

Partnering with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Sunny Walter

Tieton River Canyon, located upstream from the Oak Creek Wildlife Area in Yakima County, is protected thanks to the Legislature's support for the WWRP.

By Joanna Grist, Executive Director

Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, golden eagle, bull trout and steelhead make their homes in the rich and diverse habitat of the Tieton River Canyon in Yakima County. This year the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and the Wildlife and Recreation Coalition teamed up to protect 1,920 acres owned by Plum Creek so we all can enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and rafting there for generations to come.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is committed to ensuring the future of elk and other wild-

life, as well as their habitat. By advocating for state funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), the Coalition helps state and local agencies work with willing sellers

"... we want to see more projects like the Tieton."

to protect wildlife habitat and create and enhance parks.

In 2003, the

Elk Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Coalition's affiliate, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Foundation, to promote the WWRP grant program.

Thanks to the support from the Washington State Legislature, this year the WWRP program granted over \$10.6 million for the permanent protection of critical habitat around the state.

(see page 7)



Patrick Kitchline

Lee Fouts represents the RMEF on the Coalition's board.



Charrie Powell

Thank your legislators for funding the WWRP at a reception in Olympia on Feb. 4th.

You are Invited to our Annual Legislative Reception

Join us in celebrating the legislature's support for new parks and habitat protection in Washington State.

Wednesday, February 4th

5:30 - 7:30 PM

The Woman's Club

1002 Washington St. SE, Olympia

Suggested Donation \$25

RSVP to info@wildliferecreation.org

LAND NEWS

**WASHINGTON WILDLIFE
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The Coalition's Legislative Agenda for 2004



Patrick Kitchline

Coalition President, Kirk Thomson, is the Director of Environmental Affairs at The Boeing Company

Coalition Members,

I believe Washington's economic future is closely tied to the unique quality of life in this region. That is why I am so proud to be serving as president of the Coalition and why The Boeing Company proudly supports the Coalition's work. We know that the lure of Washington's great outdoors is key to attracting qualified employees.

In 2003 the Coalition increased funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) by 50% over the Governor's budget, leveraging a total of \$45 million for 60 new state and local parks, wildlife habitat and recreation areas.

We also secured Governor Locke's veto of an effort to prematurely retract up to \$22 million from state

and local agencies for 62 projects authorized in years past. We could not accomplish so much without the support of our diverse membership, so thank you.

In 2004, we will ask the legislature to expand the WWRP to protect riparian habitat along rivers and streams and to conserve vanishing farmland. Sponsored by Senator Linda Parlette (R-12 Wenatchee), SSB 6082 will also help local governments by requiring the state to pay local taxes on state-owned habitat lands.

This is both an exciting and challenging time for the Coalition. This proposal marks our first pursuit of major changes to the original WWRP legislation since its passage in 1989!

Please join me in thanking your state legislators for supporting the WWRP. With your help, we will expand and continue to leverage the funding needed to protect wildlife and create new parks, trails and ballfields for all of us to enjoy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk".

Kirk Thomson
President



Leveraging Public Funds to Protect Washington's Parks and Habitat

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Legislature to Approve Grants for Local Parks

When the legislature approved \$45 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grants last year, \$1.5 million was set aside for local park grants in 2004.

Connecting Gig Harbor's Jerisich Park to the Sound
Gig Harbor is seeking \$406,250 in funding to purchase an acre of land immediately south of Jerisich Park. Known as the Skansie Brothers property, the expansion would add waterfront access for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. If approved by the legislature, this would be the only urban park with waterfront boating access. Future improvements include picnic tables, park benches and a covered gathering space for community events and celebrations at Jerisich Park.

Remembering Bainbridge Island's Past



Bainbridge Parks and Rec.

