additionally, we feel it is important to consider that the current owners of the proposed parcels are willing to sell their properties to enhance this area.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. Please feel free to contact our office (360) 786-5440 or tcbooc@co.thurston.wa.us should you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,


 Diane Oberquell, Chairman


 Robert N. Macleod, Vice-Chair


 Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner

Cc: Mark Swartout, Natural Resources Program Manager
 Building #1, Room 269, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, Washington 98502-6045 (360) 786-5440
 T.D.D. (360) 754-2933



Recycled Paper

Tony Delgado
District No. 1

Merrill J. Ott
District No. 2

Malcolm Friedman
District No. 3



Polly Coleman
Clerk of the Board

Nettie Winders
Assistant Clerk

Stevens County Commissioners

215 South Oak St, Room #214, Colville, WA 99114-2861
Phone: 509-684-3751 Fax: 509-684-8310 TTY: 800-833-6388
Email: Commissioners@co.stevens.wa.us

**WWRP Riparian Protection
Rank #16
Colville River Valley Riparian**

June 9, 2008

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: WWRP Application 08-1517

Dear Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Stevens County Commissioners support the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in its plans to acquire and restore riparian habitat along the Colville River. Specifically, we support the project because it will:

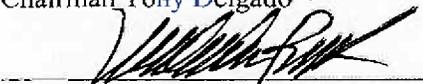
- provide the only public access to the Colville River for fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, etc.;
- provide an opportunity to restore riparian and instream habitat along the Colville River, increasing and improving groundwater recharge and storage;
- provide opportunity for partner-building between the county and state to implement educational projects that promote cooperation and best-management practices; and,
- protect important Stevens County Critical Area habitat including unique, high quality cottonwood galleries and riparian habitat.

We urge you to positively review and support this project for funding. If you have any questions, please contact us at (509) 684-3751 or commissioners@co.stevens.wa.us.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Chairman Tony Delgado


Commissioner Malcolm Friedman


Commissioner Merrill J. Ott

BOCC:pc

cc: Sandy Dotts, WDFW (at PO Box 350, Colville, WA 99114)



FRANKLIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT E. KOCH
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Fred H. Bowen
County Administrator

Patricia L. Shulls
Executive Secretary

Rosie H. Runney
Human Resources Director

June 16, 2008

Rocky Ross, Manager
Sunnyside/Snake River Wildlife Area Complex
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
1820 Road 60
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for the informative presentation on June 11, 2008, regarding the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's (WDFW) interest in possibly purchasing acreage from Mesa Lake Investments.

One major concern of WDFW's acquisition of this property is the loss of water rights. But in an effort to provide access to the public for recreational activities, we support the WDFW purchase of the property, should it become available.

We understand no guarantees can be made, but ask that efforts to preserve water rights be taken and hope the property will be managed largely as a recreation area.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Robert E. Koch
Chairman



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHELAN COUNTY

STATE OF WASHINGTON
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 400 DOUGLAS STREET, SUITE #201
 WENATCHEE, WA 98801
 PHONE (509) 667-6215 FAX (509) 667-6599

CATHY MULHALL
 County Administrator
 cathy.mulhall@co.chelan.wa.us

JANET K. MERZ
 Clerk of the Board
 junct.merz@co.chelan.wa.us

January 28, 2008

Mr. Dennis Beich, Regional Director
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 1550 Alder Street NW
 Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

**WWRP Critical Habitat
 Rank #11
 Stemilt Basin Phase 1**

Dear Mr. Beich,

Chelan County supports the WDFW request for \$207,000 in legislative funds to be used to secure properties in the upper Stemilt Basin of Chelan County.

The County established the Stemilt Partnership last year to evaluate land management and ownership strategies in the Stemilt and Squilchuck basins in response to a land exchange proposed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Many organizations are actively participating in the Stemilt Partnership, including WDFW, local irrigation districts, growers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trust for Public Land, recreational interests, and private landowners. The Partnership is currently developing a conceptual plan and implementation strategy for this area.

While the planning process is still underway, we understand the importance of securing selected properties in the area during the planning process and do not feel that these efforts would jeopardize the planning process.

If you have any questions concerning our support for this request, please contact Commissioner Ron Walter at (509) 667-6215.

Sincerely,

The Chelan County Board of Commissioners

RON WALTER - 1st District
 ron.walter@co.chelan.wa.us

KEITH W. GOEHNER - 2nd District
 keith.goehner@co.chelan.wa.us

BUELL HAWKINS - 3rd District
 buell.hawkins@co.chelan.wa.us



Pend Oreille County

Board of Commissioners

Dean Cummings
District #1

Laura Merrill
District #2

Ken Oliver
District #3

Chris Mylar
Clerk of the Board

(509) 447-4119
FAX: (509) 447-0595

Post Office Box 5025
Newport, WA 99156-5025

E-mail: commissioners@pendoreille.org

June 24, 2008

Mr. John Andrews
2315 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566

**WWRP Critical Habitat
Rank #1
West Branch Little Spokane River
Phase II**

Dear Mr. Andrews:

We, the Pend Oreille County Commissioners, support the Washington State Department of Fish and Game's acquisition of the remaining 1700 acres in southern Pend Oreille County known as Rustler's Gulch.

We believe the fish and Game Department is the ideal steward of this approximately 3000 acre parcel because a very significant portion of it is wetlands.

Our support is conditioned on the property remaining open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding.

