



Leveraging Public Funding for Parks and Habitat in 2003

By Shamra Harrison, Outreach Director

Coalition Kicks Off Its 2003 Legislative Campaign

Communities around the state hope to create new swimming pools and skate board parks, preserve the green belts in their cities, and protect the wildlife habitat areas where they hunt and fish. More than 130 parks, trails, and wildlife habitat projects across the state are proposed for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funding in 2003.

Proposed parks and habitat projects seeking funding include:

- Construction of the Downtown Pullman Riverwalk, a bicycle and pedestrian path that will complete a 7-mile loop trail;
- Addition of 565 acres to Colockum Wildlife Area in Kittitas County, home to Rocky Mountain Elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and rare plant communities;



Sunny Walter

Creation of a 30-acre Park on the Spokane River is proposed in 2003.

- Creation of Montesano Community Park, the city's first community park that will include ball fields, greenspace, and walking and jogging paths;
- A 64-acre addition to Burrow's Island State Park near Anacortes that will include a new saltwater boat launch;
- Improvements to Cottonwood Beach Regional Park and Steamboat Landing, two popular Columbia River parks in Clark County;
- A 680-acre addition to the Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area, in the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Local, state, and tribal agencies have just submitted their WWRP grant applications to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). This summer, a team of experts will rank the applications based on the benefits of the project, the level of threat to the property, and the amount of community support.

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Now is the Time to Invest in Washington's Future!

By Joanna Grist, Executive Director

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is the most successful land acquisition program in our state's history, yet the need for new parks and habitat protection continues to exceed funding levels. It would take an appropriation of \$145 million to fully fund the park and habitat projects around the state that are currently applying for WWRP grants.

Some Olympia lawmakers will call for cutbacks in the state's Capital Budget next legislative session because operating revenues are low. However, taxpayer's get the best bang for their buck if the state buys land in lean economic times.

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Coalition Kicks Off Its 2003 Legislative Campaign

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Next spring, the Legislature will approve the state budget, including funding for the WWRP grant program. In the last twelve years, Legislators have set aside \$362 million in WWRP funds that protect neighborhood and state parks, trails, beaches and boat launches, and preserves for our state's wildlife.

In the coming year, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition and our diverse membership of 135 organizations will advocate to the Legislature on behalf of everyone who enjoys a local park or appreciates knowing that wildlife will be protected for our children and grandchildren.

Invest Now

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1. Low interest rates help boost the state's borrowing capacity,
2. Land is cheaper to buy when the real estate market is slow, and
3. Development projects create jobs that fuel the economy generating taxes that return to state coffers.

Budget problems have forced the closure of several parks around the state. Coalition board members are working to keep our parks open by serving on state and local task forces charged with finding solutions. Despite today's short-falls, "now" is always the time to buy. Land prices will only continue to go up!

If we don't act now to protect our quality of life, Washington will lose jobs and qualified employees to other states. Our recreation areas will be overcrowded and future generations will have to drive farther from home to reach trails and ball fields. The number of threatened and endangered species will increase as habitat is destroyed by development.

We can't roll up the pavement! If we don't act now, many of Washington's best places will be lost forever!



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WWRP Parks and Habitat Build Healthy Communities

By Shamra Harrison, Outreach Director

The Coalition has kicked off a 2003 Legislative Campaign to secure funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)! Early this spring, Coalition board members began a focused campaign to reengage our member organizations and to reach new audiences around the state. Here are a few highlights:

- In May, Coalition Outreach Director Shamra Harrison joined Jefferson County Commissioner and Coalition Board Member, Richard Wojt for a tour of proposed and funded WWRP projects in Port Townsend. Commissioner Wojt and Shamra walked the Larry Scott Memorial Trail and met the people



Shamra Harrison

Outdoor recreation opportunities like Port Townsend's Larry Scott Memorial Trail allow residents to get outside and connect with nature.

who enjoy the trail, like the members of the Over the Hill Hiking Club and the Peninsula Trails Coalition.

- Rep. Mike Cooper (D-21), Rep. Ruth Kagi (D-32), former Governor Mike Lowry, and representatives from UNOCAL, the City of Edmonds, and the IAC



Sunny Walter

Public waterfront parks like Edmond's Marina Beach are one of the reasons that people chose to vacation, live, and retire in our state.

shared their excitement at the May dedication of WWRP funded Marina Beach Park.

- In April, Parks Directors from around the state gathered at a conference in Wenatchee to hear Lewis County Commissioner Eric Johnson, Olympia Parks Director Jane Boubel, and Coalition Board Members Mike Lowry and Dave Veley speak about the Coalition's impact on local recreation areas like the Apple Loop Trail.



Shamra Harrison

The WWRP allows local residents to propose projects like Wenatchee's Apple Capitol Recreation Loop Trail and use state funds to fill local needs.

