Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

2011-2013 Projects Ranked by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board provides leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

**Goals**

- We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

- We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

- We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

**Board Members**

**Citizen Members**
- Bill Chapman, chair, Mercer Island Department of Natural Resources
- Elizabeth Bloomfield, Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission
- Steven Drew, Olympia Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Pete Mayer, Vancouver
- Harriet Spanel, Bellingham

**Agencies**
- Department of Natural Resources
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Introduction

The 2011-2013 Grant Competition

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) is a state grant program that directs money raised from the use of state-owned aquatic lands to protect, restore, and provide access to those very lands.

The grant program is administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. In preparation for the 2011-2013 budget, the board solicited applications and received 27 proposals requesting more than $10 million in funding. The applicants pledged more than $15 million in matching resources.

A citizen panel with expertise in recreation and conservation evaluated and ranked the applications and submitted a ranked list to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for consideration. The board reviewed the ranked list and in November 2010 submitted it to Governor Chris Gregoire for funding consideration. What follows is the ranked list and descriptions of the projects submitted to the Governor.

Background

Washington’s aquatic lands are rich in natural resources and also have great commercial, recreational, and aesthetic value. Simply described, aquatic lands lie at the bottom of navigable water bodies, such as Puget Sound and many of Washington’s major rivers, and include the surrounding shore lands, harbor areas, and tidelands.

In 1984, the Washington Legislature created ALEA to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources manages the state’s 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands and raises revenue through activities such as leasing waterfront sites and selling harvest rights for geoduck clams. Some of this revenue is designated for ALEA grants, which may be used for the acquisition, restoration, or improvement of
aquatic lands for public purposes, and to provide and improve public access to those lands and associated waters.

A range of organizations may apply for the grants: Local governments, tribes, and state agencies. Applicants must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources.

**Accomplishments**

In 2003, management of the grant program was transferred from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Since then, the board has awarded more than $20 million in grants for 51 projects in 19 of the state’s 39 counties. Grant recipients have contributed more than $28 million in matching resources, bringing the total investment to more than $49 million.
## Board Approved Funding List

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<th>Rank</th>
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$10,586,008  $15,330,047  $25,916,055
Project Descriptions
(In rank order)

**Island County**

**Grant Request: $1 million**

**Protecting Barnum Point**

Island County will use this grant to buy 49 acres of Barnum Point on Camano Island to conserve important salmon habitat. The purchase of the point is part of a larger project to protect 120 acres of forested shoreline. On Island County, about 80 percent of the shoreline is owned privately, which often means the shoreline has bulkheads, docks, and water quality issues. The property owners of the 49 acres are trying to sell the land, which is zoned for 12 homes. Barnum Point is adjacent to 7,100 acres of protected land and includes a forest, a bluff that supplies sediment to Port Susan Bay for salmon habitat, .5 mile of shoreline, and habitat near the shoreline that is used by all eight species of salmon that spawn in the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers. Ultimately, Barnum Point will be managed as a county park. Island County will contribute $1.2 million from private and state grants. (10-1438)

**Spokane**

**Grant Request: $1 million**

**Purchasing the YMCA Site to Open Views of the Spokane River Falls**

The Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy .8 acre in the heart of the city's Riverfront Park to open views of the majestic river falls. On the land sits a 46-year-old YMCA building, which the city plans to demolish. The Spokane parks department purchased the land in 2009 with advance approval from the Recreation and Conservation Office, and this grant will reimburse the city for its purchase. More than 2.5 million people visit the park annually. This location on the Spokane falls has been a gathering place for humans since time immemorial. Spokane will contribute nearly $4.4 million in cash and conservation futures. (10-1497)

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1 Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
Grant Request: $500,000

Restoring and Protecting the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy nearly 20 acres of shoreline and adjacent uplands and to remove creosoted material from a pier at the mouth of Chapman Bay. This work is part of a larger effort to protect a large complex of shoreline habitats and plants and animals through the Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Area in Henderson Inlet in southern Puget Sound. The Legislature designated the conservation area in 1987 to protect the area and to provide opportunities for public use and environmental education. The site includes the former Weyerhaeuser South Bay Log Dump that operated from the 1920s until the 1980s. The department will contribute $500,000 from a state grant. (10-1116)

