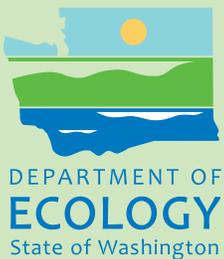




# **Exploring Wetlands Stewardship**

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## **A Guide for Washington Landowners and Communities**



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# **Exploring Wetlands Stewardship**

## **A Guide for Washington Landowners and Communities**

by  
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## About this Guidebook

This guide provides information about voluntary wetlands stewardship. Landowners, members of a local community, and local governments can use the stewardship applications to protect and conserve wetlands.

The primary areas of stewardship this guide covers include: 1) **preservation** using techniques to permanently protect the land such as conservation easements, full-fee land purchase, and land donations; 2) **conservation** tools such as property tax incentives, limited development, and density transfers; etc., and 3) **restoration** of wetlands and streamside areas by restoring hydrology, enhancing functions, or rehabilitating damaged areas.

We developed *Exploring Wetlands Stewardship* as a desk reference for individuals who provide technical assistance directly to landowners; such as field staff of:

- natural resource agencies,
- local governments
- conservation districts
- cooperative extensions,
- private or non-profit organizations.

The purpose of this information is to inform the technical agent of assistance options, so they can better meet the needs of the landowner or local community seeking technical or financial support to improve the stewardship of their wetlands. Therefore, this guide includes an introduction to stewardship techniques and a directory of programs that assist with stewardship implementation.

*Exploring Wetlands Stewardship* is not a reference intended for direct use by landowners, although some may choose to use it. Moreover, the notebook format allows for copying of pages by the technical agent to easily distribute specific items when working with a landowner in need of particular information.

In this document, Chapter 1 starts with an introduction to wetlands stewardship and its role in the watershed. Chapter 2 discusses how you can assess the needs of the land and the landowner in selecting a stewardship strategy and choosing the appropriate technique(s) to apply. Chapter 3 offers descriptive summaries of government and private groups you can approach to get assistance with stewardship. And, finally, Chapter 4 provides a directory of stewardship programs offering select technical and/or financial support. Their sponsors are federal, state and local agencies, and private organizations.

Throughout the guide, brief vignettes offer examples of how others have applied the stewardship techniques and programs. We provide decision trees, tables, quick reference guide, and contact

lists to help the user decide what to do and where to get help. The appendices provide references, lists of contacts, and worksheets.

Exploring Wetlands Stewardship is available on Ecology's homepage:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/96120.html>

***A Cautionary Note:*** With the number of programs listed in this directory, you might assume there is adequate financial and technical support to address all wetlands stewardship. This is not the case. Many programs have narrow criteria for eligibility and many do not focus specifically on wetlands, but rather provide assistance for one function of a wetland or support another resource area that is peripherally related to wetlands. In these cases, wetlands might be only a small part of a program's focus.

For many of the programs, staff and funds do not adequately meet current demand, causing backlogs where excellent projects may wait several years to begin. In addition, government sponsored programs often experience annual or biennial fluctuations in funding.

Therefore, creating the fit between one or more program(s) and the desired wetland stewardship project may take some doing.

Stewardship options, however, play a critical role in the total picture of wetland and landscape protection. These voluntary opportunities offer an essential balance to regulatory prescriptions and often a greater level of protection to the individual site.

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## Wetlands Stewardship

What is wetlands stewardship?

Wetlands stewardship means protecting and enhancing the natural features, processes, and ecological functions of wetlands.

Wetlands stewardship can include: Long-term preservation using purchase or donations, and conservation easements.

- Non-compensatory enhancement, restoration, or establishment.
- Improved management through use of best management practices, management plans or agreements, and partnership contracts.
- Incentives such as current use taxation, transfers of development rights, etc.

The benefits of stewardship are different for different people. Some landowners seek to retain the natural values of their property for recreation and enjoyment. Others may wish to protect the wetland's natural functions, while also achieving direct economic benefit from the property.

Providing wetland stewardship does not have to mean an economic loss to the landowner. Landowners can benefit economically by protecting and enhancing wetlands. Some financial benefits include direct income, estate tax reductions, and in some cases, income and property tax reductions.

Landowners can also benefit from protecting or conserving natural wetland processes. For instance, the Chehalis Valley is home to many dairies with pastures and little winter grain production. Many of the dairy pastures develop ponds during the winter. Agricultural producers who have allowed for such flooding have found:

- improved top soil retention.
- accelerated breakdown of crop residue.
- decreased weed growth.
- reduced need for fertilizers.
- in some areas, a barrier against saltwater intrusion.

In addition, the ponds attract waterfowl. This contributes to the viability of the Grays Harbor estuary as a wintering waterfowl area. Wetlands that support waterfowl can offer revenues from parties willing to pay for wildlife viewing or hunting privileges.

Landowners who practice stewardship can also benefit from increased production. For example, when ranchers repair eroding streambanks and provide alternative watering sites for their animals, they prevent further loss of rangeland.

Several state and federal programs offer cost-sharing for preserving or restoring wetlands, and even direct payments for conserving wetlands. Landowners can receive financial or technical assistance for providing conservation easements on their wetlands. Along with the economic returns already mentioned, property values in Washington's urban communities often increase when open spaces such as wetlands are preserved; assuring the owner of permanent solitude and an aesthetic view.

Stewardship options abound. Landowners can

- Sell their wetlands for permanent preservation.
- Sell rights to their land.
- Place lands in conservation easements.
- Receive payments for conservation or restoration work.
- Use incentives such as current use taxation programs.
- Apply management practices that enhance values.
- Donate or acquire lands.
- Apply many other innovative approaches.

Often landowners receive income or other tax benefits for implementing the options they choose.

Private property owners have a tremendous opportunity to conserve and protect wetlands through wise land-use decisions. Their stewardship efforts can complement and enhance existing regulatory efforts to protect wetlands. federal, state, and local regulations may protect some wetlands from certain activities such as dredging or filling, but they do not regulate other activities. Thus, in the absence of committed voluntary stewardship, the gradual degradation or loss of wetlands systems results.

## Definitions of Stewardship

**Best management practices** are management measures which are reasonable and available and commonly used by professionals in the appropriate field that mitigate adverse impacts to surface and groundwater, and to the functions and values of critical areas. Examples are fences that keep farm animals out of the riparian areas, use of grass swales to filter runoff and improve water quality, etc.

**Buffers** are vegetated areas adjacent to wetlands, or other aquatic resources, that can reduce impacts from adjacent land uses through various physical, chemical, and/or biological processes.

**Conservation** is the protection, preservation, restoration, or careful management of the environment and of natural resources.

**Incentives** are designed to help motivate landowners and/or developers to conserve or protect wetlands while receiving some economic benefit. Incentives include tax-based techniques such as current use classification and regulatory-based techniques such as: density transfers, cluster development, and transfer of development rights.

**Preservation** refers to permanently securing lands to protect the important features of an ecosystem in an “un-impacted” condition.

**Wetlands** are “those areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (33 CFR 328.3(b)). Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands.

**Wetland creation** is the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland on an upland or deepwater site, where a wetland did not previously exist.

**Wetland enhancement** is the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland site to heighten, intensify or improve specific functions or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for specific purposes such as water quality improvement, flood water retention or wildlife habitat.

**Wetland restoration** is the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former or degraded wetland.

## Wetlands in the Watershed

Wetlands are among the most productive and valuable ecosystems, providing a wide variety of environmental and human benefits. Their functional contributions are particularly impressive given that wetlands constitute only 5% of Washington’s landscape. As such, the protection and conservation of wetlands dramatically benefits the health of watersheds and the economic livelihood of local communities.

### What is a watershed?

**A watershed is a geographic area of land bounded by topographic high points in which water drains to a common destination.**

You are always in a watershed, no matter where you are on the land: even in the middle of the driest terrains. Water from falling rain and melting snow seeps into groundwater and flows into creeks, streams, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and, ultimately, estuaries. A watershed may be large or small, draining an area that covers several states, such as the watershed of the Columbia River, or covering an area as small as a few acres. Tributary streams to larger river systems constitute sub-watersheds or sub-basins. Often a number of sub-watersheds or sub-basins make up the larger watershed or basin system.

Watersheds provide useful geographic units for resource management aimed at protecting the health of aquatic ecosystems and the health and economic vitality of human communities within these landscapes.

It is important to look at watershed systems holistically, as the cumulative addition of many small actions within the system can affect water quality and quantity downstream. Taking a “watershed approach” is a natural-resource management strategy that recognizes the critical nature of maintaining whole functioning watershed systems to correct key environmental problems.

Using this approach, one must look at the ecological processes at work in the watershed at the landscape scale and address protection and recovery efforts to maintain these processes rather than focusing on structural quick fixes at the site scale. For salmon for example, solutions that address landscape processes include maintaining or planting native vegetation along streambanks and protecting upstream forests, whereas a structural solution working at the site-scale would place bundles of large woody debris (LWD) in streams, without determining the cause (at the landscape scale). The cause may be forests in the upper basin that had been the source of woody debris or water flows that are too high, etc.

A process-based focus assures long-term solutions to watershed problems and saves money. Structural solutions last for a limited time and can fail. For example, large woody debris placed in a stream may wash out because of excessive run-off during a storm event. The large woody debris can’t be replaced through landscape processes if the upstream forest has been cut or there are no trees on the streambanks.

By conducting a watershed analysis, it is possible to understand the condition of a watershed's ecological processes such as the movement of water, sediment, nutrients, and large woody debris.

A watershed analysis shows the relationship between watershed processes, the habitat structures they form, and the functions that are subsequently created by that structure.

Once this relationship is characterized for a particular watershed, you can identify restoration actions based on the type of human uses in the watershed.

A watershed approach also stresses "community-based environmental management" which relies on the citizens, landowners, businesses, and community groups in the watershed to define the problems, to set priorities, and to help with the solutions.

## **Wetlands Have Important Functions**

Wetlands play a crucial role in watershed management. Although their numbers are small on the landscape, their contributions to environmental processes are critical.

Wetlands clean the water by trapping sediments and assimilating pollutants and excess nutrients. They also recharge groundwater, control runoff and store flood waters, reduce erosion, and stabilize shorelines. Wetlands provide critical feeding and breeding habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened, endangered, and commercially important species. Additionally, wetlands offer recreation and scenic opportunities and provide outdoor classrooms and laboratories.

Flooding, degraded water quality, limited water supplies, habitat loss, and sedimentation or erosion are some of the most common environmental problems Washington communities face. As upstream wetlands disappear, erosion, flooding, and sedimentation of lakes and rivers increases downstream. Decreases in wetlands affect waterfowl and other wildlife populations dependent on wetlands.

The decline and degradation of wetlands and streamside vegetation lead to declining fish populations. In Washington, many migratory salmon species (and/or stocks) are threatened or endangered. The State's development of a wild salmonid policy (outlining goals and objectives for salmon recovery) recognizes that wetlands and wetlands stewardship play a critical role in creating a viable future for Northwest salmon.

## **Wetlands are Important to Economic Health**

Certainly, we need healthy wetlands ecosystems to maintain our economic base. Nationally, the coastal marine fishing industry annually harvests over \$10 billion of commercial fish and shellfish that depend on wetlands, including trout, perch, catfish, menhaden, shrimp, oysters, and crab, as well as salmon. Wetlands save millions in annual flood, erosion, and storm damage by temporarily storing flood waters and slowing water flows. Damages from these problems already cost the nation \$3 to \$4 billion annually. Nationwide, an estimated 50 million people spend over \$10 billion annually on fishing, hunting, boating, nature study, photography, and swimming.

For Washington State, where we are experiencing rapid growth in our communities, it is increasingly apparent that the “services” wetlands provide equate directly to the economic welfare of our communities. These benefits include reduced infrastructure costs. Wetlands also improve economic welfare as return from corporate investment. Green spaces that wetlands provide contribute to a high quality of life in a community, attracting many businesses. Wetlands provide a natural life-sustaining system of “green” infrastructure that offers a wealth of functions for communities, as well as the landscape. Maintaining the “green” services of wetlands saves communities money. They don’t have to construct and maintain “grey” (or built) infrastructure to replace wetlands if they are removed from the landscape. Many fiscal analyses by local government now show the conservation of green space and the services provided, such as wetlands, costs less than the built solutions that replace them.

## Laws Governing Wetland Activities

Although the purpose of stewardship is to conserve wetlands and their functions, some stewardship actions, such as restoration or enhancement actions, may be subject to regulation. For example, to restore the historic water flow to a diked wetland, landowners will require permits to complete the excavation work. Natural resource agencies and landowners must, therefore, be aware of federal, state, and local regulations on activities that alter wetland conditions.