How You Can Help Us Protect Parks and Habitat

Between now and the upcoming 2003 Legislative session, you can be an active supporter of the Coalition by being part of the voice asking for funding of parks and habitat. Here is how you can help:

Host a Slide Show. Would your organization be interested in hosting a slide show of parks and habitat areas proposed for protection? If so, contact us at info@WildlifeRecreation.org or 206-748-0082.

Place an Article in Your Organization's Newsletter. Does your group have a print or electronic publication, or a web site where you would like to include information about proposed parks and habitat areas?

Join the Coalition! Since the Coalition does not receive any of the funding we lobby for in Olympia, we must rely on support from our members. With an annual budget of \$200,000, the Coalition provides its members with an enormous return on their investment by securing millions of dollars every year for parks and habitat.

ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In 2001, the WWRP Funded 65 New Parks, Trails, Waterfront and Habitat Sites

We have a lot to look forward to

Including:

Highlands Grange Park, Kennewick

Highlands Grange Park is home to a community center, library, and Master Gardeners Demonstration Center. A 3-acre expansion of the 26-acre site will provide a youth softball backstop, portable soccer goals, tennis and basketball courts, picnic shelters, and a children's water playground.

Coast Millennium Trail, Bellingham

A critical link will be added to the 70-mile long Coast Millennium Trail, which runs between Whatcom County's Chuckanut Mountain/Larrabee State Park and Whiterock, British Columbia. The trail provides scenic views of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges and access to Bellingham's downtown waterfront.

Juel Property, Redmond

In 1999, the Juel family agreed to sell their land to the city of Redmond for only \$400,000 – a donation of over \$1.6 million – as long as it is used for athletic fields for kids. Future development of this property will include the ball fields, as well as sports courts, trails, and picnic areas.

Selah Cliffs, Yakima County

Expansion of the Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve by 270 acres will protect the habitat of the basalt daisy, an endangered species that occurs nowhere else in the world. The basalt daisy, as well as prairie falcons and golden eagles, are threatened by development and gravel mining.



Sunny Walter

Highlands Grange Park, Kennewick

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Columbia River Small Craft Access, Wenatchee

New facilities at Wenatchee's Riverfront Park will provide citizens and visitors with canoe and kayak access to the Columbia River. An interpretive trail, restrooms, showers, and landscaping will enhance youth and high school rowing and kayaking programs, senior programs, and regional events such as the annual Ridge to River Relay.



Sunny Walter

Juel Property, Redmond



Sunny Walter

Selah Cliffs, Yakima County

The Contributions of Senator Dan McDonald:

By Lindsay Malone, Outreach Director



WWRP Founder Reflects on His Efforts to Protect Washington's Future

After 24 years in the Washington State Legislature, Senator and Coalition Board Member Dan McDonald will retire from public office at the end of this term. A Republican from Bellevue, McDonald represents the 48th legislative district. Among the many positions he has held, Senator

McDonald has served as Majority Leader of the Senate and Chaired the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Working to improve the quality of life for his constituents and the people of Washington State McDonald helped to create the Trust Land Transfer program, a state habitat lands acquisition program. He has also been a board member for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition since the early stages of its development. Senator McDonald recognizes that the Coalition and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program enable the establishment of parks and habitat areas as part of sensible protection plans.

"I'm a fourth generation Washingtonian, so my grandchildren are sixth generation Washingtonians," Senator McDonald says. "I expect our family to be here for a long

time to come and I hope to pass on the favor of those who protected our natural resources in the past. I think we've passed on that favor through the Coalition."

Once he retires from the Senate, McDonald says he intends to visit more of the areas he's

helped protect. This spring he visited the Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area with his son, Evan, and hiked to the top of Mount Si one late afternoon. Senator McDonald recalled, "It's just a remarkable place. I'm glad that I've been a part of keeping it here."

"It's just a remarkable place. I'm glad that I've been a part of keeping it here."



Sunny Walter

"WWRP Protected Mt. Si, in the Mountains to Sound Greenway"



Shamra Harrison

Welcome to our new interns, Crystal Chin and Lindsay Malone! Crystal and Lindsay, UW Communications and Natural Sciences Students, will write, edit, and produce the 2003 *Legacy Notebook*.

2003 WWRP Legacy Notebook

The *Legacy Notebook* is our most successful lobbying tool to date and the 2003 edition is currently in production. The *Notebook* illustrates how proposed parks and habitat projects will impact local communities and the economy. It includes a fact sheet for each legislative district with color photos, descriptions of the special places that can be protected with WWRP grant funds in 2003, and testimonials from community supporters.

If you are working with a local park department, state agency, or community organization to apply for WWRP grant funding in 2003, you can help make the *Legacy Notebook* a success. Email or mail us photos of the land to be acquired or developed and the names of local community supporters who can tell us why the project is important to them.

The Coalition's Membership is Diverse!

The 130 environmental, sporting, business, recreation, labor, and community organizations that make up the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition are the voice in Olympia advocating for parks and habitat funding. Together, we speak on behalf of everyone who enjoys a local park or appreciates knowing that wildlife will be protected for future generations.

