



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.

## \$150 Million for Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program

- **The Coalition asks the Legislature for \$150 Million** for the WWRP in the 2025-27 Capital Budget for outdoor recreation and conservation projects around the state.
- Use of Washington's outdoor spaces is at **an all time high**, as state residents raced for outdoor spaces to have safe, healthy fun during the COVID19 pandemic. With demand for outdoor recreation still rising and the state's population continuing to grow, acquiring new spaces and increasing services and maintenance is **critical** to keep them safe and well maintained.
- The WWRP grant program is **crucial for conservation** across the state to preserve habitat and mitigate the environmental impact of our growing population and the rise in usage of parks, trails and natural spaces due to outdoor recreation. We must take care of the ecosystems that sustain us, and provide funding for restoration for **the future of Washington's outdoors**.
- Investment is critical for our **economy**, for our **environment**, for **working lands**, and for **critical fish and wildlife habitat** around the state.

## State Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative

- This initiative is a partnership between the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, State Parks, the Governor's office and federally recognized tribes in Washington State. The group is working towards **co-developing recreation management tools that coordinate stewardship of natural and cultural resources effectively and protect Tribal rights** on state-managed lands and waters.
- Our support is for total of **\$5.7 Million in Operating funding** aimed to support this effort divided among the following packages:
  - The Governor's Office of Indian Affairs - Budget Request (\$3.4m)
    - Including tribal capacity grants; facilitation and intermediary services; and annual in-person leadership and information sharing meetings.
  - DFW - Invest in Lands Stewardship (\$984,000)
  - State Parks - Tribal State Lands Stewardship (\$724,000)
  - DNR - Rec Lands/Cultural Resources CFL (\$637,000 / 1.6 Full Time Employee)

## Department of Natural Resources Natural Areas Program

- The Coalition supports funding for the **\$5.74m Capital** request in funds towards the Natural Areas program at DNR.
- More information can be found [here](#).

## Other Outdoor Grant Programs

- **No Child Left Inside (NCLI)** provides under-served youth with opportunities to experience the outdoors, often at WWRP-funded parks. The Coalition supports WWRP partners in requesting to maintain **\$4.5m operating ongoing funds**
- **Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)** provides funds for outdoor athletic facilities for youth sports. We support the **\$27m Capital Budget** request.
- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** provides funds for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands and waterfront access. We support the **\$7.4m Capital Budget request**.
- **Farmland Protection and Land Access Program (FPLA)** provides funds for **agricultural conservation easement funding**. We support the **\$4m Capital Budget request**.
- **Community Forests Program** provides funds for **forestland preservation**. We support the **\$26.4m Capital Budget Request**.
- **Community Outdoor Athletics Facilities** provides funds for building, expanding, and renovating athletic facilities. We support the **\$17m Capital Budget Request**.

## Trust Land Transfer

- The Coalition supports funding for the **\$30m Capital** request in funds towards Trust Land Transfer 2025-2026 projects.
  - More information and a list of projects can be [found here](#).
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## State Parks ADA Compliance

- The Coalition supports funding for the **\$770k Operating and \$2m Capital requests** for State Parks to meet ADA compliance.
  - More information can be found [here](#).
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## Lands Maintenance and Operations Funding

- Governor Inslee's proposed budget released at the close of last year included cuts to the Department of Natural Resources and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's maintenance funding. Specifically, it lowered the amount given to each agency from **\$10m to \$7.5m -- a reduction of 25%**.
  - The Coalition joins other partner organizations, like the Washington Trails Association, in requesting to maintain the funding for DNR and DFW at **\$10 million**.
  - A letter of support for the restoration of funding can be found [here](#).
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