



Coalition Secures \$50 Million for 75 New Parks and Public Lands

and Passes Bill that Expands Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

A park that bridges the generation gap in the community of Cusick in Pend Oreille County, a safer two-mile trail at Cape Disappointment State Park, a key 340-acre north-south passage for wildlife in Kitsap County, a mile of public shoreline for fishing and kayaking in the San Juans, and 2,560 acres of mule deer, spring Chinook and Upper Columbia steelhead habitat in the beautiful Methow Valley.



Via: State Senate

Governor Gregoire signs SB 5396, creating WWRP grants for farmland and freshwater and saltwater riparian areas.

The funds create 75 new state and local parks, ball fields, trails, beaches, small boat launches, nature preserves and critical habitat areas in communities around the state.

Capital budget writers Rep. Hans Dunshee (D-44, Snohomish), Senator Karen Fraser (D-22, Olympia) and Rep. Fred Jarrett (R-41, Mercer Is.), supported funding for the WWRP grant program because they recognize that Washington's quality of life is a great investment.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Coalition and key legislators, these are just a few of the many park and habitat projects funded through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) this year. In April, the legislature approved \$50 million in capital construction funding for our state's premier habitat and recreation program.

WWRP grant program, through SB 5396, to include two new funding categories; one for the conservation of working farms and another for the protection of freshwater, streams and saltwater riparian habitat. Sponsored by Senator Fraser and Rep. Dunshee, the bill

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LAND NEWS



Carrisa Powell

Coalition President Craig Lee recognizes key legislators for their contributions during the 2005 legislative session.

Celebrating the Coalition's Legislative Successes

On June 8th, Coalition supporters celebrated our legislative victories at the home of Stephanie Solien and Frank Greer. Coalition President Craig Lee recognized Speaker Frank Chopp (D-43, Seattle), Rep. Hans Dunshee (D-44, Snohomish), Sen. Luke Esser (R-48, Bellevue), Sen. Karen Fraser (D-22, Olympia) and Rep. Fred Jarrett (R-41, Mercer Is.) for their support of the Coalition's agenda during the 2005 legislative session.

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Coalition Secures . . . (continued from page 1)

passed by wide margins after the Coalition's diverse membership and network of conservationists, farm advocates, local governments, the business community, and others came together in support of the legislation.

In 2007, WWRP grants will be available to help local governments to conserve working farms, which need protection for their value as farmlands plus as buffers against urban expansion and for their habitat and water resource values. Funding will also be available for the protection of freshwater and saltwater riparian areas to provide the necessary clean water for salmon and other species and help local governments comply with the Shoreline Management Act.

The new categories enhance the nationally recognized WWRP grant program which helps state and local agencies to acquire land for outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat through competitive grants. In early 2006, local governments will be able to apply for the two new categories of the WWRP through Washington's Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), the agency that administers WWRP funding.

Since 1989, the Coalition has secured over \$450 million in state funds for parks, recreation and critical habitat. Local matching funds raise the total to more than \$750 million for over 700 projects.



277 acres at Reardan's Audubon Lake will be conserved for 220 bird and other wildlife species with a \$555,721 WWRP grant awarded to WDFW in 2005.



Leveraging Public Funds to Protect Washington's Parks and Habitat

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WWRP Grants Promote Healthy Washington Communities

Redmond Steps Out on National Trails Day

Redmond residents celebrated National Trails Day with a walk following a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new mile long section of the Evans Creek Trail. The trail was funded through a half million dollar WWRP matching grant. Senator Luke Esser (R-48) and fellow Coalition board member John McGlenn joined the community in celebrating the health benefits of exercise in a natural setting.



Bothell Parks

Community members brought shovels and gloves to the Cedar Grove Park dedication to plant trees and shrubs.

Bothell Honors Arbor Day with Cedar Grove Park

Rep. Mark Ericks (D-1) and Coalition board member Bill Chapman celebrated the community's new basketball court, playfield, playground, picnic shelter and trails. A \$300,000 WWRP matching grant developed the park on 3.75 acres with 10 acres protected as wetlands.

Sports Complex Hits a Home Run in Ferndale

Four new lighted softball fields are ready for use at the Conoco Phillips Sports Complex. The fields, funded in part by a WWRP grant of \$275,000, serve over 650 youth who play T-ball, softball, and baseball. On June 11th, Coalition board member Jon Soine recognized Senator Dale Brandland (R-42) and Rep. Doug Erickson (R-42) for supporting the WWRP at a dedication ceremony to celebrate the complex that will meet the community's demand for sports facilities.