Anderson Island Park and Recreation District  
Grant Request: $1 million

Protecting Jacob’s Point on Anderson Island

The Anderson Island Park and Recreation District will use this grant to buy 82 acres on Jacob’s Point on Anderson Island in southern Puget Sound. The land is on a peninsula separating East Oro Bay from Oro Bay and includes about .6 mile of pristine beach. The site, which includes tidelands, wetlands, and forests, will be open to the public and include 1.5 miles of trail, picnic areas, and access to the beach for non-motorized boats. The shoreline of Jacob’s Point supports a diverse array of fish, birds, and mammals. Oro Bay is one of the closest pocket estuaries to the Nisqually River and provides significant rearing potential for Chinook salmon. The park district will contribute nearly $1.3 million in conservation futures and a state grant. (10-1317)

Poulsbo  
Grant Request: $460,000

Expanding Poulsbo’s Fish Park

Poulsbo will use this grant to buy 12.3 acres along the eastern shore of the Liberty Bay estuary, protecting the entire estuary and providing public access. The land will connect Dogfish Creek, which runs through the property, to the estuary, and will allow the city to extend an interpretive trail through this natural oasis in the middle of Poulsbo. The city also will demolish a home site, restore shoreline habitat, enhance waterfront buffers, and add parking, trails, two viewing

2 Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.
platforms, benches, and interpretive signs. Poulsbo will contribute $487,462 in cash and donations of equipment, labor, land, and materials. (10-1337)

**Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Grant Request: $200,000**

**Restoring Beebe Springs and Providing Access**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve access to the Columbia River shoreline and enhance habitat. Work will include grading a trail, removing an old orchard road and culvert, extending a loop trail along the Columbia River shoreline, and adding three viewpoints, benches, and interpretive signs. These developments compliment restoration of 3 acres of riparian and wetland habitat along the Columbia River and shrub steppe habitat. This phase of the Beebe Springs project will extend .3 mile up river from previous phases to complete access and habitat restoration on the Columbia River portion of the site. When this phase is complete, more than 1 mile of Columbia River shoreline will have been restored to native habitats encompassing about 60 acres. The department will contribute $200,000 from a state grant. (10-1626)

**Mason County**

**Grant Request: $450,000**

**Conserving the North Bay and Coulter Creek Estuary**

Mason County will use this grant to buy 50 acres at the head of North Bay between Allyn and Victor. The land includes about 18 acres of forest, .5 mile of shoreline on Puget Sound and Coulter Creek, and 32 acres of wetlands, tidelands, and mud flats. Coulter Creek and its estuary host a state fish hatchery supporting the recovery of salmon. Future development of the property could include a boardwalk and forested trail to a water viewpoint, environmental education and historical interpretation kiosks, and a small parking area with a restroom. The majority of the property will be left undisturbed. Partners include Overton and Associates, Allyn Business Association, Port of Allyn, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Taylor Shellfish. The County will contribute $550,000 in cash, staff labor, other grant funding, and donated land. This grant is from the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Acct program. (10-1060)

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Grant Request: $351,052**

**Building a Boardwalk in Lake Sammamish State Park**

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will use this grant to develop an interpretive boardwalk along the spine of the Sunset Beach Spit in Lake Sammamish State Park. Crews also will restore nearly an acre of beach and lawn areas, replant a portion of the bank along Issaquah Creek, and install large trees with root wads along the lakeshore near the mouth
of Issaquah Creek. Restoration of stream banks at the mouth of Issaquah Creek is a high priority for salmon restoration in the area. Volunteers will assist with restoration planting. State Parks will contribute $351,052 from a state grant. (10-1383)

**Mount Vernon**

**Grant Request: $500,000**

**Building a Shoreline Boardwalk**

Mount Vernon will use this grant to replace a parking lot with a 24-foot-wide, decorative concrete walkway along the Skagit River. This phase of the Mount Vernon River Walk will allow the city to face its most beautiful natural asset – the great Skagit River – the third largest river on the West Coast. The trail will extend .3 mile south from the Division Bridge to Mount Vernon's city center. The boardwalk will offer expansive views of the Skagit River and historic downtown. Interpretive signs related to the river will be placed along the trail. This phase of the Mount Vernon Skagit River Walk Trail is the next section in the city’s most significant trail system. This project has strong community involvement and support amongst citizens, public officials, and key city leaders, including Senator Patty Murray and the Governor’s Office, which have financially supported the project. Mount Vernon will contribute more than $1 million in cash and a state grant. (10-1590)