What follows are some key permits to be aware of when planning stewardship actions in wetlands.

**For more information on wetland regulations, contact the Office of Regulatory Assistance (1-800-917-0043 or 1-360-407-7037) weekdays, from 9 to 4 p.m. or e-mail [assistance@ora.wa.gov](mailto:assistance@ora.wa.gov)**

## Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application (JARPA)

Washington streamlines the permit application process for water-related projects through the Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application (JARPA). The JARPA combines applications for seven different permits into one. **JARPA covers all of the most common federal and state permits relating to wetlands.** These include permits for the State Shoreline, State Hydraulic, State Water Quality Certification, and Section 404 and Section 10 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Rather than completing several separate forms, the applicant fills out one standard permit application for all.

To begin review, the proponent completes the standard application and submits it to each agency at the same time. The JARPA does not reduce the number of permits required; it only makes the application process easier. The respective agencies still review the application and each agency still issues separate permits in accordance with their existing authorities. Some local governments use JARPA, combining all or some of their wetland related permits on the JARPA form. Check with the local jurisdiction to determine whether they use the JARPA format. The JARPA form can be accessed through the Permit Center at the Washington State Department of Ecology: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pac/jarpa.html>

# Success Story: Compensation for natural resource injuries

## Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration

Qwuloolt means “Great Marsh” in the Lushootseed language of the Tulalip people. The Qwuloolt Estuary lies within the City of Marysville, surrounded by a rapidly urbanizing area. Historically, dikes and levees cut off much of the historic Snohomish River floodplain, including the Qwuloolt Estuary.

A partnership of tribal, city, state, and federal agencies aim to restore this critical tidal wetland for the benefit of salmon, waterfowl, shorebirds, eagles, river otters, harbor seals, and people.



Qwuloolt Estuary



Allen Creek

## Contamination in the lower Snohomish River Estuary

From 1964 to 1979, commercial and industrial facilities dumped 3 to 4 million tons of waste in a landfill in the lower Snohomish River Estuary. This contamination destroyed 147 acres of intertidal estuary wetland. After this landfill closed, EPA designated it a superfund site. In 1994 the Natural Resource Trustee Council formed to assess injury to natural resources caused by the contamination.

A site close to the former landfill, the Qwuloolt Estuary, once provided benefits of a functional wetland, including habitat for salmon, birds, and other wildlife. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, settlers installed a levee and tide gates in an attempt to establish agriculture in the area. This prevented natural tidal processes from reaching the floodplain. The resulting destruction of estuary and marsh habitats reduced salmon runs by up to 60 percent.

## Compensation for lost resources

Due to its proximity and similarity of natural features to the contaminated landfill site, the Natural Resource Trustee Council identified the Qwuloolt Estuary as an ideal location to compensate for the natural resource injuries. The Trustees partnered with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), City of Marysville, and the Tulalip Tribes to pursue restoration on the Qwuloolt. A non-profit organization, the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, implements community outreach and educational activities for the project.

Over 10 years, the Tulalip Tribes spent \$10 million to purchase estuary land. The City of Marysville committed an additional 10 acres to the project. The project also received a \$290,000 grant from the Recreation and Conservation Commission.

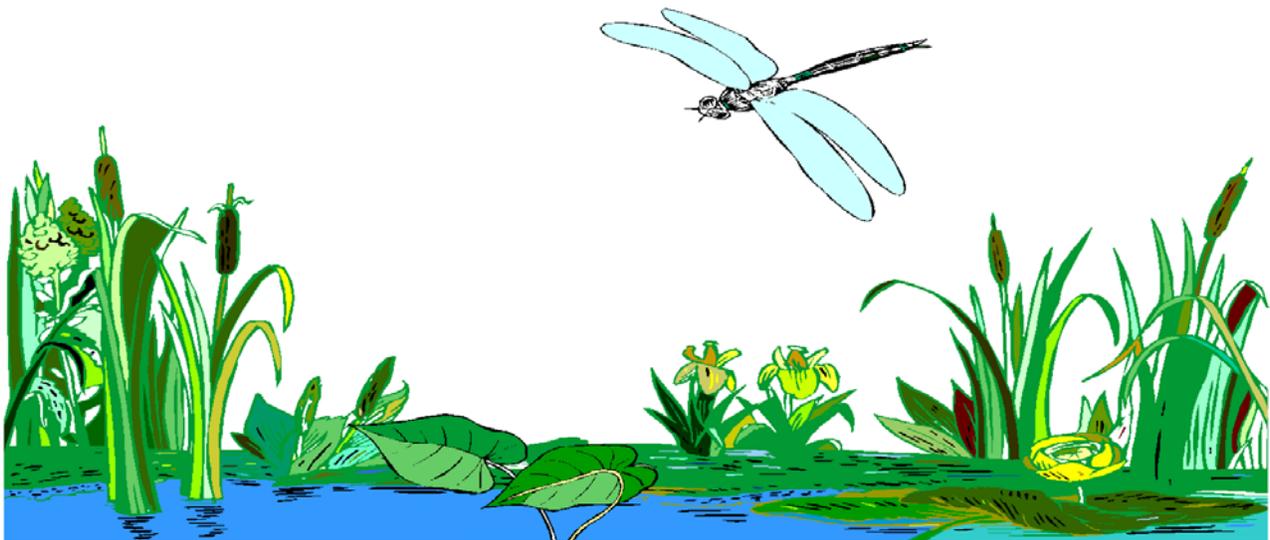
The Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project will remove the dikes and tide gates that restrict the river and tides from reaching wetland areas in the floodplain. This will return the historic and natural influences of the river and tides to the Qwuloolt, turning the area back into tidal wetlands. The team will remove more than a mile of ditched stream channel restoring Allen and Jones Creeks to their historic location and alignment.

The team will plant upland riparian areas with Sitka spruce, rose fir and pine. They expect Lyngby's sedge, bulrush, and cattail to revegetate the mudflats, tidal marsh, and stream channels, thus restoring Qwuloolt's natural estuary vegetation.

### **Benefits**

This project will return river and tidal influences to the Qwuloolt to restore tidal wetlands and benefit numerous estuarine plants and animals. It will restore the functions of the estuary including spawning, rearing and feeding areas for many fish, including salmon. Removing the tide gates and dikes will allow salmon to access small side channels in the estuary. These side channels will provide habitat for salmon to hide from predators, rest during migration, and feed.

Humans will also benefit from clean water, flood storage capacity, and recreational opportunities. The people of the Tulalip Tribes will benefit from this natural and cultural resource.



## **Streamlined Process for Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects**

In 1995 the State Legislature established the **Fish Habitat Enhancement Application** for permits involving restoration work. The Fish Habitat Enhancement Application differs from JARPA in that it is more than a consolidated application. It coordinates government review, specifying that complete applications must be processed in 45 days at no charge to the applicant. SEPA is also waived for these projects. Applicants submit a JARPA form and a 1.5-page supplement to both the local government and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regional fish biologist.

Projects must accomplish one or more tasks to restore fish habitat:

- removal of human-made fish passage barriers; or
- restoration of an eroded or unstable stream bank using bioengineering techniques; or
- placement of woody debris or other in-stream structures that benefit naturally reproducing fish stocks.

Three permits are consolidated in the new process:

1. Approvals related to Water Quality Standards under Chapter 90.48 RCW.
2. Hydraulic Project Approvals under Chapter 75.20 RCW.
3. Section 401 Water Quality Certification under 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1341 and Chapter 90.48 RCW.

**To qualify, the project must be approved in one of the following ways:**

1. By WDFW, through the Salmon Enhancement or ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Programs.
2. By the sponsor of a watershed restoration plan as provided in Chapter 89.08 RCW.
3. By WDFW as a department-sponsored fish enhancement or restoration project.
4. Through the review and approval process for Conservation District-sponsored projects.
5. Through a formal grant program established by the legislature or WDFW for fish habitat enhancement or restoration.

## **401 Certification**

Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act allows states to review proposed projects requiring a federal permit to place fill in wetlands or other waterbodies. The state's review, known as "Water Quality Certification" or "401 Certification", is meant to determine whether a proposed project will meet state water quality standards and other relevant federal and state aquatic protection regulations including wetland requirements, flood regulations, SEPA, and other water-related laws. The need for a federal permit or license triggers the 401 certification.

A 401 Certification can include conditions that cover both the construction and operation of a project, and can require measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for impacts to aquatic resources. A certification usually includes specific Best Management Practices to address various types of impacts, notification and monitoring requirements, and performance measures the project must meet.

## Isolated Wetlands

Ecology needs to authorize any project that involves filling or otherwise altering a wetland that the Corps of Engineers determines to be isolated. Isolated wetlands in Washington perform many of the same important environmental functions as other wetlands, including recharging streams and aquifers, storing flood waters, filtering pollutants from water, and providing habitat for a host of plants and animals. Many wildlife species, including amphibians and waterfowl, depend on isolated wetlands for breeding and foraging.

Ecology uses administrative orders to condition and authorize projects that affect isolated wetlands. The standards of review are the same as those used for 401 Water Quality Certifications and the state water quality standards for surface waters (WAC 173-201A).

## Local Regulations

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that local governments adopt land use regulations to protect designated critical areas, including wetlands (RCW 36.70A). This includes:

- Identifying local wetlands
- Assembling and reviewing relevant data (best available science) to understand the functions and values of local wetlands and how best to protect them
- Developing comprehensive plan goals and policies for protecting wetlands
- Developing and adopting regulations that provide criteria to designate the areas that meet the definition of “wetland”
- Developing and adopting regulations (zoning codes, subdivision codes, clearing and grading ordinances, and critical areas ordinances)

Ecology has published two volumes on wetland protection in order to assist local governments in revising their critical areas ordinances using the best available science. *Wetlands in Washington State – Volume 1: A Synthesis of the Science* is available at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/bas\\_wetlands/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/bas_wetlands/index.html) . *Wetlands in Washington State – Volume 2: Guidance for Protecting and Managing Wetlands* is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0506008.html>

Contact your local jurisdiction (town, city or county) to learn about your community’s specific regulations governing wetlands.

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## Chapter 2: Selecting a Stewardship Strategy

When considering a stewardship strategy for private lands, landowners can choose from many techniques. The best approach depends on many factors: the landowner's needs, the functions a particular wetland performs, and the contribution of those functions to the watershed.

Selecting the appropriate stewardship strategy involves:

- 1) Assessing needs (this includes an awareness of opportunities and limitations for both the landowner and the wetland).
- 2) Choosing the stewardship options which best fit these needs.

Once you choose a strategy, you can look for the technical and financial resources to get the job done (see Chapters 3 & 4).

A strategy can include more than one stewardship option and use more than one technical or financial program. For example, a landowner may want to restore the functions of a wetland and then choose to permanently preserve it by using a conservation easement. In so doing, that landowner may also qualify for the local government's current use property taxation program.

Most wetland sites require some restoration or enhancement to recover the site from past human impacts before preservation can occur. Lowland areas often need invasive plants removed and continuing long-term management. If the site requires extensive management, the landowner might establish a cooperative management agreement to help sustain the wetland's recovery over time. These brief examples demonstrate the breadth of options a landowner may employ when selecting a strategy for a particular property.

# Assessing the Needs

Selecting a strategy begins by helping the landowner assess his/her needs and evaluate the conservation potential of the wetland. You should introduce the landowner to the stewardship alternatives during this phase. This can help clarify what is important to them and what they can or can't afford.

The following box contains items to consider when assessing landowner needs, wetland qualities, and the watershed context. A brief discussion of each follows. Appendix D-1 provides a worksheet with some key questions to consider in gathering this information.

Identify landowner needs	Evaluate wetland	Evaluate property in its watershed context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation interests</li> <li>• Owning/Living on land</li> <li>• Economic needs</li> <li>• Activities on the land</li> <li>• Problems or other needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type and amount of wetland</li> <li>• Functions of wetland</li> <li>• Condition of wetland</li> <li>• Wetland sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics and problems of the watershed</li> <li>• Land-uses</li> <li>• Opportunities</li> </ul>

## Identify the needs of the landowner

Landowners vary in lifestyle, financial status, and conservation goals. What is the most suitable match between the landowners' situation and the stewardship options available?

### Key items to consider:

- What are the conservation interests of the landowner?
- Do they want permanent protection for the property or not?
- Is their conservation interest in wildlife, water quality, aesthetics, etc.?
- Are they interested in continuing to own and/or live on the property?
- What are their economic needs?
- Can they carry the cost of owning and managing the land?
- What are their estate planning needs and future tax liabilities?
- Do they need an economic return or compensation from the property?
- What activities will be permitted on the land: public access, extractive activities, development, agricultural production?
- Are there management problems with water quality, erosion, etc. or legal limitations on the land?
- What other special needs does the landowner have?