Kicking Off New Soccer Fields in Marysville

200 people gathered under blues skies in May to watch an exhibition soccer match at the opening of Strawberry Fields in Marysville. Coalition board member Jon Soine spoke of the importance of sports to the region's quality of life and the WWRP's role in providing \$233,477 for the 72 acre sports complex.



Burien Parks

Visitors can view the eagles that make their home in the tall trees at Burien's Eagle Landing Park.

Eagle Landing Park Takes Flight

A path leads visitors on a healthy 15 minute walk to a 257 step staircase down to a pristine beach with a stop along the way to view an eagle's nest. The six-acre waterfront park, funded through the WWRP grant program, opened to the public with a dedication ceremony on June 15th where former Governor Mike Lowry, founding co-chair of the Coalition, thanked local legislators for supporting the WWRP grant program.



Kent Parks

Neighbors joined Coalition board member Kirk Thomson in breaking ground for Kent's Service Club Park in April.

WWRP Helps Kent Build Four New Ball Fields

15 acres will include four youth baseball fields complete with spectator areas and a concession stand as well as a half basketball court, playground, public art, restrooms, and parking. 14 acres of the park will be preserved for nature trails. In addition to a \$300,000 WWRP grant, local Kent service clubs have pledged \$177,500 in cash and labor toward the construction of the park.

\$50 Million for the WWRP Funds 75 Local and State Parks, Trails, Beaches and Wildlife Habitat Areas

Whipple Creek, Clark County

For equestrians, hikers, and cyclists, Whipple Creek provides a backcountry experience near the Clark County Fairgrounds. Through a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant of \$1 million, Clark County can now purchase 40 acres of the surrounding shoreline and urban forest to preserve this scenic and popular place for horseback riding and as habitat for migrant birds, deer, steelhead, and salmon.

Central Kitsap Greenway

A key north-south 340-acre passage for wildlife in urbanizing Kitsap County will be preserved with a \$755,902 WWRP grant. This preserves prime spawning beds at Wildcat Creek, which produces as many salmon as all the other Kitsap Co. streams combined. Habitat for bats, squirrels, otters, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, salamanders, toads and pond turtles will be protected. The Mountaineers and the Great Peninsula Conservancy are donating \$600,000 toward the purchase.

Fisherman Bay Spit, Lopez Island

Over half a million visitors flock to the San Juans each year, yet less than 5% of the saltwater shoreline is publicly accessible. A \$1.2 million WWRP grant awarded to the San Juan County Land Bank will



San Juan County Land Bank

Public access to a mile of shoreline on Lopez Island will allow for kayaking, fishing and beachcombing and preserve wildlife diversity.

create a 30-acre park on Lopez Island for beachcombing, fishing, crabbing and kayaking in a magnificent natural landscape. The project also protects wildlife habitat and an archaeological site from development.

Trout Lake Wetlands, Klickitat County

300 acres are protected as a migration path for a large elk herd with a WWRP grant of over \$1.4 million. The area's high quality wetlands provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife including resident trout, Oregon spotted frogs, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, great blue herons, black-tailed deer and black bears.



Kitsap County Parks

Habitat for salmon, downy woodpeckers and other wildlife in the Central Kitsap Greenway will be preserved for kids to visit and learn from.



Sunny Walker

Nearly 2,000 acres have been protected at Trout Lake Wetlands with \$5 million in WWRP grants.



LAND ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

SELECTED PROJECTS

Similkameen Connector Trail, Okanogan Co.
 Visitors will soon enjoy the spectacular views of the Similkameen River and the Cascade Range in the Pasayten Wilderness by foot, mountain bike and horseback because a WWRP matching grant of \$688,666 was awarded to Okanogan County to create a 7-mile trail along the river and a trailhead in the historic mining town of Nighthawk.

Cusick Community Park, Pend Oreille Co.
 Since the nearest park is 15 miles away, 3 Cusick fourth graders asked their teacher if they could have a park in their neighborhood. The teacher invited the mayor to speak to the class about the idea, which energized the students to gain the support of the community and local businesses. The town received a \$189,802 WWRP grant to develop a 2-acre park.