**Swinomish Tribe**

**Grant Request: $280,150**

**Expanding and Restoring Swadabs Waterfront Park**

The Swinomish Tribe will use this grant to expand and develop the 4.5-acre Swadabs Waterfront Park by adding parking, restrooms, a picnic shelter, an interpretive trail, a launch for kayaks and canoes, native landscaping, and an environmental learning and play area. The waterfront park is along the Swinomish Channel, across from La Conner’s waterfront. The park development is integrated with a restoration project being completed nearby, and together, they will restore 4.6 acres of salt marsh along Swinomish Channel. The tribe will contribute $280,150 from a state grant. (10-1580)

**Entiat**

**Grant Request: $500,000**

**Re-developing the Lake Entiat Shoreline**

Entiat will use this grant to re-develop about 6 acres along the Columbia River and Lake Entiat. This project will include design, permitting, and construction of 1 mile of trail along the shoreline as well as restoration of habitat along the shoreline. The trail will connect to others to create a network of 6 miles of trails. Crews also will install trail lighting, benches, and trash cans,
and build a parking lot, access road, and a restroom. The City will contribute $500,000 from local and state grants. (10-1041)

**Mason County**

**Grant Request: $709,450**

**Acquiring Sunset Bluff and Beach**

Mason County will use this grant to buy 36.5 acres along Oakland Bay to protect the forest, wetland, beach, bluff, and tidelands. The acquisition will play a pivotal role in conserving habitat and increasing public access to the water. The bluff-backed beach does not have a bulkhead or armoring and has many native trees and shrubs, which provide shade and organic material for fish and other animals that live in the bay. The Squaxin Island Tribe, Capitol Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, Taylor Shellfish, and Mason County are interested in seeing this property developed as a park allowing low-impact recreation and in preserving the natural shoreline. People for Puget Sound will restore the shoreline and control invasive plants. The county will contribute $709,450 in staff labor; grants from local, private, and state sources; and donations of labor and materials. (10-1062)

**Port Angeles**

**Grant Request: $302,400**

**Developing a Waterfront Park**

Port Angeles will use this grant to develop a 3-acre park downtown on the waterfront. Work will include extending the Olympic Discovery bike trail, installing informational kiosks, and developing an open area for activities such as kite flying, picnicking, and dog walking. The park will serve as the western anchor to the .4-mile-long development extending from Hollywood Beach to the Valley Creek Estuary. This site has long been seen as an environmentally and culturally significant area. Located near the ferry terminal with service to Victoria, B.C., the area is an international gateway for visitors to both the city and state. The City will contribute $302,400 from a local grant. (10-1618)

**Port of Skamania**

**Grant Request: $333,945**

**Building a New Waterfront Trail and Beach Access in Stevenson**

The Port of Skamania will use this grant to build a new waterfront trail and beach access to the Columbia River in the city of Stevenson. The new trail will connect to two interpretive trails – the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. Those trails have a dozen interpretive signs and informational kiosks and link to major facilities including the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center museum, Skamania Lodge, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Forest Service Center, Skamania County Fairgrounds, several public
parks, Stevenson Landing Pier, public parking, three public restrooms, and several public art installations. Stevenson and Skamania County have a tourism-based economy and Stevenson is one of the few places in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area where the downtown retail area is on the river. The Port will contribute $334,000 in cash, a local grant, and donated materials. (10-1463)

**Chelan**

**Grant Request: $500,000**

**Restoring the Don Morse Park Beach**

The Chelan Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to restore a portion of the beach in Don Morse Park. This project is the first phase in a larger effort to restore nearly one-quarter mile of beach in the park. Crews will build a drift sill that provides erosion protection, create a pea gravel beach that will be more stable and require minimal maintenance, plant native vegetation along the shore to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and lay a crushed rock path from the parking lot to the water. In preparation, crews will demolish two docks that are safety hazards. The City also will plant native plants above the marina. Future phases will add three drift sills and restore the remaining beach. Chelan's population swells from 4,000 to more than 20,000 in summer. Currently residents and visitors are cut off from Lake Chelan by private development and a lack of beaches. The City will contribute $500,000 in cash. (10-1211)