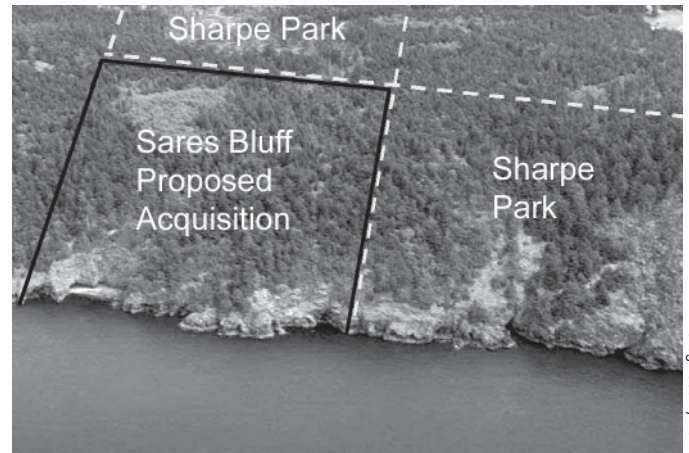
The future Joel Pritchard Park will memorialize the site of a World War II internment camp.

The Trust for Public Land, the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and other supporters of Joel Pritchard Park are seeking \$500,000 for a community waterfront park on Bainbridge Island that recognizes the area's historical significance as the first location in the country for the internment of people of Japanese descent during World War II. If approved, the purchase of 21 acres along the Puget Sound waterfront will also provide a boat launch, trails and a link to an existing wildlife corridor.

WWRP Leverages Private Funds for Conservation

Local projects are required to match 50% of the funds they receive from the WWRP grant program. This year the legislature is slated to approve funding for Sares Bluff in Skagit County and Joel Pritchard Park on Bainbridge. Local land trusts are raising the match for these acquisitions, leveraging over \$1 million in private donations!

Protecting Fidalgo Island's Precious Shoreline



Skagit County Parks

Together, Sares Bluff and Sharpe Park will be over 110 acres.

To date the San Juan Preservation Trust has raised \$410,000 to match a \$500,000 WWRP grant, slated for approval by the legislature this spring, to protect Sares Bluff. The bluff is a vital link between the shoreline and inland parcels of Sharpe Park near Anacortes. This beautiful 37-acre waterfront forest park lies next to an extensive wetland on the southwest coast of Fidalgo Island. The proposed addition will double trail lengths and create nearly a mile of protected shoreline.

The Coalition Celebrates at IslandWood, Bainbridge's Environmental Learning Center



Patrick Kiehlne

In September, supporters recognized funding for 73 WWRP projects on the Key, Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas since 1990.

Board members, local elected officials and members of the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Bainbridge Parks Dept., Black Hills Audubon Society, Great Peninsula Conservancy, North Olympic Land Trust and Washington Water Trails Association, gathered together at Islandwood.

The WWRP Grant Program Creates New Parks and Protects Wildlife Habitat

The Coalition Joins in Dedication and Groundbreaking Celebrations

Aberdeen Kids Play Ball

Since September, kids from Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Grays Harbor County have enjoyed the city's first regulation size baseball fields and practice fields at the Bishop Athletic Complex thanks to a \$300,000 WWRP grant and grants from Weyerhaeuser, the Grays Harbor Soccer Association and the Girls Fast-pitch League.

Chehalis Western Trail Links Lacey and Yelm

Former Governor Mike Lowry helped dedicate a seven mile stretch of the Chehalis Western Trail in September. The Coalition advocated for a \$2.6 million WWRP grant for this Thurston Co. trail along Puget Sound, Chambers Lake and the Deschutes River.

Hoop Dreams Come True in Sultan



Sultun Parks and Rec.

Coalition Board Member Louise Miller, spoke at the Osprey Park Basketball Court Cover Dedication. Katie Koenig (left) brought the idea to the city council.

The Coalition leveraged \$119,438 in state grants for Sultan's first outdoor basketball court. Senator Val Stevens (R-39) and Representative Kirk Pearson (R-39) attended. A plaque recognizes the WWRP grant and efforts by local youth and business people to match it.

Sandifur Memorial Bridge Groundbreaking

Dr. Fred Romero of Wa. State Parks explained that the WWRP grant program is the primary acquisition tool for the State Parks system at the Sandifur Memorial Bridge groundbreaking. The Coalition leveraged \$500,000 for a bridge that will connect the west side of the Spokane River with the trail.

