



\$45 Million Secured for Parks and Habitat in the 2003 Legislative Session

By Joanna Grist, Executive Director

Governor Locke's 2003 budget cuts funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to \$30 million, or about 60% of historic levels, eliminating dozens of new parks for communities around the state and exposing thousands of acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat to logging and development.

Since 1989, the Coalition has leveraged \$362 million for over 600 of Washington's special places. Despite our success, the need for recreation areas and wildlife habitat protection continues to exceed funding levels.

As our population grows, children need more places to play and local wildlife needs protection from encroaching development. In the past 30 years in Washington State, public lands dedicated to recreation and habitat have dropped from three



Carrie Powell

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program celebrates success in Olympia despite difficult economic times

acres per person to one acre, due to increased development and population.

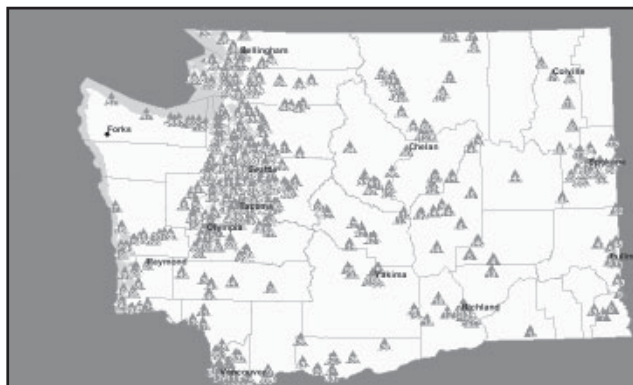
That's why state, local and tribal agencies have submitted 116 WWRP grant applications totalling \$118 million for the creation of new parks and protection of wildlife habitat for future generations.

Recognizing that our economy is down this year, the Coalition has set a low goal of secur-

ing \$55 million in state funds for the WWRP grant program. However, just as you or someone you know recently bought a home or refinanced, it makes sense for the state to invest in land and capital projects when interest rates are low.

We can't roll up the pavement! Ask Governor Locke and your legislators to support \$55 Million for the WWRP. Call 1-800-562-6000 and leave messages for them.

LAND NEWS



IAC Website

The IAC Website Lists the Locations of WWRP Funded Projects

Who is the IAC?

The State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) administers the WWRP and other similar grant programs. Local, tribal and state agencies submit WWRP applications to the IAC and a team of experts competitively ranks the projects and submits them to the Governor for approval. The WWRP's competitive process guarantees that only the best new park and habitat projects are funded. The State Legislature then sets the final funding level and approves the list of WWRP projects.

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Why Support the Coalition?

The Coalition is the founder and chief advocate of the most successful land acquisition program in Washington's history! To date we have leveraged \$407 million in state funds and over \$??? million in local and federal matching grants.

The Coalition does not receive any of the funding we lobby for in Olympia. That's why we rely on supporters like you! With a budget under \$200,000 a year, the Coalition provides an excellent return on your investment.

Here is a sample of just some of our accomplishments:

- Funded 85 Hiking & Biking Trails
- Secured \$12.5 million for 20 Seattle Parks
- Funded 68 Shoreline & Water Access Projects
- Protected over 9,000 acres in the Methow Valley
- Secured \$70 million for 96 State Parks

\$45 Million Secured

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WWRP Events Around the State

House of Representatives Photo



From left to right behind the Governor; Board Member Frank Urabeck, Intern Sara Riley, Dr. Fred Romero of State Parks, Program Assistant Carrie Powell, Representative Mike Cooper and Board Member Senator Karen Fraser.

House Bill 1136 Signed by Governor Locke

This legislation amends the WWRP statute to increase the amount to fifty percent of WWRP funds for State Parks to be used for development. The remainder is used for acquisitions. Previous to this amendment, the statute allowed State Parks to use only up to twenty-five percent for development.

The Coalition supported this change because the State Park department faces a large backlog of capital projects, and generally the public does not have access to new State Park lands until parking lots and facilities like trails, restrooms and campgrounds are developed.

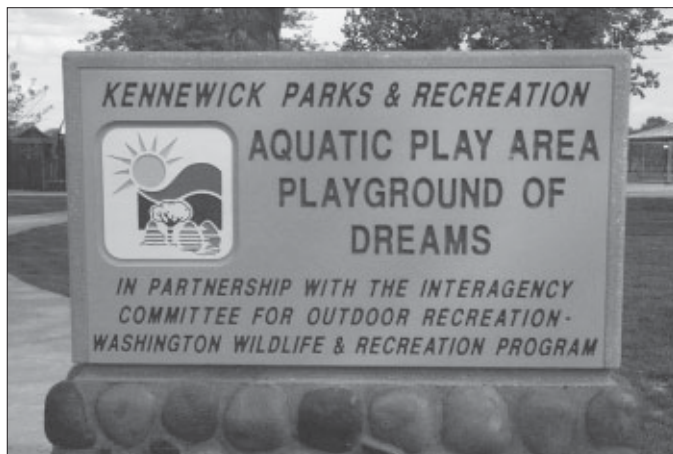
Terry Higashiyama



The Coalition had another successful Lobby Day in Olympia. Board Member Karen Munro is pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Worthington, Board Member and State Parks and Recreation Commission Director Rex Derr, and others dedicated to protecting parks and habitat.