**Clallam County**

**Grant Request: $112,500**

**Upgrading the Dungeness Landing Pier**

Clallam County Park and Fair Building will use this grant to renovate a pier and provide educational material at Dungeness Landing County Park, which is about 7 miles north of Sequim. The pier was the former site a shellfish processing building and retail outlet. Crews have demolished the building and with this grant will dismantle a portion of the pier that is unstable, remove some pilings and replace others, construct a rail around the remaining pier, add a new surface, and install educational signs. The pier has been closed to the public. Once renovated, the pier will give people a place to watch Dungeness Bay wildlife, harvest crabs or fish at high tide, and enjoy the experience of being above the water. Dungeness Landing County Park is 5.6 acres, with 13 acres of tidelands, and is on the Great Washington State Birding Trail. The County will contribute $112,500. (10-1347)
**Port of Silverdale**

**Grant Request: $220,221**

**Protecting Silverdale Wetlands and Buying Land for a Kayak Launch**

The Port of Silverdale will use this grant to buy and preserve about 1.25 acres of wetlands, .64 acre of tidelands, and more than 360 feet of beach, adjacent to the port’s boat launch at north end of Dyes Inlet. Crews will remove invasive species to restore the wetlands, build a boardwalk with interpretive signs as an extension of the popular Clear Creek trail, and remove existing dumped concrete. In the future, the Port plans to build a launch and a kayak and canoe storage area to meet this growing boating need. The Port will contribute $220,221. (10-1721)

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**Cusick**

**Grant Request: $49,000**

**Enhancing a Park Along the Pend Oreille River**

Cusick will use this grant to improve a conservation area adjacent the Pend Oreille River. Crews will remove invasive plants, plant native plants to stabilize the river bank, and renovate walking trails. The conservation area is the jewel of the park but its use is impaired by noxious weeds and it has been largely ignored while structural elements, such as a skate park, were built. Spokane volunteers worked 100 hours to plant trees, cleanup, and paint. Cusick offers the only public boating access to the Pend Oreille River within 18 miles and the only park with multi recreational outdoor activities all in one location. The Town will contribute $49,000 from local and federal grants and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. (10-1598)

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**Bainbridge Island Park District**

**Grant Request: $126,000**

**Improving and Connecting Blakely Harbor Park**

The Bainbridge Island Park District will use this grant to improve Blakely Harbor Park by installing a restroom, kayak storage, parking, historical and environmental interpretation, trails, a view point and bird blind, a bridge and gateway, and access to the beach for people with disabilities. Blakely Harbor Park is a popular destination for boaters, beach enthusiasts, and about 3,000 students annually attending IslandWood, a non-profit environmental learning center adjacent to the park for middle and elementary school students. Work will allow for the two areas of the park (the uplands and the beach) to be accessed directly. Currently, park users must cross to exit the park and re-enter to experience both areas of the park. The site will be tied also to an adjoining cultural site, Yama, recently purchased. Site development has been endorsed by IslandWood, Washington Water Trails, and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. The park district will contribute $126,934 in cash and donations of cash and labor. (10-1689)
Port of Kennewick  
**Grant Request: $493,263**

**Improving Clover Island’s Shoreline and Trail**

The Port of Kennewick will use this grant to build a section of the Clover Island Shoreline Trail and improve the shoreline. Work will include renovating two unsightly concrete viewing platforms, creating an accessible shoreline trail between those two viewpoints and two boat docks. The Port also will add benches, railings, lights, and interpretive signs. The project will create access to the Columbia River shoreline, stabilize the island’s north shoreline, and improve habitat for endangered and threatened salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. When McNary Dam was built, Clover Island was flooded, creating unnatural shorelines. Concrete and rubble were dumped down the riverbanks to control erosion, destroying habitat. The Port will contribute $493,264 in cash and staff labor. (10-1543)

Port of Anacortes  
**Grant Request: $500,000**

**Redeveloping the Cap Sante Esplanade**

The Port of Anacortes will use this grant to redevelop about 600 feet of a pedestrian shoreline esplanade that connects two waterfront parks at both ends of Boat Haven. The Port will enhance existing concrete paving and guardrails, extending the interpretive waterfront esplanade northward along the shoreline. The esplanade improvements include adding concrete paving, drainage, and plants. The aging rock revetment will be upgraded to a concrete block wall at the edge of the esplanade with rip-rap rock slope armoring to protect the shoreline in the enclosed Boat Haven. The Port also will add lights with hanging baskets, seating, and an interpretive sign at a viewpoint. The Port will contribute $555,280. (10-1094)

Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
**Grant Request: $198,000**

**Expanding and Creating Water Access in the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 148 acres and provide access to the Chehalis River in the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve. The department is looking to buy land in the ecological core of the preserve. In addition, the department will use the grant to create two ramps for hand carried boats to launch into both the Chehalis River and Blue Slough. The department also will improve parking, create a trail along the river, improve safety of bank fishing sites with erosion protection, and improve natural area interpretation. The preserve is 2,700 acres and protects the largest, high quality surge plain wetland in the state.
Sitka spruce dominated wetland forests hang over winding sloughs, and fish, wildlife, and waterfowl thrive here. The department will contribute $228,500 from a state grant. (10-1154)

**Port of Kennewick**

**Grant Request: $271,850**

**Improving the Clover Island East Causeway**

The Port of Kennewick will use this grant to improve Clover Island for visitors and improve habitat for endangered fish. The Port will stabilize the shoreline by planting native plants and adding boulders, gravel, and root wads. This work will enhance habitat for threatened Chinook salmon, upper and middle Columbia River steelhead, and Columbia River bull trout. The Port also will build a restroom and install benches, trash cans, bike racks, and signs to tell the restoration story. When McNary Dam was built, Clover Island was flooded, creating unnatural shorelines. Concrete and rubble were dumped down the riverbanks to control erosion, destroying habitat. The Port will contribute $271,850 in cash and staff labor. (10-1221)

**Manson Parks and Recreation District**

**Grant Request: $127,425**

**Restoring Willow Point Park Shoreline**

The Manson Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to stabilize the shoreline and refurbish a swim beach in Willow Point Waterfront Park on Lake Chelan. Crews will place boulders and tree root wads in the lake, plant native plants, and reshape the area to slow erosion, restore shoreline stability, and improve water quality in the lake. Crews also will rework and move the public swim area and lake access to limit impacts to the shoreline. The district will build a swim beach and grass sitting area, and install educational signs to provide environmental information to the public. The 1.85-acre park is on the north shore of Lake Chelan and includes about 500 feet of shoreline. Waves combined with hydro project operations have degraded the shoreline. The district will contribute $127,425. (10-1302)

**Clallam County**

**Grant Request: $57,500**

**Creating Sekiu Shoreline Access and Wildlife Viewing**

The Clallam County Park Fair and Building will use this grant to develop a wildlife viewing area on the shore of Clallam Bay, in Sekiu. The viewing area will include seating, interpretive material highlighting the birds and marine life visible from the site, and a walkway. The design incorporates several environmental features including concrete permeable pavers, recycled plastic fence boards, and driftwood logs as seating. The viewing area, which will extend from Front Street to the water’s edge, will offer visitors views of the Sekiu marina and Clallam Bay. The project will provide the public with access to the Sekiu shoreline, which currently is not available.
The project has the support of the Clallam County Commissioners, the Clallam Bay/Sekiu Chamber of Commerce, local community members, and others. The County will contribute $57,500. (10-1763)

**Port of Allyn**

**Expanding a Waterfront Park**

The Port of Allyn will use this grant to buy and restore .6 acre adjacent to the Allyn waterfront park for public access to North Bay on Case Inlet. Crews will remove a house, garage, concrete driveway, parking area, and a fence. There is a great deal of private property lining the shores of Case Inlet. The Port owns the only developed parks for public access. There are no other similar facilities with waterfront access within 20 miles. There will be interpretive signs and the area will serve as the starting point for the proposed North Bay Trail. The Port will contribute $360,400 in cash, staff labor, materials, a state grant, and donations of equipment and labor. (10-1630)

**Manson Park and Recreation District**

**Grant Request: $52,252**

**Restoring the Old Swimming Hole Shoreline**

The Manson Park and Recreation District will use this grant to demolish a seawall and replace it with concrete steps to create a place for people to enter Lake Chelan to swim. Crews also will create a grass sitting area, install an interpretive sign and two benches, and plant native plants. The Old Swimming Hole is about .2 acre on the north shore of Lake Chelan, immediately adjacent to State Route 150. This project would create a public access point on a thin strip of land formerly used as a landing for the Lady of the Lake boat. The district will contribute $52,252. (10-1303)
## Projects by County

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