Shoreline Interurban Trail to Cross Highway 99



Shoreline Parks and Rec.

Sen. Maralyn Chase, Sen. Ruth Kagi, US Rep. Jay Inslee, US Sen. Patty Murray, board member Bill Chapman and others broke ground for the Shoreline Interurban Trail Crossing that will cross 12 lanes of Highway 99.

Tukwila's Kids Have a Safe Place to Play

Coalition board member Frank Urabeck spoke at a dedication for Cascade View Park. The WWRP funded \$96,000 for a crucial piece of this much needed 2-acre park. Before the park was built, kids played in the streets and in nearby parking lots.

Silverdale Reaches the Beach

After a decade of work, Silverdale residents can enjoy picnics and waterfront strolls at the recently dedicated Old Mill Park. The Coalition leveraged over \$450,000 to protect seven and a half acres of wetlands, salt-



Kitsap Parks and Rec.

Old Mill Park protects wetlands and shoreline in Silverdale.



LAND ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

SELECTED PROJECTS

marsh and shoreline. The park will connect the Clear Creek Trail with the future Dyes Inlet Trail.

Bellingham Awaits a New Dock and Boardwalk
Rep. Doug Ericksen (R-42) and Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation of the dilapidated Taylor Avenue Dock in July. In 2003, the Coalition leveraged \$800,000 for a critical shoreline segment of the 70-mile long Coast Millennium Trail. The trail will connect south Bellingham to Bellingham Bay.



Bellingham Parks and Rec.

Bellingham residents gather to break ground for a new dock and trail.

Three Alpine Lakes Added to Mt. Si

With the help of the Cascade Land Conservancy, Wa. DNR used \$4.25 million in WWRP funds to protect 597 acres of wildlife habitat near Mt. Si, known as Crown Lakes, from future development.

Tiger Mountain Habitat Preserved

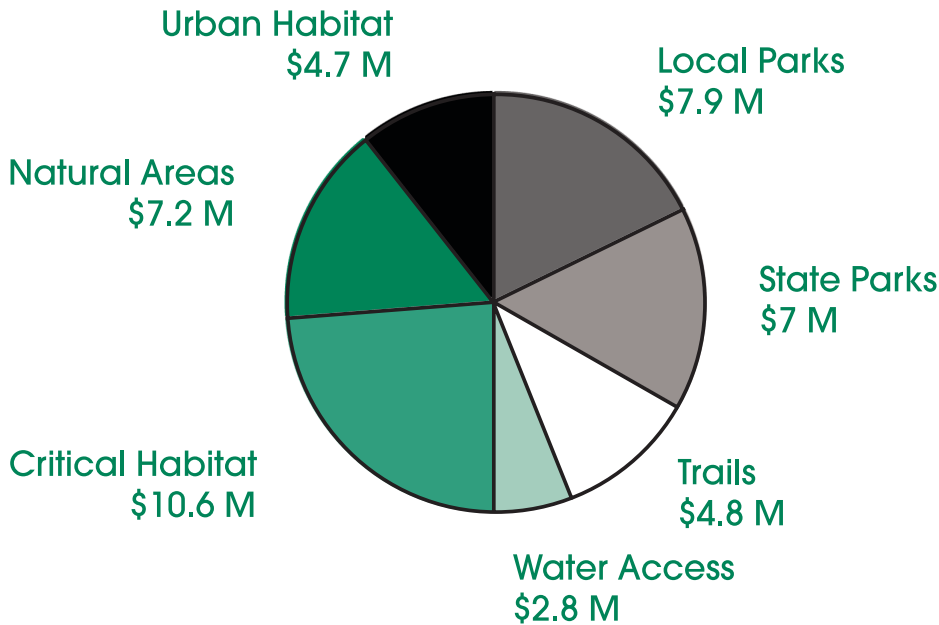
Two WWRP funded additions to Tiger Mountain near High Point this year allowed Wa. DNR to further preserve the wildlife habitat and protect the scenic vistas surrounding this popular hiking spot.



Sunny Walker

Thanks to WWRP funding, hikers can appreciate more views at Tiger Mtn.

