

## Ecological Integrity Monitoring & Impacts of Recreation

- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and State Parks are proposing to collaborate in addressing impacts to public lands from recreation and stressors, such as climate change.
- The goal is developing and applying **Ecological Integrity Monitoring (EIM)** methodology. EIM methods measure the current ecological integrity of a site through standardized and repeatable assessments.
- We support the WDFW request of **\$1.3 million**, State Parks request of **\$1.4 million**, and DNR's request of **\$7.8 million** in **Operating Budget** asks in working towards this effort.

## RCO DEI, Tribal, and Data positions

- The **Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)** is requesting funding for several full-time positions:
  - One to act as the agency's tribal liaison.
  - One to coordinate and help implement internal and external equity work.
  - One position plus some funding for contracting to create better data and improve access to data as it pertains to trails, recreational access, and public lands ownership
- We support the combined total ask of **\$996,000 of ongoing Operating Budget funding** for these positions.

## State Agency DEI Staffing & Investments

- **State Parks** is requesting **\$3 million** for staff to expand work on equity and inclusion efforts at the agency.
- The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is requesting **\$5.26 million** to create the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice within the agency and to expand its Tribal Affairs Department.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is requesting **\$696 thousand** for their Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism (PEAR) Investments.
- We support the combined ask of **\$15.22 million in Operating Budget** funding for this important work.

## Trust Land Transfer (TLT)

- This request is to provide funding and legislation to transform the **Trust Land Transfer (TLT)** program based on a report and recommendations by a DNR and external stakeholder workgroup
- We support the **\$576,000 Operating and \$25.1 million Capital Budget requests** for TLT and agree with the steps to **modernize** and make the **program more transparent** to the public.

## Parks RX Pilot Programs

- Metro Parks Tacoma, with support of WRPA, is seeking a directive that the Department of Health establish three (3) or more pilot "Parks Rx" programs in the Puget Sound, Eastern Washington, and SW Washington. This requests builds from a just-completed DOH study indicating that Parks Rx programs would add **health care and quality of life** value to Washingtonians, particularly those from lower-income and historically disadvantaged communities.
- We support **SB 5095**, as requested by Metro Parks Tacoma and the WRPA.

## Other Outdoor Grant Programs

The Coalition supports robust funding for these grant programs that help preserve lands and get Washingtonians outdoors in equitable ways.

- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI)** provides under-served youth with opportunities to experience the outdoors, often at WWRP-funded parks. With \$12 million in grant requests there is demand for additional funding beyond the \$4.5 million carry over.
  - The Coalition supports WWRC partners in requesting an increase of **\$7.5 million in the Capital Budget** to fully fund the No Child Left Inside grant program.
- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** provides funds for the acquisition, development, and/or renovation of outdoor athletic facilities for youth competitive sports.
  - We support the **\$11.3m Capital Budget** request.
- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** provides funds for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands and waterfront access for public purposes.
  - We support the **\$9.1m Capital Budget request** (\$6.6m from ALEA account, \$2.5m from bonds) for ALEA.
- **Farmland Protection and Land Access Program (FPLA)** provides funds for **agricultural conservation easement funding** to permanently protect farm and remove speculative development value
  - We support the **\$4m Capital Budget request** for FPLA

## Local Park Agency M&O Funding - COVID-19 Relief

- **Provides local parks agencies** with funding to address pressing maintenance and operations (M&O) backlog issues across the state.
- Will help address the significant COVID-related budget impacts felt by local parks agencies and the corollary sharp increase in use of local parks facilities, WRPA conducted an extensive survey to quantify a collective M&O backlog that exceeds \$700 million statewide.
- State funding would be administered and distributed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) via a similar ranked process to the WWRP
- We support **HB 1086**, as requested by the Washington Recreation & Parks Association (WRPA).