## Evaluate the wetland on the property

Equally important in determining a stewardship strategy is understanding the wetland's functions and ecological health.

### Key items to consider:

- What is the type of wetland?
- What percentage of the total property does the wetland occupy? What functions does it provide and what condition is it in?
- What preservation, restoration, or management does it need to be sustainable?

There are a few tools available to assess the performance of functions of a wetland. The most technical and accurate are methods that assess a wetland's class and subclass. They were developed by Ecology and were peer reviewed & tested: *Methods for Assessing Wetlands Functions: Volume I for Riverine and Depressional Wetlands in the Lowlands of Western Washington* and *Volume II for Depressional Wetlands of Eastern Washington*. For these classes of wetlands, the methods offer the best available science for determining performance of functions with a numeric score.

Unfortunately, Ecology has not yet developed volumes for all wetland classes found in Washington, such as estuarine or slope wetlands. Nor can someone without formal training by Ecology easily apply the methods. However, they offer a valuable tool for understanding the wetland classes they cover.

The Washington Department of Transportation's *Wetland Functions Characterization Tool for Linear Projects* is another method. It doesn't assess functions but characterizes them using guided best professional judgment. This method judges the likelihood that a wetland is performing a function. There is no quantitative score. You can use this method to assess a portion of a larger wetland when you lack access to the entire wetland. You should not use it, however, to measure wetland change over time or as a result of alterations.

Another tool is the *Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology* [www.oregon.gov/DSL/WETLAND/docs/ofwam\\_order.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/DSL/WETLAND/docs/ofwam_order.pdf). This method is a good general tool for gauging the relative quality of a wetland. However, limitations regarding its application include:

- 1) It was designed as a community planning tool to make comparisons between many sites, not simply evaluate one.
- 2) It will not properly evaluate urban wetlands unless you use the urban criteria.
- 3) It was designed specifically for Oregon wetlands, although Washington wetlands are similar.
- 4) It is for freshwater systems only.

If unfamiliar with making wetlands assessments, you may want to contact a qualified wetland professional such as a local wetland consultant. Some agencies have staff that offer technical wetlands assistance to landowners. Check with: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife field staff, Natural Resource Conservation Service offices or Conservation Districts, and also wetland volunteers with local land trusts.

## **Evaluate the property in its watershed context**

Lastly, you should consider the role of the wetland in the basin or watershed. This involves looking at the individual wetland in a broader context. Although landowners historically have not often considered it, a watershed perspective has become more critical to communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Landowners and local communities who recognize their role as “citizens of a watershed” should take this additional step in defining their stewardship goals and objectives.

### **Key items to consider:**

- land ownership patterns and presence of protected open space?
- known resource problems in the watershed that stewardship of wetlands will address?
- land use in the watershed
- land use trends and current zoning and regulations
- opportunities such as a real estate market for open space or local government stewardship programs

Agencies or local groups who conduct watershed assessments or develop watershed plans can help. They can gauge the contributions of a particular wetland to watershed processes. They understand watershed problems and how wetland stewardship can help solve them. Thus, they can help identify stewardship actions that will improve or maintain the wetland’s functions and contributions to the watershed.

The following lists provide general guidance for deciding the most appropriate stewardship strategy.

# Success Story: Salmon habitat restoration in Eastern Washington

## Buchanan Ranch Restoration Project

Wetlands usually don't come to mind when pondering the semiarid landscape of Eastern Washington. However, Eastern Washington has valuable wetlands that perform important hydrologic functions and provide critical habitat for fish. Many of these sites occur along the shorelines of major rivers and their tributaries. These rivers, including the Yakima, carry significant salmon runs. Dams in the Columbia Basin block passage of many migratory salmon. Degraded habitat along Yakima River and its tributary streams further stresses these fish. Fortunately, innovative projects like the one at the confluence of Wenas Creek and the Yakima River, the former site of Buchanan Ranch have demonstrated success at restoring valuable habitat.



Wenas Creek before restoration



Wenas Creek after restoration

Photos courtesy of US Bureau of Reclamation

### Salmon populations in decline

Dams throughout the Columbia River Basin (of which Yakima River is a tributary) have caused declines in salmon populations. Development and agriculture have reduced instream flows further stressing fish species. Salmon need cool water to thrive. Agricultural and residential development has eliminated native vegetation along streams, reducing shade needed to keep the water cool.

Federal District Court has remanded the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, along with two other agencies, under the Federal Columbia River Power System Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion. They have charged the Bureau with proving that continued operation of Columbia River dams will not harm endangered fish.

## **Restoring Wenas Creek**

The federal government established the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP), a program of US Bureau of Reclamation, under Title XII. Title XII created the Land Acquisition Program to acquire high value habitat lands, generally riparian lands, for restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife, wetlands, and water quality, in the Yakima Basin.

Other agencies involved include:

- US Department of Agriculture
- US Fish & Wildlife
- Ecology

YRBWEP purchased the Buchanan property two years after a developer had purchased it from the Buchanan family. The developers obtained plat approval from Yakima County to build over 100 homes. This would have permanently altered the site. YRBWEP's purchase of this land enabled the preservation of critical wildlife habitat along more than a mile of Wenas Creek, down to its confluence with the Yakima River.

The parcel includes the uplands on both sides of the creek also, all the way to the upper dry benches. The Buchanan property provides a corridor that connects to the WDFW L.T. Murray Game Range that extends miles to the north into the Yakima Canyon. This provides an important animal migration corridor from the creek bottom to the top of South Umtanum Ridge and further.

Before beginning restoration, YRBWEP had to remove trash and farm debris from the property. After that, they began removing invasive, non-native plants such as thistles. They have replaced non-native plants with native grasses and woody species to restore natural vegetation on the property. This included planting willow and cottonwood trees along with other shrub layer plants along Wenas Creek to eventually provide shade for salmon.

### **Additional benefit for people and salmon: Increased instream flow**

The Buchanan property served as a working cattle ranch and held two water rights—one for ground water and one for surface water. The Buchanans used these water rights for irrigation and stock watering.

The ground water right went fallow due to lack of use. This greatly reduces the demand on the deep ground water aquifer in the lower Wenas Creek area to the benefit of all other remaining well water right holders in the area. This also provides that the water formerly withdrawn from the deep ground water aquifer the Buchanans used will now remain in that aquifer. It will discharge to the lower Yakima River and/or the Columbia River at the aquifer's normal down-gradient discharge points.

State Trust Water Rights Program now formally holds the surface water right. This water right now serves as an instream flow enhancement trust water right. This benefits flows in lower Wenas Creek and then downstream in the Yakima River to the confluence of the Yakima River with the Columbia River. It provides a continual instream flow trust water right in lower Wenas Creek (the primary reach) during spring and summer each year. It also provides a lesser continual instream flow enhancement in the trust water right's secondary reach in the Yakima River. This water counts as added instream flow over the Sunnyside Diversion Dam at Parker

and over the Prosser Diversion Dam and added to the YRBWEP target flows. The Bureau of Reclamation manages and maintains this trust water right below these two diversion dams.

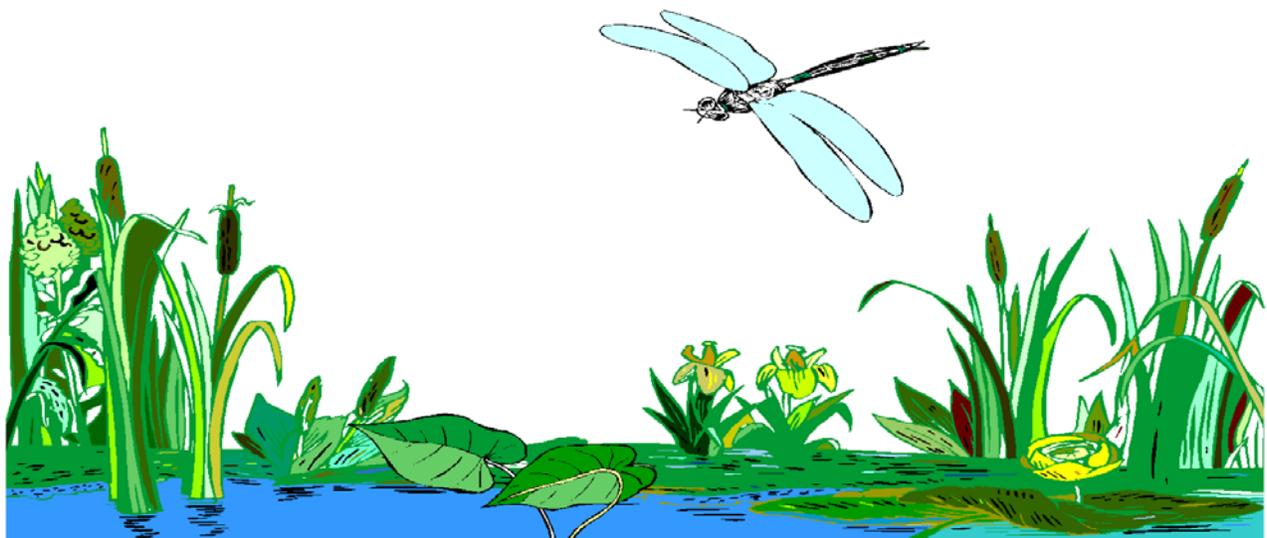
So, YRBWEP's purchase of the former Buchanan Ranch on lower Wenas Creek has resulted in the formal creation of a state trust water right for instream flow enhancement in lower Wenas Creek and downstream in the Yakima River. This additional flow benefits fish and wildlife in the Yakima River Basin.

### **Success already evident**

The restoration work is already showing success. Young willow and cottonwood trees and other shrub layer plants along Wenas Creek continue to grow and thrive. The program's participants have managed to control the noxious weed infestations.

A beaver population thrives along the creek. Over time, the beavers will help restore the higher water table aquifer levels that will in turn irrigate the creek bottomland portions of the property. This will perhaps create some wetlands and wet meadows in certain locations on the property. The restoration of this site is progressing well and shows promise of even greater improvements in the future.

The program's efforts so far have reduced bank erosion on Wenas Creek. As streamside trees and shrubs grow taller and provide effective shade, water temperatures in the creek will like decrease and provide a more hospitable environment for salmon.



# Candidates for Preservation

## Best candidates for preservation:

- ◆ **Threatened or Endangered species** of plant, wildlife, or fish are present. Documented occurrences are recognized by federal and state agencies.)
- ◆ **High Quality Native Wetland Communities sites** identified by the Washington Natural Heritage Program.
- ◆ **Regionally significant waterfowl or shorebird concentration areas.**
- ◆ **Irreplaceable wetland types:**
  - a) **Bogs:**

At least 1/2 acre of contiguous relatively undisturbed bog with a cover of invasive species\* that is less than 10% of total surface area
  - b) **Mature or Old-growth Forested Wetlands:**
    - 1) At least 50% of forest canopy meets the Department of Fish & Wildlife priority habitat definition for mature or old growth forest, or
    - 2) <25% of the cover in the herbaceous/ground cover or shrub class is invasive exotic plant species\*.
  - c) **Estuarine Wetlands > 1 acre**
  - d) **Eelgrass and Kelp Beds**

\* For a list of exotic plant species, reference the Washington State Wetlands Rating System, Ecology pub.04-06-015 and 04-06-025.

## Good candidates for preservation:

- ◆ **Wetland of Local Significance:**
  - locally or regionally rare.
  - documented as a groundwater recharge area or contributes value to a local water quality or flood mitigation program.
  - provides habitat for fish and wildlife that is considered important to the local community.
  - a recognized or planned educational site.
  - part of a recognized or planned recreation resource.
  - part of an open space or planned open space or green infrastructure area.
  - planned for future restoration as part of a local wetland recovery effort.
  - part of a wildlife corridor or connects wetland areas with habitat function.
  - recognized and valued as part of the local landscape.
  - considered sensitive to development or disturbance.
  - considered locally or regionally irreplaceable.
  - a green-space buffer area for an urban growth management boundary.
  - an integral part of a wetland system that would benefit from better overall protection.
  - satisfies other criteria developed by local government in its comprehensive planning process.

