



Governor Proposes \$70 Million for WWRP Grants

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) would receive a much-needed boost in Governor Christine Gregoire's 2007-2009 budget proposal.

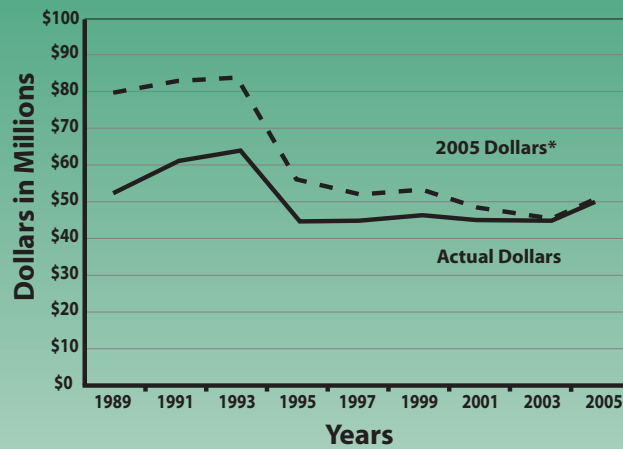
The Governor's version of the state budget, released in December, includes \$70 million for the WWRP, a state grant program that protects habitat and creates new local and state parks. The WWRP has been funded at around \$50 million a biennium since our Coalition helped create the program in 1990. Over the past 16 years, it has funded nearly 800 projects throughout Washington State.

While very positive, the \$70 million falls short of the \$100 million the Coalition is pursuing, and would mean many worthwhile projects would not be funded. Some opportunities for important community park development, habitat acquisition and farmland preservation may be lost as a result. The Coalition has turned its attention to the State Legislature to try and increase funding to \$100 million.

"Governor Gregoire's proposed budget for the WWRP will go far towards improving our quality of life, which is so important to keeping our

economy strong," said Joanna Grist, Director of the Coalition. "But additional funding is essential because many of these projects may soon be out of reach as real estate prices increase."

Decline of WWRP Appropriations



*Calculated using the Consumer Price Index

Supporters of increasing WWRP funding to \$100 million include:

- Association of Washington Cities
- The Boeing Company
- Cascade Land Conservancy
- John L. Scott Real Estate

(continued)

LAND NEWS



Sunny Walter

Save the Date WWRP Lobby Day February 21, 2007

10 AM
Columbia Room, Legislative Building
State Capitol, Olympia

Suggested donation \$10
RSVP to Carrie@WildlifeRecreation.org
or (206) 748-0082

Contact your legislators and ask them to fund the park, wildlife and farm projects at risk in your community.

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- Priorities for a Healthy Washington
- Puget Sound Energy
- REI
- The Trust for Public Land
- Washington REALTORS
- Wa. Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Wa. State Association of Counties
- Wa. State Parks Commission
- Weyerhaeuser

The campaign has also received editorial support from the Olympian, Wenatchee World, Kitsap Sun, Columbian and News Tribune.

This fall, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, a State committee that oversees WWRP grant-making, has recommended funding 133 park, trail, habitat area and working farm preservation projects across the state.

A selection of proposed projects appears on pages 4 and 5, and all projects can be easily viewed by city, county or legislative district on the Coalition's website at:

www.WildlifeRecreation.org

Priorities for a Healthy Washington

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is participating in a coalition of over 20 conservation groups that jointly select and advocate for four priorities each legislative session:

1. \$100M for WWRP Grants
2. Save Our Sound
3. Eliminate Toxic Flame Retardants
4. Clean Air – Clean Fuels

For more information see www.environmentalpriorities.org

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION COALITION



Leveraging Public Funds to Protect Washington's Parks, Habitat and Working Farms

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Local Communities Celebrate WWRP Grants



City of Pullman

With funding from the WWRP grant program, Pullman's families enjoy walks downtown on their new riverwalk.

Pullman becomes more pedestrian friendly

The dream of a place where people can walk safely, rather than using their cars, is a reality with the completion of Pullman's downtown riverwalk. Developed with funds from a WWRP grant, the riverwalk is the hub of the eight mile loop around northern Pullman.

Pierce Co. scenic trail extension celebrated

A crowd of supporters turned out to celebrate the opening of the latest four mile stretch of the Foothills Trail in Pierce County. The Meeker to McMillan segment passes through scenic wilderness and farmland. Lee Fouts, a Coalition board member and a local resident, spoke about the WWRP grant program's role in buying and developing 15 miles of the trail.

Kayakers and salmon enjoy improvements

Public access for canoes and kayaks at Magnuson Park on Lake Washington has been improved by a unique launch area with restored salmon habitat. The WWRP provided \$500,000 for three new docks and ramps, a float and a boat launching beach.

Seasons get longer at Custer Field

Until recently Custer Field was open three months less each year than other local fields due to muddy fields and no lighting. These problems

were corrected with a \$150,000 WWRP grant and matching funds from local groups like the Skagit Valley Softball Association.

Community celebrates Lake Goodwin access

Twelve acres on Lake Goodwin are now open to the public for swimming, fishing, walking and picnicking. The WWRP provided \$1.67 million in matching funds to buy and develop this beautiful beachfront in Snohomish County. Improvements include a playground, swim area, a pier, trails and picnic shelters.

Wenatchee's new dock makes a big splash

A new dock for canoeing, kayaking and sculling on the Columbia River made its debut last spring. The WWRP awarded Wenatchee \$50,000 that was matched by local fundraising efforts to build a new dock. It accommodates eight person shells in deeper water, so when the river is low users do not have to wade in the mud to launch their craft anymore.