Respectfully,

Ken Oliver, Chairman

Laura Merrill, Vice-Chairman

Dean Cummings, Member

BOCC/cm

From: "Walla Walla County Commissioners" <wwcocommissioners@co.walla-walla.wa.us>
To: "Dave Karl" <karl@DFW.WA.GOV>
Date: 07/07/2008 3:19:33 PM
Subject: RE: Drumheller property acquisition

RE: WWRP Critical Habitat Category 08-1518A - Expanded Project
Description - Touchet River Phase 2

Per your presentation to the Board of County Commissioners during an open, public session of the Board this date, please accept this email as a formalization of their support of the above referenced, as expressed to you during today's meeting.

If you need something else as a show of support of this proposal, please advise immediately.

Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Walla Walla County, WA 99362
509/524-2505
cvinti@co.walla-walla.wa.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Karl [mailto:karl@DFW.WA.GOV]
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 9:58 AM
To: Connie Vinti
Subject: Drumheller property acquisition

Connie,
Hi, I am currently working on a second phase of a project in Walla Walla County to secure a grant through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The grant is a critical habitat grant to purchase the Drumheller property located 14 miles north of the town of Touchet. In 2006, WDFW successfully secured a portion of the funding needed to purchase the Drumheller property through a WWRP Riparian grant for \$461,000. Kevin Robinette, WDFW Region 1 Wildlife Program Manager, and WDFW Lands staff met with commissioners Greg Tompkins and Dave Carey back in 2006 to provide information and discuss purchasing the property.

A requirement of the grant application is to retain some city and or county review. I thought since it was Phase 2 to purchase the same property, that the original review with the County Commissioners would be acceptable. I was mistaken, and the deadline is today! I don't know if you can help me, but I'd really appreciate it if you can arrange a brief meeting with Dave Carey or Greg Tompkins to help fulfil this grant requirement. I know it is last minute, so if not, that's the way it goes - I appreciate your time.

Thanks,
Dave Karl

Dave Karl
WDFW Watershed Steward, Snake Region
PO Box 456



Celebrating 65 years of

Dedication to youth & sports

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Dear Board Members,

Now celebrating 65 years of dedication to sports and civic betterment in Tacoma and Pierce County, the Tacoma Athletic Commission hereby goes on record in support of the Cirque Park Development in University Place.

The TAC was formed in 1943 as the Tacoma War Athletic Commission to provide sports and recreation equipment and opportunities for the servicemen stationed at nearby Fort Lewis and McChord AFB. Following the war the TAC decided to remain active and assist local schools, parks and recreation departments, boys and girls clubs and other sports organizations in a similar capacity.

That was almost five millions dollars ago. Among the many recipients of funds in Pierce County has been the University Place Parks and Recreation Department. The TAC has every intention of continuing to support the programs in University Place through the application process and recommendations of the TAC Finance Committee.

Clearly the Cirque Park project addresses the concerns of the TAC in terms of meeting the sports and fitness needs of our community. Upon request the TAC is a candidate for further funds to meet the demands of those activities designed to meet diminishing opportunities and fewer places to play.

The 300 members of the Tacoma Athletic Commission salute the city of University Place for pressing forward to meet their goals and provide for our youth.

Sincerely,



Doug McArthur
Executive Director, Tacoma Athletic Commission



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

3715 Bridgeport Way West .Suite B-1Phone
University Place WA 98466 4456

(253) 566 5656- Fax (253) 566-5658
city_hall@cityofup.com

April 21, 2008

Washington State Recreation and
Conservation Funding Board

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is in regards to the University Place Youth Council and their support of the City of University Place Parks and Recreation commitment to promote fitness, physical activity and a place to play. The University Place Youth Council (UPYC) feels that improvements to Cirque Park would be beneficial to the University Place Community. The UPYC would also be willing to do what is necessary to support the needed improvements

The University Place Youth Council (UPYC) is a group of teenage volunteers from University Place whose mission is "to make a difference" The UPYC actively volunteers in events and programs around the city. They also envision the proposed improvements of Cirque Park as falling in alignment with our mission. Youth Council realizes that Cirque Park is a focal point of recreation for our Community in which various recreation programs and events take place. The UPYC currently coordinates programs and events at the park. Necessary improvements would increase the quality of our current programs, as well as allowing us to create more opportunities for future programming Cirque Park is a great site and the UPYC supports all efforts to improve the role that Cirque Park plays in the community.

The UPYC would also be eager to pledge at least two-hundred volunteer hours to support improvement projects at Cirque Park. We currently have over thirty members and would be excited to participate in building projects and fundraising efforts.

The UPYC would like to thank you for your time and consideration as we look forward to improving the City of University Place for programs, events and our community.

Sincerely,

Brason Alexander
Recreation Supervisor
Parks, and Recreation, City of UP

Ashley Knutsen
President
University Place Youth Council

Office of Community Services

Mayor Ron Lucas



June 24th 2008

Recreation & Conservation Office
Washington Wildlife Recreation Program

Re: Support Statement for Cirque Park- Development

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board:

The Town of Steilacoom Community Services Department has partnered with The City of University Place Parks and Recreation Department to enhance our sports leagues. The partnership has allowed the Town of Steilacoom to extend the opportunity to a wider range of youth. The growth and upgrades of parks within The City of University Place and Town of Steilacoom are essential for long lasting positive activities for our citizens. We look forward to building the partnership with our neighboring City of University Place.

Thank you,

Marcus Rogers
Town of Steilacoom
Recreation Assistant
Summer Concerts Coordinator
253-983-2052