# Candidates for Restoration and/or Enhancement

## Best candidates for restoration/enhancement include:

- Ability to restore the source of hydrology for the landscape setting. An example is removing dikes to restore a historic tidal estuarine condition.
- Potential to re-establish a wetland of local significance (as defined earlier) using restoration or enhancement.
- Site's current condition does not support: threatened and endangered species, high quality native wetland communities, regionally significant waterfowl or shorebird concentration areas, or irreplaceable ecological functions such as bogs, forested wetlands, estuarine wetlands, or eelgrass and kelp beds; unless evaluated by a team of professional wetland restoration ecologists.
- A restored or enhanced wetland has the potential to provide important landscape functions which contribute to correcting a community watershed problem (i.e., wild salmonid recovery, flood attenuation, water quality improvement, etc.)
- Presence of or ability to establish an adequate buffer.
- Historic wetland area occurs solely on properties where landowners are interested in participating or a joint agreement is reached with all affected landowners.

## Good candidates for enhancement or improved land management practices include:

- **A land use causes or contributes to environmental impacts** such as erosion, water quantity or quality problems, and habitat loss:
  - Visible evidence of erosion such as exposed shoreline, sediment fans, mud bars, or rapid dramatic changes in vegetation.
  - The normal water level is noticeably increasing or decreasing from long-term norms.
  - Evidence of water quality degradation, such as algal blooms, dead fish, etc.
  - Signs of reduced plant diversity, such as fewer plant communities, invasion of non-native species, and rapid reduction in open water.
- **Little or no buffer around the wetland.**
- **Important habitat exists now**, such as heron rookeries, bald eagle or osprey nests, migratory waterfowl feeding, or salmon, and needs protection from impacts of current or future land-use.

## Choosing Stewardship Options & Techniques

With a firm understanding of the landowner's needs, the wetland's characteristics, and the role of the wetland in the watershed, you can define a stewardship strategy based on solid goals and objectives for the site. At this point you can choose among the stewardship options for those best suited to achieving the strategy's goals.

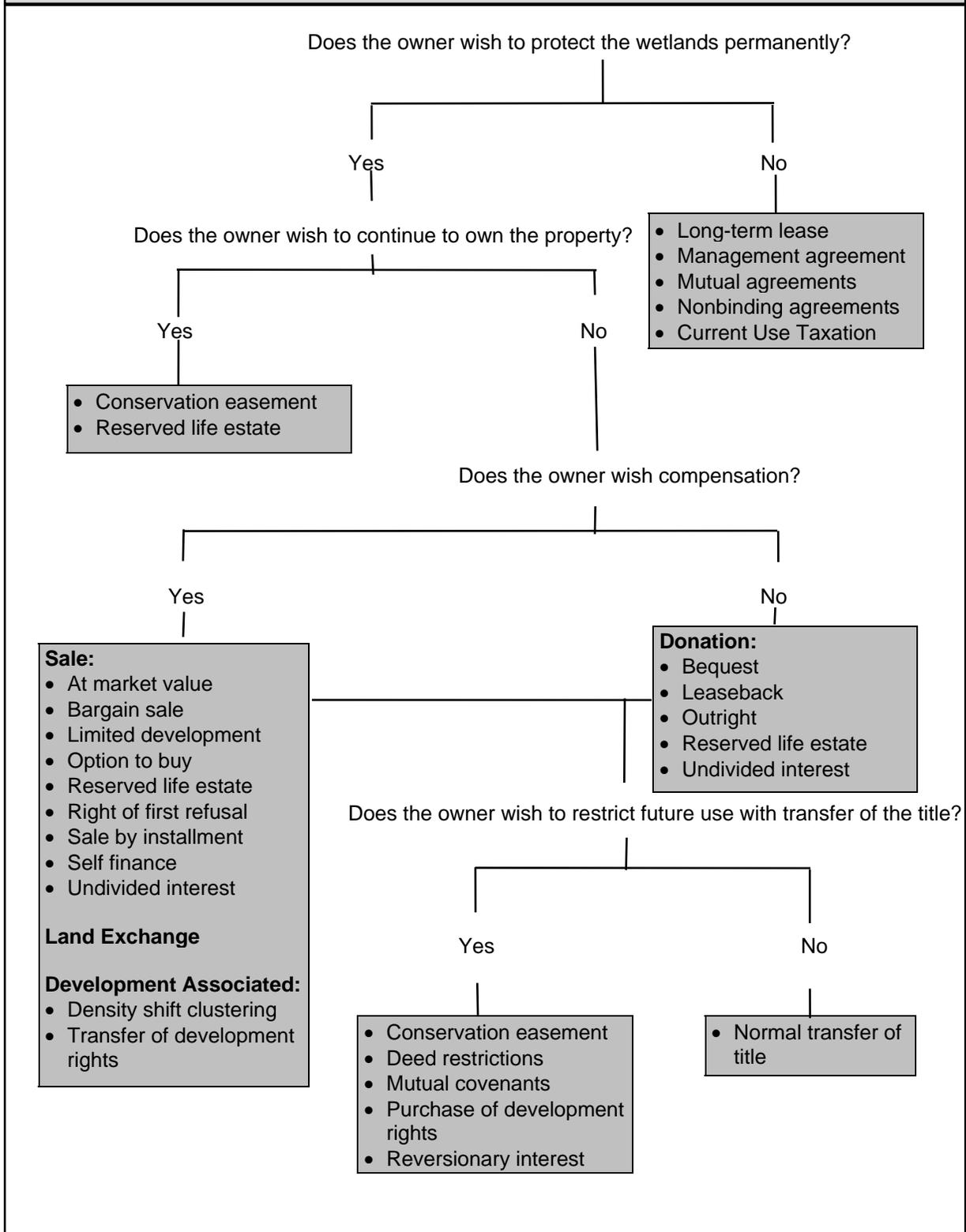
A decision tree to help landowners screen preservation options appears on the following page. Note that this decision tree includes some management-related options such as agreements and leases, as well as development-associated options. It does not cover best management practices, enhancement, and restoration. These latter options may require more hands-on technical expertise to assist in the scientific aspects of land conservation and recovery.

Property ownership is made up of a "bundle of rights" to the land that apply on, above, and below ground. These include the right to develop the land, the right to harvest timber or extract minerals, the right to access, and the right to preserve the land, etc.

- "Fee-simple" ownership, the most common real estate transaction, transfers all rights associated with the property to the new owner. It allows for "unconditional power of disposition" over the property rights; i.e., no property rights are reserved by others.
- "Less-than-fee" ownership provides the new owner or second party with some of the rights to the property, while the primary owner retains the remainder of the property's rights. This represents a "mixed power of disposition."

A landowner should decide the best approaches for both ownership and management of the wetland when implementing a stewardship strategy. Some cases, when the wetland is unique or fragile, warrant a transfer of ownership and/or some rights. Also when stewardship of the wetland may require intensive day-to-day management, a landowner may wish to relinquish ownership or some rights. Ownership transfer is not always necessary. For example, if the property is in agricultural or timber production, the application of best management practices may help to minimize impacts and better conserve wetlands or streamside areas.

# Choosing Stewardship Options



# Ownership and Management Agreement Options

The following discussion and supporting tables provide an overview of some ownership and management agreement options that can be applied to address the stewardship needs. Tables 1-4 at the end of this chapter list advantages and disadvantages for each.

## Land donation

By donating land the owner ensures that a conservation organization or land protection agency will manage and maintain the wetland. It can provide total protection to a valuable wetland. Often it may be the only way a conservation organization or agency can obtain a site when it lacks funds to make an outright purchase. When making a donation the landowner can potentially receive deductions on income, estate, and property taxes. An outright donation where the full title and ownership transfers immediately to a conservation organization brings the largest tax deduction.

**Table 1: Donation Options:** (See Table 1 at the end of this chapter for a detailed description of each.)

- Bequest
- Leaseback
- Outright donation

Reserved life estate

- Undivided interest

Landowners who donate their land should make sure that a qualified appraiser documents the value of the land for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) purposes. The landowner should also consult a tax expert to identify tax benefits from donating the land. The Land Trust Alliance has information on the tax benefits of donation (see Chapter 3 on Land Trusts).

## Land sale or exchange

Outright sale of a wetland to a government body or a conservation organization can provide full protection to a wetland. With this option, the buyer pays full price for the property and takes possession of the property upon completion of the deal. This gives the buyer the most flexibility in implementing a conservation plan. Such plans might include habitat restoration or enhancement, and provisions for public access.

However, government agencies or conservation organizations often lack funds for direct acquisition, so they use this technique only for the most important wetlands. Some variations on land sales provide relief for this situation.

**Table 2: Sale and Exchange Options:** (See Table 2 at the end of this chapter for a detailed description of each.)

- Bargain sale
- Full market value
- Installment
- Option to buy
- Reserved life estate
- Right of first refusal
- Self finance

Land exchanges are another option that provides the landowner full compensation for transfer; and certain types can provide tax benefits.

## Transfers with conditions and other agreements

Conservation easements and current use taxation classification are two of the most commonly used stewardship options. They are presented in detail below.

**Table 3: Transfers with Conditions, Leases, and Other Agreements.** (See Table 3 at the end of this chapter for a detailed description of each).

Transfers with conditions include:

- conservation easements,
- deed restrictions,
- covenants, and
- reversionary interest clauses

Leases and other agreements for property management include:

- long-term lease,
- non-binding agreements,
- management agreements
- mutual agreements, and
- current use taxation classification

## Conservation easements

Conservation easements can provide considerable protection for a wetland when circumstances prevent outright donation or sale of the entire property to an appropriate entity. Conservation easements allow the property owner to retain ownership of the land and often receive property tax deductions, while legally assuring that the wetland will be preserved. Landowners can either donate or sell conservation easements.

**A conservation easement is a binding agreement and transfer of certain property rights between the private landowner and another party, the “holder.”** Conservation easements restrict the type and amount of development that can take place on the land; often extinguishing development rights completely. Easements are recorded on the deed and therefore “run with the land,” applying to both the present and all future owners.

**Conservation Easements place restrictions on the property to retain the natural, scenic, historical, or open space characteristics of the land.** They work by separating the development rights of the land from the land itself. Easements are a highly flexible conservation option. The needs of the landowner and the unique natural attributes of the property help determine the restrictions placed on the property.

To set up a conservation easement, the owner must identify a “holder” or “grantee” as the willing recipient responsible for oversight of the terms. This needs to be a government agency or a private conservation organization such as a non-profit land trust which is interested in preserving the land. The holder assumes responsibility to ensure that present and subsequent owners of the property abide by the terms of the easement. They monitor the property and enforce the easement restrictions if necessary. To cover the long-term costs for this service they usually require that a cash “endowment” accompany the conservation easement if it is granted as a gift.

There are also choices as to who manages the property after the easement is in place. Some holders willingly take responsibility for management of the land. Or, they may agree to do so for a fee or contract with another agency or organization.

**An easement may protect all or part of the property.** For example, an easement may protect only the wetlands portion of a property, while the property owner retains the ability to develop the rest of the land. Often easements are used to acquire a particular feature or enhance the protection of privately owned land adjacent to parks or other protected natural, scenic, or wildlife areas. The most effective conservation easements for wetlands include some adjacent property to form a buffer against non-compatible uses and impacts.

**The property owner retains full right to sell the property.** The land under easement is transferred with the title of the property when the land is sold or otherwise changes ownership. Even if subdivision is allowed, the conservation easement will continue to affect all the land. If land use regulations for wetlands change, conservation easements and their accompanying restrictions remain in place. While political administrations come and go, easements remain.

**Owners can gain economic benefits by entering into an easement.** A conservation easement may reduce the market value of the land to the extent that it limits development and potential use. A reduction in the market value will reduce the land’s assessed value, which may reduce property and estate taxes. In addition, in the case of a donated easement, the landowner can claim the donated value as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

**Models and guidance for constructing conservation easements are available.** Refer to *The Conservation Easement Handbook* and other references in Appendix B.

### **Open space current use taxation classification**

State law RCW 84.34, known as Current Use Taxation (CUT) enables local governments to reduce property taxes on private lands that the statute classifies as open space. The county assesses these lands under their “current use” (i.e., as wetlands) rather than their potential

development use. This program offers conservation minded landowners a great opportunity to reduce property taxes when protecting sensitive lands such as wetlands.

Depending on the length of time a property is in the program, the landowner can defer or permanently reduce taxes. The three categories of open space are: timber, agricultural, and open.

**The “Open” open space category addresses wetlands and riparian area classifications.** In its simplest interpretation, qualifying open-open space properties include land designated by a city or county comprehensive plan that would “promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes.” It also includes tracts of land in urban areas that are left in a natural state provided that the site is not less than one acre and is open to the public. The county may impose conditions of access during the classification process. The statute now excludes sensitive wetlands from this requirement.

