



The **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition** is Washington's chief advocate for local conservation and recreation projects across the state. For 30 years, we have been the steadfast champion for the **Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program** (WWRP), joining diverse voices for our great outdoors. In addition to the WWRP, we support select other legislative efforts to increase recreation and habitat lands and ensure equitable access for all Washingtonians.

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE & RECREATION PROGRAM



- Use of Washington's outdoor spaces is at a record high. State residents raced for outdoor spaces to have safe, healthy fun during the COVID-19 pandemic. With demand for outdoor recreation rising and state population continuing to grow, acquiring new spaces and increasing services and maintenance is critical to keep them safe and well maintained.
- The legislature allocated an **ALL-TIME** high of **\$120 million** to the WWRP this year!

Planning & Access Grants to Address Equity



- Planning for parks and recreation projects can be a complicated, confusing, and time-intensive process. That means it is especially challenging for **smaller and under-resourced communities**, including **communities of color and rural communities**, to plan for recreation and conservation projects.
- The legislature allocated an **additional \$5 million** in funds to the crucial **Planning for Recreation Access Grants**

Ecological Integrity Monitoring & Impacts of Recreation



Funded Partially

- 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.
- The legislature allocated **partial funding** towards all the State Agencies in order to work on this important project

RCO DEI, Tribal, and Data positions



**2 of 3 positions
funded**

- 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
- The legislature funded the **tribal liaison position** and **DEIJ coordinator** position this biennium.

Trust Land Transfer (TLT)



**6 of 10 projects
funded**

- 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
- Legislation was **passed** this year and **6 of 10 TLT projects were funded.**

Other Outdoor Grant Programs



7 Million Total in Funding

- **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 Legislature allocated an additional **\$2.5 million** to the NCLI grant program



\$10.44 Million in Funding

- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** provides funds for the acquisition, development, and/or renovation of outdoor athletic facilities for youth competitive sports.
 - The Legislature funded YAF at **\$10.44 million**



\$5.858 Million in Funding

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** provides funds for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands and waterfront access for public purposes.
 - The legislature funded ALEA at **\$5.858 million**



\$4 Million in Funding

- **Farmland Protection and Land Access Program (FPLA)** provides funds for **agricultural conservation easement funding** to permanently protect farm and remove speculative development value
 - Tjhe legislature funded FPLA at **\$4 million**

State Agency DEI Staffing & Investments



Funded Partially

- **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.
- Partial funding was allocated towards the State Agency requests for these investments.

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



\$5 Million in Funding

- **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.
- The Legislature allocated **\$5 million** in funds to be distributed by the Recreation and Conservation Office in grants limited to \$100,000 per organization

Parks RX Pilot Programs

DID NOT PASS

- 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.
- Unfortunately **SB 5095** was not passed this year.