Admiralty Audubon Society

Alpine Lakes Protection Society

American Alpine Institute

Association of Washington Cities

Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce

Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Bicycle Alliance of Washington

Blue Mountain Audubon Society

Boeing Employees Alpine Society, Inc.

Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce

Bridle Trails Community Club

Capitol Land Trust

Cascade Bicycle Club

Cascade Orienteering Club

Cascadians

Cedar River Bowmen

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

Chinook Trail Association

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Citizens for Natural Habitat

Clark-Skamania Flyfishers

Columbia Gorge Audubon Society

Columbia Gorge Coalition

Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

East Lake Washington Audubon Soc.

Environmental Education Assoc. of WA

Ephrata Sportsmen's Association

The Evergreen State Society

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce

FOCUS

Friends of Athletic Fields

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Friends of Discovery Park

Friends of Grass Lake

Friends of the San Juans

Greater Poulsbo Chamber of Commerce

Group Health of Puget Sound

I.B.E.W., Local Union No. 46

Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club

Inland Northwest Wildlife Council

Island County Trails Council

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Izaak Walton League

John Wayne Pioneer Riders & Drivers

Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28

King County Executive Horse Council

Klickitat Land Preservation Fund

League of Women Voters of WA

Leavenworth Audubon Adopt-A-Forest

Lighthawk

Longview Soccer Club

Loon Lake Association

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Soc.

Mazama Neighbors

Methow Valley Citizens Council

Methow Valley Sports Trails Assoc.

Mid-Columbia Walleye Club

The Mountaineers

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

National Audubon Society

National Parks & Conservation Assoc.

The Nature Conservancy

Nisqually Delta Association

North Cascades Audubon Society

Northcentral Audubon Society

Northcentral WA Sportsmen's Council

North Hill Community Association

North Mason Chamber of Commerce

North Olympic Land Trust

Northwest Marine Trade Association

Northwest Rivers Council

Northwest Trek

Olympic Park Associates

Olympic Rivers Council

Olympic Wildlife Rescue Project

1000 Friends of Washington

Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Pateros Sportsmen's Association

Peninsula Heritage Land Trust

Peninsula Trails Coalition

Pilchuck Audubon Society

Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce

Puget Sound Chap. of Quail Unlimited

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Rainier Audubon Society

Recreational Equipment, Inc.

Richland Rod & Gun Club

River Network

The San Juan Preservation Trust

Seattle Audubon Society

Seattle Garden Club

Seattle-King County Assoc. of Realtors

Sierra Club

Skagit Audubon Society

South County Trail Coalition

South Tacoma Neighborhood Council

Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

Tahoma Audubon Society

Tri-State Steelheaders, Inc.

Trout Unlimited, NWSSC

The Trumpeter Swan Society

The Trust for Public Land

Vancouver Audubon Society

Vashon-Maury Island Trust

Wapato Hills Task Force

Washington Association of Realtors

WA Council of Federation of Fly Fishers

Washington Environmental Council

Washington Fly Fishing Club

WA Forest Protection Association

Washington Kayak Club

Washington Native Plant Society

WA Outfitters and Guides Association

Washington Parks Foundation

WA Recreation & Park Association

WA Recreational Water Access Coalition

WA State Association of Counties

Washington State Bowhunters

WA State Democratic Central Committee

Washington State Horse Council

WA State Lake Protection Association

Washington State Rainbow Coalition

Washington State Sportsmen's Council

Washington State Trappers Association

Washington Trails Association

WA Trust for Historic Preservation

Washington Water Trails Association

Washington Wildlife Federation

Wetlands of West Hylebos, Inc.

Whatcom County Trails Committee

The Wilderness Society

Willapa Hills Audubon Society

Wolf Haven America

Yakima Greenway Foundation

Organizations in bold also make significant financial contributions to the Coalition.

Who Are We?

Protecting Washington's Parks and Habitat Forever

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. The Coalition is a diverse group of organizations representing 135 environmental, business, labor, sporting, and community interests. The Coalition makes a difference in local communities by working with state and local elected officials to secure funding of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

How Does the Coalition Protect Parks and Habitat?

In 1990, the Coalition's founders persuaded the State Legislature to establish the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a competitive grant program that helps local communities purchase new parks and protect wildlife habitat. Since the program's inception, the Coalition has advocated for state funding of the WWRP, raising \$362 million for more than 600 neighborhood parks and ball fields, biking and walking trails, nature preserves, local beaches and boat launches, wildlife habitat, and state parks.

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 Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). A team of experts assesses the projects based on 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 the 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 land stewardship by educating opinion leaders and the public about wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation needs.

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

What's Inside

More than 130 parks and habitat projects proposed for WWRP funding in 2003

The Contributions of Senator Dan McDonald

New Parks and Habitat Areas Funded Around the State

A Look at the Coalition's Diversity

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