Sunny Walker

Pt. Townsend's newly renovated skate park attracts skilled BMX riders and skateboarders alike.

Pt. Townsend youth welcome skate park

A new permanent skate park replaced a temporary park that was unsafe from overuse. The park is double the size of the old one and was funded by a \$200,000 WWRP grant, matched by local businesses and citizens. It is just one of 18 trail, park and wildlife areas in Jefferson County funded by the WWRP grant program.

\$100 Million for the WWRP in 2007 to Fund 133 Parks, Habitat Areas & Working Farms



Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

The Teanaway Ecosystem provides habitat for elk, deer, bull trout, goshawk and spotted owls.

Teanaway Ecosystem, Kittitas Co.

Considered a “gem” in the region, the scenic Teanaway Valley is used for recreation and is a key watershed in the east central Cascades, providing habitat for spotted owls, bull trout, deer and elk. American Forest Resources is working with Wa. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to transition 50,000 acres of commercial forest to a combination of planned development and conservation lands. A \$1.9 million WWRP grant would allow WDFW to buy 1,280 acres of critical habitat and help the landowner and partners move closer to the shared vision of a sustainably managed, publicly accessible upper Teanaway.

Beaver Lake Preserve, King Co.

Protection of 17 acres of forest in Sammamish is the last opportunity to connect wildlife in Soaring



Robin Mafisse

Protecting the proposed 17-acre stretch is the last chance to connect Beaver Lake Preserve to neighboring wildlife preserves.

Eagle Park to the Beaver Lake Preserve and Hazel Wolf Wetlands. If protected from development with a WWRP Riparian grant of \$400,000, the site will continue to provide habitat for the northern red-legged frog, willow flycatcher, pileated woodpecker and bald eagle. The land has been undisturbed since the 1930’s and many trees are nearing old growth stature. The site also provides water quality protection and could be used for outdoor education

Newman Lake Fishing Dock, Spokane Co.

Newman Lake is popular year-round with trout fishing, boating, swimming and wildlife watching. A WWRP grant of \$250,000 would allow WDFW to construct fishing docks and an accessible viewing platform so all users can enjoy Newman Lake with ease and comfort.

Chinese Reconciliation Park, Pierce Co.

A WWRP matching grant of \$419,092 will aid Tacoma with building a picnic shelter and continuing the restoration of this beach along Commencement Bay. The Chinese Garden is dedicated to the reconciliation of the 1885 expulsion of the Chinese from Tacoma.

Washougal River Trail, Clark Co.

The city of Camas seeks a \$898,784 WWRP grant to develop a major regional walking and biking trail in the 125-acre Washougal River Greenway. It will link neighborhoods south of the Washougal to Camas’ city center and give access to the river for fishing, wildlife viewing and picnicking. It will also connect 40,000 residents in the Camas/Washougal area to the



Sunny Walter

Local families enjoy cooling off in the Washougal River. The proposed trail would make connecting to the river even easier.



LAND ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT

SELECTED PROJECTS

Lacamas Heritage Trail, the 350-acre Lacamas Lake Park and Goot Park.

Steamboat Rock Campground, Grant Co.

Visitor overflow during peak season has pushed campers at this extremely popular state park out onto undeveloped “ad hoc” sites around the lake. A \$1.8 million WWRP grant would develop 37 new campsites and 8 cabins, ensuring future environmentally safe and sustainable camping at this picturesque park.



Sunny Wilder

Steamboat Rock State Park needs to be expanded to accommodate the many visitors who enjoy it May through September.

Daleway Aquatic Park, Snohomish Co.

The concrete surface of the 35-year-old Daleway Park Spray Pool in Lynnwood is cracking, and elevated concrete structures are slippery and dangerous. In spite of its deteriorating condition, the spray pool is wildly popular in the summer, with birthday parties and summer camps planned around it each weekend. A \$163,000 WWRP grant will help build a new aquatic playground to replace the spray pool and will offer families a safer place to play that is ADA accessible.



Lynnwood Parks

Families who visit the Daleway Aqua Park would like to see the outdated play area updated with safer play equipment.

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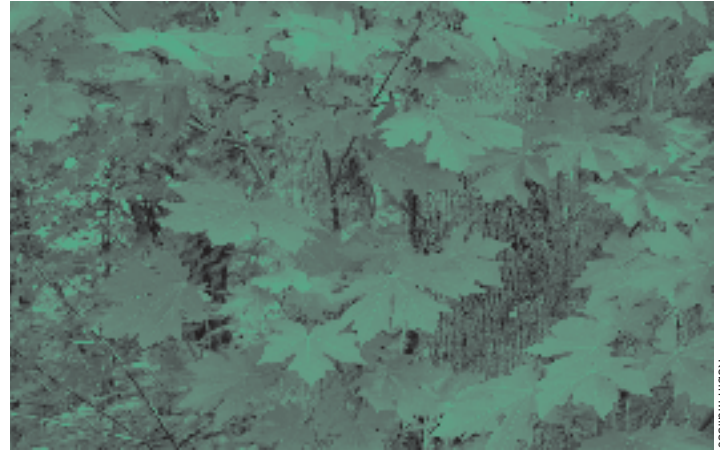
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What's Inside

More funding needed for 133 parks, habitat and farms

Local communities celebrate WWRP grants

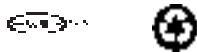
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