Okanogan County Public Works

Town of Cusick

Visitors to Okanogan County will enjoy views of the Cascades from the Similkameen River Trail.

Cusick's kids help build their community's first park.

Founding Coalition Board Member Bill Chapman: Partnering with the Mountains to Sound Greenway

Bike ride up the hill through the trees on Mercer Island's 53rd Place Greenbelt, dog walk by moonlight on the boardwalk in Bellevue's Mercer Slough wetlands, trail run up Issaquah's West Tiger Mountain, hike up to North Bend's Rattlesnake Ledge on a summer evening, mountain bike along the Iron Horse State Park Trail in the Mountains to Sound Greenway all the way from North Bend across the high trestles to the tunnel at Snoqualmie Pass, camp with the kids and inner tubes at Lake Easton State Park.

Like many of Washington's citizens, founding Coalition board member Bill Chapman has enjoyed these opportunities. Bill is an attorney at Preston Gates and Ellis and resident of Mercer Island who enjoys hiking and visiting local spots in the corridor along I-90 known as the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

This past spring, Bill was appointed by Governor Gregoire to serve on the board of Washington's Interagency

Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). The board oversees the operation of the IAC, the agency that approves and grants funding for several programs statewide including the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

Bill is also the President of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. The Trust works with private land owners and public agencies to protect the Greenway using funding from WWRP grants and other public sources.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition have a long-standing partnership. Many of the special places that the Greenway has worked to protect were acquired with state grants secured by the Coalition. Both partners appreciate that our parks and wildlife areas make Washington State the uniquely beautiful place that we all love and enjoy.

Since 1990, the Coalition has secured funding for over 700 WWRP projects around the state including over \$23 million



Bill Chapman has worked with the Coalition from its beginnings in 1988, and has watched with delight as \$23 million in WWRP grants have gone to protect 3,300 acres in the Greenway.

for over 3,300 acres in the Mountains to Sound Greenway including Crystal Springs State Park, Meadowbrook Farm, the Iron Horse Trail, Mercer Slough, Mid-Fork Snoqualmie Riverfront Park, Mount Si, Preston Community Park, Squak Mountain, Three Forks Park, Tiger Mountain and West Tiger Mountain.



Amelia Kaune

Welcome to Our New Development Director

Amelia Kaune joined the Coalition as our new Development Director in January. Prior to this, she worked in development for New Beginnings Domestic Violence Agency and was a strategist for a political consulting firm.

Amelia attended American University and grew up in the Tri-Cities. As an avid hiker and backpacker, she brings with her a deep commitment to preserving Washington's parks and habitat.

Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to the following donors who contributed between January 1 and June 30, 2005.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition

The Coalition leverages public funds to protect Washington's parks, habitat and working farms.

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The WWRF is a 501c3 affiliate that educates citizens and decision makers about the importance of conservation.

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Ways to Give

The Coalition's 501(c)(3) affiliate, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Foundation (WWRF), builds a constituency for land conservation through public education and outreach. Here are some of the ways you can contribute to the WWRF and get a tax write-off.

Matching Gifts Your gift to the WWRF may be doubled if your employer has a program of matching contributions. Request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it with your gift to: WWRF, 811 First Avenue, Suite 262, Seattle, WA 98104

Workplace Giving Programs allow you to designate an amount to be deducted from your paycheck to the WWRF. The WWRF participates in the Washington State Combined Fund Drive and the King County Employees Charitable Campaign. You can also write WWRF in the United Way Donor Option space.

About Us

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? Many of your treasured outdoor recreation areas and natural spaces were funded through the most significant state-wide land acquisition program in Washington's history, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

Who is the Coalition?

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is the only organization dedicated to advocating for state funding for parks, habitat and working farms. Former Governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry are founding co-chairs of this diverse group of over 135 organizations representing conservation, business, farming, labor, sporting and recreation interests.

How Does the Coalition Create Parks and Conserve Habitat and Farmland?

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. In 2007, the WWRP expands to include grants that conserve working farms and protect freshwater and saltwater riparian lands. 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 Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Experts assess the threat to the property and the level of community support. The Legislature then sets the funding level and approves grants for the select list of projects.

What is the Foundation?

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Foundation, the Coalition's 501c3 affiliate, works to develop a constituency for parks and conservation through public education and outreach. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

What's Inside

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Parks and Habitat
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Boardmember Bill
Chapman**



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