**In the late 1980s, legislation included a special provision for applying a “public benefit rating system” (PBRs).** The provision allows local governments to enact by special ordinance locally based criteria (a rating system) for evaluating and prioritizing applications for classification. With a PBRs, a community can decide what features yield highest “public benefit” to them and what amount of tax relief to offer on the qualifying properties. The presence of multiple features or the placement of a conservation easement on the land usually qualifies the property for greater tax relief (in the case of easements, it can be up to 90%). Several local governments have the PBRs option, or are currently developing one (see the Local Government Section in Chapter 3 for information on PBRs counties and how to enroll).

**Once classified, owners must keep the property in the CUT program for 10 years** to avoid penalties for premature withdrawal (penalties are 20% of back taxes + interest). After 10 years withdrawal will require repayment of the difference between current use versus full market assessment, plus interest, for a period of 7 years.

Classification as current use runs with the land, not the owner, continuing on the property as ownerships change. Any subsequent owner wishing to remove the classification pays the withdrawal fees.

## Development-related Options

Two different types of strategies for development of land can benefit wetlands. They include *on-site density transfer* such as planned unit developments and clustering, and *off-site density transfers* such as transfer of development rights. Also refer to the “Innovative solutions in urban areas” summary in the Local Government Section of Chapter 3 for other ideas on development-related options.

**Table 4: Development-Related Options:** (See Table 4 at the end of this chapter for a detailed description of each.)

- limited development strategies
- transfer of development rights (TDRs)

## On-site density transfers: density averaging, planned unit developments, and clustering

Density averaging, planned unit developments, and clustering operate under local land-use regulatory programs. Thus local governments must enact them. These approaches shift permitted

density from one part of the site (a wetland or buffer area, for example) to another unconstrained location on the same site.

Washington jurisdictions take a variety of approaches to density transfers, ranging from allowing 100 percent to zero transfer. A major consideration is whether to calculate density on the basis of net or gross acreage, deducting the wetland with its buffer or not.

**Planned unit developments (PUDs)** encourage planning of larger sites as a coordinated whole, rather than lot-by-lot. Most states apply PUDs as a type of flexible overlay on any property. In Washington, however, State Supreme Court decisions have considered a PUD the equivalent of a rezone, thus requiring a lengthy and complex process for approval. As a possible solution, local communities could develop a distinct PUD type process for wetland-related density transfers, with specific guidelines and criteria to address environmental concerns.

**Existing zoning usually allows cluster development** as an option and does not require a separate review or approval process, as does the PUD. Typically local governments use lot-clustering to protect wetlands, open spaces, or sensitive areas. A number of jurisdictions in Washington State use cluster development provisions in conjunction with critical areas programs.

Areas in common or public ownership can receive credits by clustering lots. Local governments then use these credits when they determine compliance with minimum lot requirements. For example, in King County's cluster ordinance a minimum lot size can be reduced from 10 acres to 1 acre, provided that the owner leaves 50% of the total parcel in permanent open space and all critical areas are included within the open space.

## **Off-site density transfers: transfer of development rights**

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs)** relocate potential development rights from an area where resources are environmentally sensitive to an area where increased development will not harm the landscape. This is done by actually transferring the right to develop the property from one location to another. TDRs allow land to remain in the private sector while avoiding development on environmentally significant sites.

The TDR works by assigning credits to property owners in an area of ecological significance or a conservation area experiencing strong development pressure. These credits can then be transferred to designated growth areas. Developers in designated growth areas can purchase the necessary credits from the owners of the conservation area and thus build to a higher density than is traditionally allowed.

Purchasing transferable development rights has been frequently applied to protecting farmland. Local communities set up programs to compensate willing landowners with cash for some or all of the difference between their property's urban development value and its agricultural value. Use of this method may result in a reduction of property taxes of the "donor" after the transfer of the development credit.

Barriers to TDRs include:

- Long and difficult process to set up the credit system.
- Require a strong land and housing market to drive operation of the system.

## **Best management practices, enhancement, and restoration**

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources. For example, free-ranging cattle can create erosion, water pollution, and habitat impacts along streams. One appropriate BMP would be to fence the stream at a sufficient distance from the water and plant native trees and shrubs.

Bioengineering means using a combination of living plants and non-living structures. Landowners can use this BMP when a shoreline or slope requires armoring and protection against erosion. This tool offers a “greener” solution than rip-rap that restores native vegetation to the system.

Bioengineering works well in several different wetland settings: riparian corridors, lake shores, and estuarine shorelines.

Many BMPs exist for different circumstances. To identify BMP techniques best suited to your situation, refer to BMP guidelines (see Appendix B for some references) and call the appropriate agency for technical help (see Chapter 3 on assistance).

**Enhancement** improves one or more wetland functions to a higher level, usually at the expense of other wetland functions. For example, adding an open water feature to a shrub wetland attracts waterfowl, but reduces the existing habitat for passerine birds and other wildlife. Another example: diking an estuary increases waterfowl production, but excludes use by juvenile and adult salmon.

**Restoration** is the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site to return natural or historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. Often restoration requires the removal of drain tiles, the breaching of dikes, return of beaver activity, etc. Refer to Appendix B for restoration information.

# Stewardship Options and Techniques

**Table 1**

**Transfer the title without compensation: Donations**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Bequest</b>	A donation at time of death provided for in a will.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows the owner to retain full use and control of the land in their lifetime, while insuring the land's protection after death.</li> <li>• The owner may revoke the bequest at any time should circumstances change.</li> <li>• Reduces estate taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not provide for income tax deductions during lifetime.</li> </ul>
<b>Leaseback</b>	Donation of property to an agency or conservation organization, but the original owner leases back the use of the land for a specified period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Original owner does not pay property taxes.</li> <li>• Reduction of estate taxes.</li> <li>• Saves on income and capital gains taxes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having the right to lease as a condition of the gift may preclude taking a tax deduction for the donation of the property.</li> </ul>
<b>Outright</b>	Donation of some or all rights to the land to a conservation organization or agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income tax deductions equal to the fair market value of the land.</li> <li>• Reduction of estate taxes.</li> <li>• Elimination of further property taxes.</li> <li>• Ensures preservation when the conservation organization or agency can not raise funds to purchase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The owner loses potential income from the sale of the land.</li> <li>• Receiving organization or agency must cover maintenance and other management land. This may constitute a significant burden.</li> </ul>
<b>Reserved Life Estate or Remainder Interest</b>	Donation of land with retention of rights by the landowner to use all or part of the donated land during their lifetime and/or the lifetimes of designated family members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows the donor to continue to live on the land and use it during their lifetime.</li> <li>• The donor only pays property taxes on the portion of the land retained for personal use.</li> <li>• May be able to claim income tax deductions on the value of what is given up prior to death.</li> <li>• Reduces estate taxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donor may not revoke the donation if circumstances change within the donor's lifetime.</li> </ul>

**Table 2**  
**Transfer the title with compensation: Sale or Exchange**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Bargain Sale</b>	The landowner agrees to sell the land to a conservation organization or government agency at a price below the full market value. The difference between the full market price and the selling price becomes a donation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier for the government agency or conservation organization to obtain and preserve the land.</li> <li>• Lowers capital gains taxes for the seller.</li> <li>• Seller can claim an income tax deduction for the difference between the price received and the full market value.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income tax deductions and lowered capital gains may not offset the difference in lost sales revenue.</li> </ul>
<b>Full Market Value Sale</b>	The landowner receives full market value for the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sale at full market value allows the landowner to receive full return.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult for conservation organizations and government agencies to raise sufficient funds to purchase the land.</li> <li>• Capital gains taxes are higher from full value sale.</li> </ul>
<b>Installment Sale</b>	<p>An outright sale of property where all or part of the purchasing price is deferred and paid in successive years. There are two types of installment sales:</p> <p>In one, a price is agreed on, title to the entire property is transferred, and payment is received in installments.</p> <p>In the other, a price for the entire property is agreed on, but the property is physically divided to transfer title in stages with payment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defers actual payment of capital gains tax until the purchase money is received, thus spreading income for sale over a number of years.</li> <li>• Helps the buyer by allowing them more time to raise funds and reduce the initial outlay of capital.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May raise complex issues over interest, arbitrage.</li> </ul>
<b>Land Exchange</b>	A swapping of "like kind" properties with an interested party such as a government agency or conservation organization. The exchange may be for equal values or may be equalized by cash payment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landowner can defer capital gains taxes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interested party must consider the property of high enough priority to swap other lands for it, and they must have other lands available to trade.</li> </ul>

**Table 2**  
**Transfer the title with compensation: Sale or Exchange**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Option to Buy</b>	A contract between the owner and a potential buyer that states the buyer may purchase the property at an agreed upon price within a certain period of time, often ninety days to a year. The buyer makes a payment for this option that if not exercised, is forfeited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can allow the buyer time to raise money for the purchase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May delay the owner's turn-over time.</li> </ul>
<b>Reserved Life Estate</b>	The landowner sells the property to an agency or conservation organization with the agreement that the owner, and/or specified heirs, may continue to use the land during their lifetimes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The original owner continues to have use of the land as a residence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amenities of the property would need to be high for a conservation organization or agency to agree</li> </ul>
<b>Right of First Refusal</b>	Legally binding agreement which takes effect once the property is placed on the market. It specifies that a particular conservation organization or agency has the right to match a bona fide purchase offer made by another buyer within a given period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Useful should the owner wish to allow the conservation organization or agency the ability of purchasing the land in the event of their death.</li> <li>• Gives a conservation organization extra time to acquire the funds necessary for purchasing the land.</li> </ul>	
<b>Self Finance</b>	Where the owner is in a position to do so, they may choose to assist the purchasing organization or agency finance all or part of the sale. Two approaches used are the balloon note and interest only financing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This buys time for the organization to raise funds to protect the property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires a financial outlay by the owner, and therefore is limited by their willingness and ability to do it.</li> </ul>
<b>Tax-Deferred Exchange</b>	A form of land exchange in which the transfer of properties is not simultaneous. There is 45 days to identify a new property and 180 days to close on it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landowner can defer capital gains taxes.</li> <li>• "Like-kind" property can be interpreted as investment parcels, thus a wetland could be exchanged for a condo.</li> <li>• Can make the land asset more valuable to the owner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stringent time constraints on the transaction.</li> <li>• Requires a search to find a new property.</li> </ul>

**Table 3**  
**Retain ownership and manage the property**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Conservation Easements</b></p>	<p>A real property right and legal agreement between a property owner and a “holder or grantee” (a qualified conservation organization or government agency) that restricts certain uses of the land.</p> <p>Easements can restrict development of the land and specifically protect certain attributes such as wildlife habitat, wetlands, etc. They may apply to all or a part of the property for a specified period of time, or in perpetuity. Only perpetual conservation easements can provide tax benefits. The easement is an encumbrance on a property’s title and thus “runs with the land,” binding all present and future owners for the term of the easement.</p> <p>The holder’s role is to monitor the property and enforce the restrictions in court if necessary. Cash endowments customarily address these costs, if the easement is donated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If perpetual and a gift, easements can provide federal income, estate, and gift tax benefits.</li> <li>• Property owner retains ownership of the wetland.</li> <li>• Flexible restrictions within certain guidelines and can be adapted to fit the needs of the landowner.</li> <li>• Can provide permanent protection of wetlands.</li> <li>• May result in reduced property taxes due to lowered assessed market values.</li> <li>• Management of the land may be turned over to the holder, if both parties are willing.</li> <li>• Holder enforces the wishes of the landowner, in perpetuity if so desired. (NOTE: this is not the case with other techniques.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually involves giving up some rights relating to the use of property.</li> <li>• The market value of the property decreases.</li> <li>• The landowner continues to be responsible for all property taxes, but the easement holder may assume some of the maintenance costs of the land.</li> <li>• If donated as a gift usually requires an endowment to cover monitoring and enforcement costs of the holder.</li> <li>• Requires a legitimate and adequately funded organization as “holder” in order to enforce easement.</li> <li>• Enforcement might become an issue with successive land owners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Deed Restrictions (With Reversionary Interest)</b></p>	<p>Legally recorded conditions on the deed, similar to a conservation easement. However no designated “holder” enforces the conditions. But by applying a reversionary clause, if conditions are broken, title to the land transfers to a designated party.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the reversionary interest clause, more long term strength is afforded the deed restrictions.</li> <li>• No need for an endowment to cover enforcement.</li> <li>• Possible property tax reductions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the restrictions beyond the original landowner’s lifetime is more difficult, as no “holder” enforces them.</li> <li>• The landowner can’t claim any reduction in market value caused by the restrictions as a charitable deduction on income taxes or to reduce estate taxes.</li> </ul>