Lewis River/Bell's Mountain Trail, Clark County

Clark County residents and area visitors can enjoy the Lewis River/Bell's Mountain Trail this summer thanks to a \$900,000 grant from the WWRP. The WWRP helped to fund the purchase and development of the 12 mile, trail system that connects 55-acre Lucia Falls Park and 354 acre Moulton Falls Park on the East Fork of the Lewis River and DNR's Cold Creek Campground. Board Member, Florence Wager spoke about the importance of the WWRP Grant Program to funding trails and other park projects at the dedication ceremony that took place on June 7th.



Kennewick Parks and Rec

A welcome addition this summer to the Columbia Park in Kennewick is the recently dedicated Aquatic Playground and picnic area. The zero depth aquatic spray playground with 28 water features was funded with a \$300,000 matching grant from the WWRP. The project also included the creation of a trail segment to connect the four mile riverfront trail, the addition of a horseshoe court and a needed update to the restrooms.

The New George Prout Pool, Richland

This summer Richland kids are swimming in the new George Prout Memorial Pool thanks to funding from the WWRP. Completion of the pool was funded in part by a \$280,678 matching grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. WWRP has provided \$735,699 in matching funds for Richland park, recreation, trail and habitat projects. At the dedication ceremony on June 13th, Board Vice President, Dave Veley, recognized the importance of local legislators, Senator Patricia Hale, Rep. Shirley Hankins and Rep. Jerome Delvin for their role in funding the WWRP.

60 New Parks, Trails, Waterfront and Habitat Areas Protected in 2003

Here's Just a Sample the Projects that Recieved Funding



Sunny Waiter

The WWRP has protected 150 acres of Western Pond Turtle Habitat.

Western Pond Turtle Habitat, Klickitat County

To date, the WWRP has funded more than \$600,000 toward the protection habitat for the Washington state threatened western pond turtle. The 2003 addition includes Balch Lake and Sandino Ponds, which have the best remaining habitat in the state and the largest of two natural western pond turtle populations.

Elk River Natural Area, Grays Harbor County

The largest and most diverse high quality salt-marsh ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest is located sixteen miles west of Aberdeen. This rich habitat supports Roosevelt elk, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, steel-head and Coho and threatened Chinook salmon.



David Scott

Elk River provides an important stopover for shorebirds and waterfowl.

With this purchase of an additional 507 acres, the WWRP will have funded over \$8.7 million for 4,175 acres of marshes salt water streams, coastal plains and forested uplands.

South Bay Trail, Bellingham

This waterfront path near Fairhaven is missing a critical link in the 70-mile long Coast Millennium Trail System. The WWRP funded \$800,000 renovation of the South Bay Trail will restore a historic dock and overwater railroad trestle, allowing trail users a safe means to bypass roads and railways.

Saltse Flats, Spokane County

The second phase of this project received partial funding to further protect one of the few large Eastern Washington wetlands located in an urban area. A grant of \$2.7 million will preserve this area for thousands of birds including migratory shorebirds and waterfowl . Tundra and Trumpeter Swans and an unusually high number of raptors such as bald and golden eagle and peregrine and prairie falcon are present here.

Haagen Park, East Vancouver

Haagen Park is the only community park for over 18,000 residents in seven Vancouver neighborhoods. A WWRP matching grant of \$300,000 provides improvements that include walking and biking trails, play equipment, picnic tables and sports fields.



Duncan Hoos

Visitors to Haagen Park will enjoy hiking, picnics, and ball games soon.



LAND ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

SELECTED PROJECTS

Iron Horse Trail, Cle-Elum to Ellensburg

One of the state's premiere east-west mainline trails will receive improvements to a 25-mile stretch of trail surface from South Cle Elum to Ellensburg with a WWRP grant of nearly \$700,000. The work includes safety railings on 18 bridge structures, new trailheads, and campsites at Taneum Creek. This is part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway where the WWRP has invested \$16 million.

Deception Pass State Park, Whidbey Island

This 37-acre addition, funded by a 2003 WWRP grant

of \$2 million, to one of Washington's most spectacular and most visited State Parks, will allow for the development of campsites and a centrally located park administrative center.

