



## Equity Positions at State HEAL agencies

- One of the Environmental Justice Council Recommendations recently made for Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Investments was "Reducing Barriers to Grant Programs". This recommendation requests the legislature appropriate funding for each HEAL agency to hire a dedicated staff person to be focused on assessing and addressing equity barriers in their agencies for implementing CCA funded grant programs.
- Additional context can be found at [this link](#), under Section 9 "Reducing Barriers to Grant Programs". **The Governor's budget included \$253,000 for the Department of Commerce, but not all other Heal Agencies**

## Community Forests Program Funding

- RCO is requesting \$5.78 million in Supplemental Capital Budget funding for Community Forests Grant program, this funding is also being supported by the Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Last year, the funding appropriated by the legislature left out two projects on the list
- If these projects, Hoquiam Community Forest and Lagoon Point Community Forest, do not receive funding this year, we may lose the opportunity to protect hundreds of acres of forestland that provides critical habitat and recreational access, in addition to support for local economies. **The Governor's supplemental capital budget included \$5.78 million for this program.**

## Collective Agreements for DFW in partnering for land management

- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes adding a section to RCW 77.12 that will give the Department the express authority to manage conservation and recreation areas, water access sites and trails in conjunction with any other public agency, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, or volunteer organizations for the benefit of WDFW-managed lands. It will also add liability language where volunteers are not considered employees or agents of the Department and the Department will not be subject to any liability arising out of volunteer activities or projects.
- This bill is listed as [SB 5785](#)

## 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/HB 1718](#) as requested by Metro Parks Tacoma and the WRPA.

## Renewing and Updating the Outdoor Economic Study

- The last update to the Economic Analysis Of Outdoor Recreation In Washington State occurred in April of 2020, as we know, this was about 1 month into the pandemic and the sphere of outdoor recreation and conservation has changed drastically since then. An update to the study is crucial to capture the boom and surge in outdoor recreation.
- RCO is requesting \$150,000 in operating funds for this study's renewal and update. **The Governor's supplemental budget included this \$150,000 in funding for the study.**

## DFW Forest Health Funding Request

- Washington's eastern forested landscapes face a forest health crisis. WDFW has made significant progress towards restoration of our goal of 100,000 acres over the past several biennium, with over 23,000 acres treated to date. Only \$4 million of WDFW's \$6 million FY23-25 request was funded by the legislature in the 2023 legislative session.
- This is an operating budget request for the \$2 million in funding that was not allocated last biennium. **The Governor's supplemental budget included the \$2 million in funding.**

## Reinvesting account revenue to support the state park system

- The proportionate share of interest from fee-based and park generated revenue currently accrues to the state general fund. These accounts are the Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account, the Snowmobile Account, the Winter Recreation Program Account, and the Parkland Acquisition Account.
- The legislation outlined in [\*\*SB 5902\*\*](#) outlines the development of request legislation that would reinvest the proportionate share of earnings from park earned revenue back into the accounts the revenue is deposited in.

## DNR Recreational Use Fees Legislation

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking an amendment to RCW 4.24.210 to receive the same statutory authority as State Parks and WDFW to charge administrative fees without compromising our Recreational Immunity. In particular, DNR is seeking an amendment to develop a fee structure for recreation permits.
- More information can be found under [\*\*HB 2165/SB 6043\*\*](#)