**Table 3**  
**Retain ownership and manage the property**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Leases</b>	Temporary agreements for the rental of land by a landowner to a conservation organization or agency for a specified period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landowner receives payment on a monthly basis for the leased property.</li> <li>• Provides an alternative if landowners do not wish to transfer their land to a conservation agency or organization but want to see it used or protected by such a group for a period of years.</li> <li>• Certain restrictions can be incorporated into the lease to guide the activities of the conservation agency on the land, including provisions to terminate the lease if the conservation agency does not use the property as directed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unless restrictions are made by the landowner, leases generally allow unrestricted and exclusive control of the land by the agency leasing the property.</li> <li>• No tax benefits accrue to the landowner.</li> <li>• Does not provide for protection in perpetuity.</li> </ul>
<b>Management Agreements</b>	<p>A formal, but temporary, agreement between the landowner and a conservation agency whereby either the landowner or conservation agency agrees to manage the property in a manner consistent with the goals of both parties, defined in a stewardship plan. The parties can usually cancel these agreements with 30-days notice and renew them on an annual basis.</p> <p>NOTE: Non-binding agreements are less formal hand-shakes between these same parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct payments and other types of cost-share assistance may be available to the landowner.</li> <li>• The organization that helps develop the plan often provides management assistance and monitors compliance.</li> <li>• Ordinarily it is easier to terminate than a lease and does not involve possession of property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary.</li> <li>• No tax benefits.</li> </ul>

**Table 3**  
**Retain ownership and manage the property**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Mutual Covenants</b>	Neighboring landowners with a common conservation interest may sign and record an agreement containing restrictions similar to an easement. The agreement, like an easement, would then bind subsequent owners. Any current or future owners could enforce the agreement. (Note: the informal commitment between neighbors is a mutual agreement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforceable by any current or future landowners of the properties.</li> <li>• Significant incentive to comply with the restrictions knowing the landowner's neighbors are aware of what can and cannot be done on their property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners cannot claim the loss in market value from mutual covenants as a charitable deduction on income tax returns.</li> <li>• May last as long as an easement, because covenants are subject to the doctrine of changed conditions: where a court could refuse to enforce the covenants if it felt that it was no longer possible to achieve the benefits sought when the covenants were imposed.</li> <li>• Mutual agreements provide no tax benefit or permanent resource protection.</li> </ul>
<b>“Open” Open Space Current Use Classification</b>	Property enrollment in a local county's “Open Space” Current Use Taxation Program. Under this program, properties with wetlands of particular value to the community can be eligible for property tax reduction if maintained in their current natural state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some properties may receive a considerable reduction in property taxes, for as long as the landowner retains the land in open space classification.</li> <li>• After the minimum 10-year period, the landowner can withdraw the property from classification.</li> <li>• Properties with conservation easements usually qualify at the highest rate of tax reduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in the property status to an unqualified use, or withdrawal requires the repayment of back taxes for up to seven years, plus interest, and a penalty.</li> <li>• After the minimum 10-year period, the landowner can withdraw the property from classification.</li> </ul>
<b>Undivided Interest</b>	A percentage of ownership in an entire property. (For example, three children can share ownership in an inherited family farm.) Granting an undivided interest to a non-profit organization gives them a voice in management of the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation of an undivided interest to a non-profit may provide an income tax deduction if done within the owner's lifetime, and may lower the estate tax liability of heirs.</li> <li>• Each owner shares a percentage of the property costs such as taxes and maintenance in proportion to their share of the total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each owner shares in a percentage of the property income in proportion to their share.</li> <li>• Each owner has the right to force the sale of the property.</li> </ul>

**Table 4  
Conservation in the context of development**

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Limited Development</b></p>	<p>Involves the development of the least sensitive portion of the property to finance the preservation of the remaining sensitive portions. To permanently preserve the remaining sensitive features from further activity, a conservation easement is usually applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where land values are high, this approach can allow enough funds to protect the remaining sensitive areas.</li> <li>• Can help achieve the landowner's financial needs.</li> <li>• Increased marketability of a site that contains desirable natural amenities (especially for office parks &amp; residences) often offsets profits foregone by not developing all the land.</li> <li>• Tax advantages may be realized from recording a conservation easement over the undeveloped part of the land may yield tax advantages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only apply to large parcels where conditions allow for development without endangering the sensitive feature.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs)</b></p>	<p>A method of relocating potential development from an area where the local government wishes to limit development to an area where it is willing to allow increased development. Local government enacts TDR structure through local zoning or other land use ordinance or regulation. The landowner is allowed to sell development "credits" to a purchaser in an area where the local government plans to allow development at increased densities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transfer protects wetlands and other ecologically significant features of the land without curtailing development in the area.</li> <li>• Allow land to remain in the private sector while avoiding undesirable development.</li> <li>• Do not require the expenditure of public funds for acquisition, but have same effect.</li> <li>• May result in a reduced property tax assessment of the "donor" land after transfer of the development credit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to counties with enabling legislation.</li> <li>• Complicated standards for the allocation, purchase, and sale of development rights must be established to provide a legally defensible system.</li> <li>• High planning and administrative costs.</li> <li>• It is difficult to accurately apportion development credits among landowners.</li> <li>• "Receiving" areas are often hard to find.</li> </ul>

# Success Story: Tribal Preservation and Restoration

## Smuggler's Slough

The Lummi Indian Business Council is using National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant funds matched by the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board State funds to purchase and restore 250 acres of estuary wetlands in the Nooksack River delta. Within the acquisition target area are 38 acres of palustrine emergent flooded, partially drained wetlands; 57 acres of palustrine emergent seasonally flooded, partially drained wetlands; 35 acres of forested and scrub-shrub wetlands; and 116 acres of wetlands converted to agriculture.



Purchasing these properties will bring project partners a long way towards the overall objective of removing and modifying dikes and seawalls to restore the full tidally-influenced hydrology to this historical intertidal wetlands area. The restoration action will also remove three fish passage blockages which prevent access to the 38 acres of semi-permanently flooded palustrine emergent wetland habitat. The 116 acres of drained agricultural land in the project area is at the lowest topographic point in the Nooksack/Lummi River estuary and was historically high-quality wetland habitat. Once tide-gates and drainage ditches are removed, this area will again receive tidal influence from both Bellingham Bay and Lummi Bay tides. This potential change in hydrology makes it a superb target for wetlands restoration.

These fish passage projects are just the first in a number of ambitious estuary restoration projects to be developed based on a tribal study. The restoration treatment design for the Smuggler's Slough project is underway, having been funded by the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the USFWS Tribal Landowner Incentive Program.

The property acquisition objective is to protect 250 acres of palustrine emergent, palustrine forested and converted wetlands by acquiring them and putting them under an environmentally protected status. The land is all current and historic wetlands and will be purchased fee simple by the Lummi Nation with an environmental easement deeded to Whatcom Land Trust to protect the property in perpetuity. The land purchases are also specifically designed to allow Lummi Natural Resources and its project partners to restore the tidal hydrology to Smuggler's Slough and Slater's Slough without the risk of flooding adjacent landowners. Instead, the increased flooding will facilitate wetlands restoration objectives. The restoration of natural hydrology will also allow fish passage into the Howell wetland complex through Smuggler's Slough, potentially as far as Lummi Bay.

# Chapter 3:

## Agencies & Groups That Provide Assistance

The project really works for the landowner. Bill Goeres said, “I really hope more disabled persons use it.” He really feels good about the opportunity it provides as he enjoys watching wildlife himself. He was so inspired by positive responses to the waterfowl blind that he opened an additional 600 acres of his property to the public for hunting under WDFW’s Private Lands Habitat and Access Program.

Many government and private organizations assist landowners with wetlands stewardship by providing technical expertise, funding, education, information, and project planning direction. Some serve a particular land-use clientele. For example, the Natural Resource Conservation Service works mostly with farmers and ranchers. Some address a particular wetland function exclusively. For example, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife focuses on habitat.

This chapter describes the agencies and organizations that work with landowners on wetland stewardship.

- Agencies (federal and state)
- Citizen Groups
- Conservation Districts
- Cooperative Extensions
- Foundations and Corporations
- Land Trusts
- Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- Watershed Teams

## **Agencies: Federal and State**

Descriptions of these agencies follow these lists:

### ***United States***

Army Corps of Engineers  
Bureau of Land Management  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Farm Service Agency  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Forest Service  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Park Service  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

### ***Washington State***

Conservation Commission  
Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development  
Department of Ecology  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Transportation  
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Puget Sound Action Team

### ***Grants.gov***

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for more than \$400 billion in Federal grants. Grants.gov provides a single access point for over 1000 grant programs offered by all Federal grant-making agencies. On this web site you can search for grant opportunities, register for email notification of grant opportunities, apply for grants on-line, and check the status of an application submitted via grants.gov.

Grants.gov includes federal agencies with environmentally related grant programs, including wetland grant programs. You can access the website at [www.grants.gov/](http://www.grants.gov/)

# US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)

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[www.nws.usace.army.mil](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil)

## Description

The US Army Corps of Engineers formed in 1775. It is one of the world's largest engineering and construction organizations. While an Army officer serves as commander of each Corps district, civilians comprise the overwhelming majority of its workers. The Corps' three primary missions include:

- military construction (such as barracks and training areas),
- civil works (such as flood control and navigation),
- support for other federal agencies (such as EPA's Superfund program).

In past years environmental programs within the organization have increased, emphasizing hazardous waste cleanup and habitat restoration.

The Corps is organized by district offices. The Seattle office handles most activities in Washington. (The Portland district handles activities in southwest Washington and the Walla Walla district handles activities in southeast Washington.) In addition to engineers, the Corps employs biologists, archaeologists, planners, hydrologists and other professions to handle its diverse responsibilities.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration – Section 206** – provides for aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection if the project improves the quality of the environment and is in the public interest.
- **Environmental Restoration for Authorized Projects - Section 1135** - authorizes the Corps to modify the structure or operation of a past Corps project to restore fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Estuary Habitat Restoration** – calls for estuarine habitat restoration projects to improve degraded estuaries and establish self-sustaining systems integrated into the surrounding landscape.
- **Planning Assistance to States - Section 22** - the Corps works with sponsoring groups to develop comprehensive plans that address a wide range of issues including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and erosion problems.
- **Puget Sound & Adjacent Waters Program – Section 544** - Implements projects for the preservation, protection, and restoration of critical ecosystem process, habitats, and functions within the Puget Sound Basin that development has altered or destroyed.
- **Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project** – Identifies significant ecosystem problems in the Puget Sound Basin, evaluates potential solutions, and preserves & restores critical nearshore habitat.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Regulatory authority for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act
- Navigation
- Flood Control

# US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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[www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html)

## Description

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the balanced management of public lands and resources and their values. Principles of multiple use and sustained yield form the basis of management. They consider the long term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural, scenic, scientific and cultural values.

## Stewardship Programs

- **BLM Challenge Cost Share Program** uses property exchanges, acquisitions, and restoration projects to restore, enhance, protect and manage habitat. The program focuses on partnerships among government agencies and private interest groups. The program provides technical assistance and small cost share funds.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Management of publicly owned lands including wetlands.
- Implementation of the agencies internal Riparian Wetlands Initiative.

# US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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[www.epa.gov/Region10](http://www.epa.gov/Region10)

## Description

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for assuring that regulatory and non-regulatory programs implement the Clean Water Act provisions. The Clean Water Act mandates the agency to protect, maintain and restore the Nation's Waters. EPA accomplishes this through: state delegated permit authority; supporting development of water quality protection programs through funding to states and tribes; and through technical and financial assistance.

The EPA has adopted an ecosystems and watershed-based approach to implement its environmental protection mandates. For wetlands and other aquatic ecosystems this means integrating regulatory and non-regulatory tools to minimize impacts to aquatic ecosystems and critical areas. EPA actively supports the development of information, projects, programs, training and educational tools that states, tribes, local governments, landowners and citizens can use to improve protection of aquatic ecosystems.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants** – provide modest financial assistance to support community-based wetland and riparian restoration projects, build partnerships, and foster local natural resource stewardship.
- **Nonpoint Water Quality – Clean Water Act – Section 319 Grants** – provide funds to non-federal agency groups, tribes and non-profits to manage pollution and improve water quality. (Washington Department of Ecology co-manages this program).
- **State/Tribal/Local Government Wetland Planning Grant Program** -provides assistance to state agencies, tribes, and local governments for watershed planning and the development of technical tools for protecting and restoring wetlands
- **Natural Resource Stewardship Network** - Participates in partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups to protect, improve, and stabilize urban forestry environments. Grants are available from the King County Grant Exchange.
- **Tribal Assistance Grant** -provides grants for administration of environmental regulatory programs and development of other environmental protection programs on tribal lands.
- **Wetland Program Development Grants** – provides financial assistance for wetland protection and enhancement to state, tribal, and local governments.
- **Wetland Protection, Restoration, and Stewardship Discretionary Funds** -provides small grants that support implementation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for wetlands training, outreach, education and sediment management issues.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Review and issuance of Clean Water Act Section 404 permits
- Wetlands Delineation training (in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- National Estuary Program
- Environmental Education Grants

# US Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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[www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

## Description

The Farm Service Agency, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers farm commodity, crop insurance, and conservation programs for farmers. It also provides loans for farm ownership and farm operations. FSA primarily directs its programs at agriculture producers or, in the case of loans, at those with farming experience. Farmers apply for programs and loans at county or consolidated county offices. See Appendix C-1.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Conservation Easement Program** – Farmers Home Administration (FHA) borrowers can cancel a portion of their debt by placing a conservation easement on part of their property. FSA accepts easements on highly sensitive lands for the purpose of conservation, wildlife habitat protection, and recreation.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** - designed to conserve natural resources by returning cropland to trees or permanent vegetative cover to enhance long-term environmental and wildlife benefits.
- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program** -provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. This enables farmers and ranchers to undertake conservation practices on their land, particularly those related to water quality improvements. (Natural Resource Conservation Service is a partner in this program.)