2003 - 2004 WWRP Grants



Tieton River Canyon Protected

continued from page 1

This is a good investment in a booming recreation economy that generated \$2.2 billion from wildlife viewers, fishers and hunters in Washington in 2001 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study).

The Elk Foundation's former Washington State Chair, Lee Fouts, represents the RMEF on the Coalition's Board. "It's important that members of the Coalition, like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, tell the legislature that we support the WWRP, and let them know we want to see more projects like the Tieton." A Washington native and avid outdoorsman, Fouts has been active in RMEF since 1990.

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature approved \$45 million in funding for WWRP park and habitat grants to state, local and tribal governments.

Thank You to Our Summer Interns



Kirk Thomson

Patrick Kilcline

Thank you to Teresa Cartwright for organizing our slides, to Diane Converse for expert advice and staffing a new committee and to Patrick Kilcline for laying out a template for our new website.

The Coalition Needs Your Support

As the founder and chief advocate for the WWRP grant program, the Coalition has secured over \$407 million for parks and habitat, and leveraged millions more in local and federal matches.

All the funds we lobby for in Olympia go directly to WWRP grants. That's why we rely on the support of members like you!

With an annual budget under \$250,000, the Coalition provides

its members with an enormous return on their investment. We helped secure \$45 million in 2003 alone.

Send in your membership today and your donation will leverage millions of dollars for the protection of parks and habitat!

Donations to the Coalition support legislative work. Donations to the Coalition's 501(c)(3) affiliate, the WWRF, support education and are tax-deductible.

Thank You to Our 2003 Supporters

Agency Membership

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Bainbridge
Bellevue
Bremerton
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Des Moines
Edmonds
Enumclaw
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Everett
Federal Way
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Kennewick
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Winthrop
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\$10,000 and up

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Ray Rose
Fred Hudson
Kirk Thomson

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Changes on the Board that Evaluates WWRP Grants

The governing board of Washington's Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) is made up the directors of the three state agencies that manage recreation lands—DNR, DFW and State Parks, plus five citizen members appointed by the Governor.

Ruth Mahan, former chair of the

IAC board and a longtime board member of the Coalition, recently resigned from both boards. We wish Ruth well in her other pursuits!

Last fall former State Representative **Val Ogden** of Vancouver and **Yvonne Yokota** of Sequim were appointed to the IAC board. **Bob Parlette** of Wenatchee is finishing

his second term; the fourth seat is held by **Daryl Williams** of the Tulalip Tribes, and the fifth seat remains vacant.

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation is the state agency that administers the Wa. Wildlife and Recreation Program, and similar state and federal grant programs.

Do you have a favorite local beach or natural area where you enjoy bird watching or kayaking? A favorite playground or ball field where you take your kids? A favorite walking or biking trail? Many of your treasured outdoor recreation areas and natural spaces were funded through the most significant statewide land acquisition program in Washington's history, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.

WHO IS THE COALITION?

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is the only organization dedicated to advocating for state funding for the permanent protection of parks and habitat in Washington State. Former Governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry co-chair this diverse group of over 135 organizations representing environmental, business, labor, sporting and recreation interests.

HOW DOES THE COALITION PROTECT PARKS AND HABITAT?

In 1990, the Coalition's founders persuaded the Legislature to establish the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), a government grant program that helps local communities create new parks and protect wildlife habitat. Donations to the Coalition support our lobbying efforts in Olympia.

HOW DOES THE WWRP GRANT PROGRAM WORK?

The WWRP's competitive process guarantees that only the best new park and habitat projects are funded. Local, state and tribal agencies submit applications for WWRP grants to the Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). A team of experts assesses the projects based on the benefits to the public, the level of threat to the property and the amount of community support. The Legislature then sets the funding level and approves grants for the select list of WWRP projects.

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION?

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Foundation, the Coalition's charitable affiliate, works to develop a constituency for parks and conservation. Donations to the Foundation support education about the need to protect wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities in Washington State and are tax deductible.

What's Inside

Partnering with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Coalition President discusses big changes to the WWRP

Legislature to Fund Local Parks in 2004

Groundbreaking and Dedication Ceremonies



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