Cottonwood Beach, Clark County

A WWRP matching grant of \$595,000 will add a swimming beach, picnic tables, trails, campsites, a dock, parking and restrooms on this 23-mile section along the Columbia River. It borders Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge, Reed Island State Park, and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



Sunny Waiter

The WWRP has added a total of 64 acres to Deception Pass State Park.



Duncan Hoos

Cottonwood Beach provides a spectacular setting for a waterfront park.

The WWRP Helps to Create New State Parks

by Carrie Powell, Program Assistant

Joan Thomas is a Coalition Board Member and State Parks and Recreation Commissioner. The State Parks and Recreation commission is comprised of seven citizen commissioners, appointed by the governor, who, set policy for the agency and hire the agency director. The Commissioner's previous experience includes working for the State Board of Tax Appeals, where she served as property tax referee. She is also former president of both the Washington Environmental Council and the League of Women Voters of Washington. Currently, she is on the board of directors of Friends of Discovery Park. In the 1960's she worked on Initiative 215, which established the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, the state agency that today administers the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

According to the Commissioner, the WWRP has been a terrific benefit to state parks. In her opinion, having a category in the WWRP dedicated to state parks (as well as the Trust Land Transfer Program) has been a tremendous help to state parks. Ac-

ording to the Commissioner, part of their commitment as a Commission is to open land owned by the state parks for public use. She states that the recent legislation in the WWRP allowing for up to 50 % of funding to be used toward development has also helped to further this commitment. The Commissioner also stressed the importance of State Parks to Washington's communities, "Our parks are part of the fabric of our whole state," she said. She further discussed that state parks also attract visitors to less populated regions of the state and in turn provide local businesses with economic benefits.

The Commissioner also pointed out the importance of trails like the Iron Horse Trail, which is used by bicyclists and horseback riders and stated "trails connect people and communities." The WWRP Grant Program funded over \$8 million in state park



WA State Parks

In 2003, the WWRP Provided close to \$?? in funding toward the expansion of Ft. Canby State Park.

projects in 2003 alone, nearly \$700,000 of which funded improvements to the Iron Horse Trail. Overall, the WWRP has funded 102 State Park Projects at more than \$78 million.

Rex Derr is the Director of the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission. Quotes from Rex Derr to come from Virginia Paynter at State Parks as well as some photos of Fort Canby.



Carrie Powell

Thank you to our Volunteers and Interns!



Terry Higashiyama



Carrie Powell

Thank you to Bill Thompson for helping us to rebuild our database; and thanks to our spring interns, Sara Riley and Nancy Case. Nancy and Sara both compiled research for our website and database. We would also like to thank our winter intern, Jeanie Comstock, who worked on the 2003 *Legacy Notebook*. Both Jeanie and Lindsay Malone were a tremendous help at Lobby Day!

Internships with the Coalition

Learn about the state legislative process, earn credits, and help protect the environment through real world experience. Intern projects range from online communications projects to outreach, legislative and environmental research projects. To Apply: Please send a resume and cover letter to info@WildlifeRecreation.org

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Joel Rogers

Awards Ceremony

Washington State Senator Joseph Zarelli, Representative Hans Dunshee and Board Member Louise Miller were presented with awards by Kirk Thomson, Board President, in recognition of their dedication to working to secure funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program this legislative session. The Awards Ceremony was held in June at a victory party which celebrated the \$45 million appropriation. The event was hosted by Peter Goldman and Martha Kongsgaard.

Who Are We?

“Protecting the environment makes sense for business. Our economy thrives because talented people chose to live and work here where there is scenic beauty and our ability to experience nature is unmatched. By protecting our state’s wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation areas, we continue to attract and keep quality workers. That’s why Boeing is proud to support the efforts of the WWRP.”

*Kirk Thomson
Vice President of
Environmental Affairs,
The Boeing Company*

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 more than 135 organizations representing environmental, business, labor, sporting and recreation interests. The Coalition makes a difference by leveraging public funds for the acquisition and development of new parks and wildlife habitat.

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.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Email us at info@WildlifeRecreation.org to receive the Coalition’s electronic newsletter and legislative alerts. We’ll keep you informed about parks and habitat funding!

JOIN THE COALITION

The Coalition relies on your support. We don’t receive any funding we lobby for in Olympia, so please send in your membership contribution today. Your donation will help to leverage millions of dollars for the protection of parks and habitat!

What’s Inside

\$45 Million Secured for
Parks and Habitat Projects
in the 2003 Session

Spotlight on WWRP Events

60 New WWRP Park
and Habitat Projects
Funded

Joan Thomas Helps
Guide State Parks

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