## Other Wetland Activities

- “Sodbuster” –requires new conversions of highly erodible lands to have a conservation plan
- “Swampbuster” - discourages conversions of wetland acreage to agricultural lands

# US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

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[www.fws.gov/pacific/](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/)

## Description

The Fish and Wildlife Service works to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of the American people. Primary resource responsibilities of the agency include migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, inter-jurisdictional fisheries and the habitat upon which they depend. Because of these responsibilities, the agency actively promotes wetlands stewardship.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program** -provides funding for on-the-ground restoration of salmon habitat, watershed assessments, outreach, and education in the Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Basins.
- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund – Section 6** – This fund promotes conservation for threatened, and endangered species by providing financial assistance for Habitat Conservation Planning, Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition, and Recovery Land Acquisition.
- **Fisheries Restoration & Irrigation Mitigation Act** – Seeks to protect and increase survival of native migrating fish.
- **Habitat Conservation Planning** – a voluntary planning option for private landowners to develop conservation plans to protect threatened or endangered species while conducting their land-use activities. Used to advance permit authorizations.
- **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants** - state agencies that administer acquisition programs in coastal areas can obtain funding for the purchase or restoration of critical wetland habitat.
- **National Wildlife Refuge Challenge Cost Share Program** – provides limited financial and technical assistance to agricultural landowners for enhancing wetlands, riparian areas or other critical habitat.
- **Partners for Fish and Wildlife** -provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners for restoration of wetlands, riparian areas and other critical habitats.
- **Puget Sound Coastal Program** - state, tribal and local governments develop partnerships with the USFWS to protect and restore coastal habitat in Puget Sound, with an emphasis on wetlands.
- **Tribal Landowner Incentive Program** – funds tribal governments to implement actions that protect and restore habitats for benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands.

- **Tribal Wildlife Grants** – supports the efforts of federally recognized tribal governments in projects that develop or augment the capacity to manage, conserve, or protect fish and wildlife resources.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Administers the Endangered Species Program
- Federal aid for Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration
- Administers the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund
- Review of the Clean Water Act, Section 404 permits (with US Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency)

# USDA Forest Service (USFS)

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[www.fs.fed.gov](http://www.fs.fed.gov)

## Description

The Forest Service protects and manages National Forests and Grasslands. In addition, they also provide technical and financial assistance to State and private forest owners, encourage good stewardship and land management on forest and grasslands, help states and communities to wisely use forests to promote rural economic development and a quality rural environment, and provide training and education.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Forest Legacy Program** - identifies and protects important forest lands from development by acquiring conservation easements or making occasional purchases. This program strives to achieve continued timber management, improved water quality and maintained or enhanced fish and wildlife habitat. (Washington Department of Natural Resources is a partner in this program)
- **National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program** - provides assistance for developing comprehensive river management plans to protect and enhance river values for selected rivers (or segments of rivers). Provides some technical assistance and limited funding for acquisition of property

## Other Wetland Activities

- Manages 12 million acres of wetlands and riparian ecosystems nationwide
- Develops and implements forest management plans that contain specific standards and guidelines for protection of riparian areas and wetlands
- Restores habitat and hydrologic functions of degraded wetland ecosystems on Forest Service property
- Administers a land acquisition program to protect wetlands and other significant ecosystems
- Conducts research on forested wetlands

# US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries

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[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)

## Description

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries supports stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and promotion of healthy ecosystems. Within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (waters from 3 to 200 miles offshore), using the tools provided by Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Fisheries assesses & predicts the status of fish stocks, ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices. NOAA Fisheries also plays a supportive and advisory role in management of living marine resources in coastal areas under state jurisdiction.

NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center works with others to restore degraded habitats; advance science of coastal habitat restoration; transfer restoration technology to the private sector, the public, and government agencies; and foster a habitat stewardship and conservation ethic.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program** – provides funding support for the acquisition of important coastal and estuarine lands.
- **Community-Based Restoration Program**- promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional, and local level to fund community-based actions that restore living marine resources and their habitats. The program also promotes stewardship and a conservation ethic for the NOAA trust resources.
- **Open Rivers Initiative** – funds locally driven projects to remove dams and other barriers to benefit living marine resources, particularly diadromous (traveling between fresh and marine waters) fish.

## Other Wetland Activities

- NOAA oversees funding and state administration of Coastal Zone Management Programs.

# US National Park Service

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[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

## Description

The National Park Service promotes the use of national parks, monuments, and other federal lands. The Park Service conserves the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife within its boundaries so that present and future generations may enjoy them. In addition, the Park Service provides conservation assistance to local communities for lands outside federal ownership.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program** - provides planning and design assistance to communities for protection of valued areas such as greenways, trails, river corridors, scenic areas and open space.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

# US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

## Description

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They help individuals, groups, organizations, and governments voluntarily conserve natural resources on private land. They assist land users and communities with conservation planning and applying conservation approaches that benefit natural resources and protect water quality. The NRCS provides technical, and in some cases, financial assistance for stewardship activities. The agency works closely with conservation districts, local governments, and private landowners to help prioritize local natural resource needs.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program** -provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to undertake conservation practices on their land, particularly those that improve water quality. (Farm Service Agency is a partner in this program)
- **Grassland Reserve Program** – helps landowners restore and protect grassland, and certain other lands such as habitat areas, while maintaining the area as grazing lands.
- **Northwest Salmon Initiative** - interagency teams develop watershed restoration plans focusing on ways to improve salmon habitat. This program provides technical assistance and small grants for implementation.
- **Plant Materials Program** - this research program develops cost-effective vegetative solutions for soil and water conservation problems. Agency staff and landowners collect , evaluate and propagate native plants. This program provides technical assistance to establish native endemic plant strains on restoration sites.
- **Resource Conservation and Development Program** - helps communities develop rural economies by improving and conserving local natural resources. The NRCS provides coordination for efforts that may include wetlands protection, flood plain management, and habitat restoration projects. This program does not provide grants.
- **Natural Resource Stewardship Network** - Participates in partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations and community groups to protect, improve, and stabilize urban forestry environments. Grants King County Grant Exchange provides grants.
- **NRCS Technical Assistance Program** - provides on-the-ground technical assistance to landowners, groups, state and local governments to inventory natural resources and apply conservation practices to protect and enhance those resources.

- **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program** - provides assistance to non-federal governments and some non-profit organizations to plan and implement watershed projects that address flood prevention, water quality, agricultural management, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Wetlands Reserve Program** - pays agricultural landowners for restoring and protecting wetlands. Provides cost-share funds for restoration and the purchase of conservation easements.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program** – provides technical and financial assistance to enhance priority fish and wildlife habitat in areas impacted by agricultural activities. Provides cost-share funds for enhancing priority habitats. These include estuaries, wetlands, riparian habitat, shrub-steppe, and oak woodlands.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Regulatory authority for wetland determinations in agricultural areas
- Soil Survey Program
- Natural Resources Inventory
- “Sodbuster” - requires new conversions of highly erodible lands to have a conservation plan
- “Swampbuster” - discourages conversions of wetland acreage to agricultural lands

# Washington State Conservation Commission

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[www.scc.wa.gov](http://www.scc.wa.gov)

## Description

The Commission provides administrative support to the network of local Conservation Districts. Districts are subdivisions of state government. Five-member volunteer boards of supervisors run the Districts and direct local solutions to natural resource conservation problems. The Commission coordinates district programs statewide to prevent duplication and to promote cost effective use of funding. They disseminate conservation information and support technical training to local Conservation Districts.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** – a voluntary program to restore riparian areas for salmon habitat by contracting with agricultural landowners to protect and restore buffers along streams.
- **Water Quality Implementation Grants Program** - provides grants to Conservation District offices to increase the level of direct technical assistance and education programs for private landowners. This program can produce holistic watershed management plans, site specific resource management plans, and cost share incentives to landowners. Each conservation district determines priorities for distribution of these funds; therefore Chapter 4 includes no program description.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Provide information and training to Conservation District staff

# Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED)

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[www.cted.wa.gov](http://www.cted.wa.gov)

## Description

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development provides technical and financial assistance to Washington communities to help them build strong social, environmental and economic foundations. CTED often directs its programs at the entrepreneurial components of local communities. This includes offering diverse assistance ranging from growth management support to advice to businesses.

The Agency works on natural resource issues focusing on growth management services and implementation of the Growth Management Act. Staff train and assist local jurisdictions to produce new or update existing comprehensive land use plans, and development regulations or special area ordinances (including Wetlands Critical Areas Ordinances). CTED can provide block grants as incentives to some of these activities. In addition, the agency has a mediation service to help local governments resolve disputes over resource protection versus growth issues such as regional transportation or water resources issues.

CTED has offices in Seattle, Olympia, and Spokane.

## Stewardship Programs

- None.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Assist local governments in developing programs that protect or restore wetlands
- Grants for development of wetlands protection ordinances, land banking strategies, or other innovative techniques to restore or protect wetlands
- Assist local governments in resolving natural resource and land use conflicts

# Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

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[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov)

## Description

Ecology strives to protect, preserve and enhance the environment and promote the wise management of air, land, and water for the benefit of current and future generations. The agency has many responsibilities including issuing permits for water, air and waste discharges. Ecology also provides technical and financial assistance to industry, landowners and local governments.

Ecology carries out its wetland responsibilities using a number of non-regulatory and regulatory approaches. Staff also assists local governments in planning and administration of local wetland protection programs.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Aquatic Weeds Management Fund** – provides grants and loans to local governments to manage the invasion of non-native aquatic plants.
- **Centennial Clean Water Fund** - provides grants and loans to local agencies to improve water quality resulting from either point or non-point discharges. The fund supports restoration, enhancement and education.
- **Coastal Protection Fund** - uses resource remediation funds to restore and enhance natural resources damaged by oil spills.
- **Coastal Protection Fund: Terry Husseman Account** – uses water quality penalties from violations to conduct natural resource restoration projects that benefit water quality and habitat.
- **Flood Control Assistance Account** - provides funds to local governments to minimize flood hazards through the use of structural and non-structural solutions including land use regulations, bioengineering, sediment control, etc. This program encourages wetland acquisition and restoration to reduce flood hazards.
- **Model Toxic Control Act** - provides funds and technical assistance to clean up and restore habitat damaged by the release of toxic wastes.
- **Nonpoint Water Quality - Clean Water Act - Section 319 Fund** - provides grants to local governments (i.e. conservation districts, cities, counties, etc.), tribes, and non-profit organizations to manage non-point source pollution (NPS) and improve water quality. (US Environmental Protection Agency is a partner in this program).
- **Washington Conservation Corps** – provides a labor force in the form of Conservation Corps youth crews who conduct watershed restoration work and other physical improvements to the environment.
- **Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund** - provides loans to local governments for water quality improvement projects, including wetlands acquisition in estuarine areas, enhancement, restoration, and education.

- **Washington Watershed Planning Act Grants** – provides funding and technical assistance to local communities for watershed planning to address water supply issues, and optionally - water quality and habitat. Offers funds for watershed assessment and planning in the entire watershed unit.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Issuance of Clean Water Act 401 Certifications
- Issuance of Administrative Orders for Isolated Wetlands under RCW 90-48.
- Joint administrative responsibilities with local government in Shoreline Management Act policy development, permitting and enforcement
- Technical assistance for wetlands critical area protection under the Growth Management Act
- JARPA and Watershed Restoration Permit assistance at the Permit Center
- Educational materials (books, displays, videos, pamphlets) on wetlands
- Stewardship information for preservation and restoration of wetlands in local communities
- Technical models and/or guidance for conducting wetland functional assessments, evaluating projects in a landscape context, mitigation banking, mitigation replacement, etc.

# Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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[www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

## Description

The State Department of Fish and Wildlife preserves, protects and perpetuates the state's fish and wildlife resources. WDFW maximizes the public beneficial use without impairing those resources. To do this WDFW secures, maintains and enhances diverse habitats and the species that live in them. The WDFW is committed to the preservation and maintenance of wetlands.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund – Section 6** – Assists the US Fish & Wildlife Service with the implementation of Habitat Conservation Planning, Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition, and Species Recovery Land Acquisition.
- **Private Lands Habitat & Access** – helps develop long-term agreements with landowners for habitat improvements and public access on private lands. The program covers materials and construction costs.. It may include wetland buffers (and infrequently wetlands).
- **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups** -provides small grants to local teams in selected areas to evaluate problems and implement solutions to increase fish habitat. The program works on private lands with landowner involvement, volunteers and agency staff.
- **ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Program** - assists volunteer organizations in fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, including wetlands restoration. The program pays for materials and construction work on private property.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Regulatory authority for Hydraulic Permit issuance
- Administration of the State Endangered Species Act
- Technical support for Growth Management Act and Sensitive Area Ordinance development and implementation on habitat issues
- Provides input through the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded or permitted projects related to habitat and species protection
- Provides educational materials on habitat such as wetlands and the species that live within them

# **Success Story: Preserving what we already have**

## **Lummi Island Coastal Conservation Project**

Lummi Island lies within the five mile zone of freshwater influence of the Nooksack River Estuary and borders Georgia Strait, which is the south end of the Inside Passage. The project site covers three parcels totaling 442 acres on the west coast of Lummi Island. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will acquire protection of all three parcels. This will permanently protect approximately 7,200 feet of saltwater shoreline and associated uplands, a significant portion of the west side of the island.

### **Lummi Island: a Puget Sound treasure**

Lummi Island contains many valuable, and in some cases rare, ecosystems. Large coastal areas remain undeveloped, providing an excellent opportunity for preservation. Some valuable features of the site include:

- eelgrass beds,
- kelp beds,
- feeder bluffs,
- freshwater wetlands,
- mature forest
- critical habitat for threatened and endangered species.

The project site's forests have mature, old-growth forests that have managed to escape historic logging and current development pressures. Only two percent of forested ecosystems in the Puget Trough ecoregion remain in this pristine condition.

### **Intense development pressure**

Lummi Island, one among only seven other San Juan Islands, has regular ferry service. Due to its scenic beauty and accessibility demand for waterfront property on Lummi Island is increasing rapidly. Existing zoning would allow development of 40 high-value waterfront estates on this project's site. The site also contains marketable timber, making it vulnerable to logging.

### **Protecting a Puget Sound jewel**

Congress established the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) in 2002 "for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses". The Department of Ecology submitted a grant for the preservation of the Lummi Island Coastal Conservation Project in 2006. Federal CELCP funds would match state, local, and non-governmental funds 1:1. WDFW plans to complete the project in two phases, since non-federal matching funds are not yet available to purchase all project parcels.

CELCP will contribute the \$800,000 funds to purchase a conservation easement on one parcel and WDFW will make an in-kind donation of an adjacent parcel's easement of the same value.

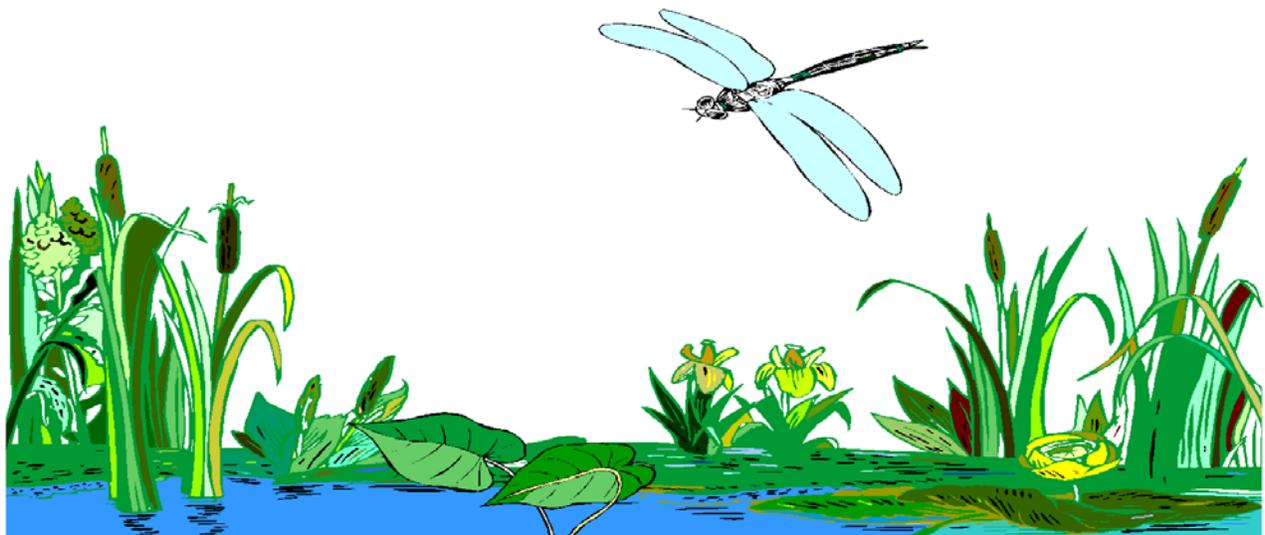
The Lummi Island Heritage Trust will make an in-kind contribution of a \$400,000 portion of the conservation easement.

WDFW obtained perpetual conservation easements for the three parcels in the project's first phase. As project proponent, WDFW will use CELCP funds to purchase a conservation easement on the Phase I Parcel. The local land conservancy has a core group of volunteer stewards and will provide long-term management of the easements. A WDFW manager will monitor the conservation easements to ensure compliance with use restrictions.

### **Many will benefit**

The Lummi Island Coastal Conservation Project will support many species that the WDFW have listed as endangered, threatened, sensitive or candidate species. These species include bald eagle, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet, Stellar's sea lion, harbor seal, Chinook salmon, Pacific harbor porpoise, and southern resident orca.

The project will also provide public access to scenic areas, providing opportunities for low-impact recreation. Lummi Island Heritage trust will manage these areas to ensure that recreational activities do not damage protected resources. They will also provide environmental education programs, inspiring visitors to preserve the natural environment as they enjoy the scenic beauty.



# Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

## Description

The Department of Natural Resources manages over 5 million acres of forest, agricultural, aquatic, and other state trust lands; natural area preserves; natural resource conservation areas; and recreational sites. The agency provides wildfire protection, oversees forestry activities, and monitors forest health conditions on 12 million acres of state and private lands. DNR also serves as the state's geology agency and provides urban forestry assistance to communities and forest stewardship assistance to non-industrial private landowners.

DNR staff can provide technical assistance regarding leases of state-owned aquatic lands used for a variety of purposes from aquaculture to private recreational docks. Staff can confer with landowners on issues such as contaminated sediment clean-up and disposal, near-shore habitat inventories, and harbor area planning.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Aquatic Reserve Program** – identifies and withdraws state owned aquatic lands from conflicting uses to protect aquatic lands of special importance.
- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program** – removes fish blocking structures such as culverts, dams, weirs, and spillways which block free migration of fish to habitat upstream. (We don't provide a description in Chapter 4.)
- **Forest Legacy Program** - identifies and protects important forest lands from development by acquiring conservation easements or making occasional purchases. The program strives to improve water quality, maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and continue to manage timber. (U.S. Forest Service is a partner in this program)
- **Forest Riparian Easement Program** – compensates small forest landowners for unharvested timber along riparian corridors by offering the purchase of a 50 year easement.
- **Riparian Open Space Grants** – offers private landowners the option of donation or compensation for timber lands within avulsing channel migration zones (property separated by a change in the course of a water body) or islands within rivers or streams.
- **Washington Register of Natural Areas** – recognizes landowners who voluntarily protect rare priority species and habitats that exist on their properties.

## **Other Wetland Activities**

- Administers the State Forest Practices Act
- Administers the Small Forest Landowner's Office for technical assistance to landowners about forest management issues.
- Administers the Natural Heritage Program
- Acquires and manages natural resource lands, including wetlands through the Aquatic Lands Program, Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas Programs
- Manages state trust lands to support education in the state and administers the State Trust Land transfer program.

# Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

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[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

## Description

The Department of Transportation provides transportation facilities and services for the citizens of Washington State. They seek to offer safe, efficient and environmentally responsible services but sometimes unavoidable impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources occur. Department policy requires the agency to replace resources lost as a result of state transportation projects. This often involves restoring historic wetlands or enhancing degraded wetlands, streams and riparian areas.

## Stewardship Programs

- **WSDOT's Wetlands Mitigation Program** - restores or enhances wetlands on private land to compensate for wetlands lost as a result of state transportation projects. The agency pays full cost of design, construction and monitoring.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Wetlands Monitoring Program
- Wetland Banking Program
- Watershed Pilot Program
- Developed the Wetland Functions Characterization Tool for Linear Projects

# Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office(RCO)

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[www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

## Description

The Recreation and Conservation Office supports the development of outdoor recreation and habitat conservation in the state. The RCO has guided the investment of nearly \$550 million in over 3,300 projects throughout the state for parks, trails, water access sites, wildlife habitat, and natural areas. Although best known for its grant programs, IAC also provides technical assistance, planning, coordination and advocacy on outdoor recreation and natural resource issues.

The Committee consists of eight members composed of three state agency directors and five citizens appointed by the Governor. RCO also commonly refers to the small state agency which serves the Committee.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account** – provides grants to local and state governments and tribes to acquire and/or restore habitat, increase shoreline access and recreational use, and provide other public benefits associated with aquatic lands. The program provides funds for land acquisition, restoration, and development of public access facilities along shorelines.
- **Salmon Recovery Funding** – provides competitive grants for habitat preservation and restoration projects and related programs and activities that contribute to salmon habitat recovery. This program funds acquisition of real property in fee or less-than-fee, as well as restoration efforts.
- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program** - provides grants to state agencies or municipal subdivisions of the state (cities, towns, counties, port districts, etc.) and Native American tribes to acquire conservation lands and develop recreation areas, including critical habitats such as wetlands.

## Other Wetland Activities

- Administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (with the National Park Service)
- Establishes the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Administers grants for a number of recreational programs that provide community recreational facilities such as parks, ball fields, off-road vehicle trails, etc.

# Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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[www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

## Description

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, historic, and natural sites. The Commission fosters outdoor recreation and education statewide to provide enjoyment and enrichment for Washington citizens. Many of the more than 250 properties under the Commission's management contain wetlands. The Commission strives to protect, enhance, and interpret the natural history of Washington State.

## Stewardship Programs

- **Washington State's Scenic River System** - designates and manages key scenic rivers in Washington, forms local support groups, and works to secure the "scenic" values of these rivers. (No program description in Chapter 4).

## Other Wetland Activities

- Provides for the interpretation and preservation of wetlands on lands owned by Parks
- Can protect targeted sensitive areas threatened by commercial development through acquisition efforts

## **Citizens Groups and Collaborative Efforts**

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Besides the land trusts discussed later in this chapter, some key organizations and associations have special programs that support wetland stewardship. The following groups' wetland stewardship efforts deserve special notice. Other groups are also working diligently on this issue. For more information about citizens groups and watershed activists, review the directories and contact lists in the appendices.

**The Audubon Society** actively supports protection of critical habitats such as wetlands. Many of the 25 local chapters have wetland projects in place.

Audubon Washington, the state field office of the National Organization that works with the 25 state chapters runs the Wetlands Network (WETNET). The WETNET program aims to prevent wetland loss by networking citizens and organizations. WETNET has actively supported protection measures for wetlands at the local government level and has provided education and information to local citizens and communities regarding regulatory and stewardship options through workshops, training, and technical assistance (see Appendix B for WETNET publications).

WETNET's current protection efforts, by the Tahoma Audubon Chapter, promote enrollment in Pierce County's Open Space Current Use Taxation Program. They provide information workshops and application assistance to landowners.

National Audubon Society has also initiated the development of information about Important Bird Areas (IBAs) around the country. Through this program they:

- identify the most essential areas for birds,
- monitor these sites for changes to birds and habitat, and
- conserve these areas for long-term protection of biodiversity.

You can find more information about IBAs on the Audubon homepage: <http://wa.audubon.org>

**Ducks Unlimited (DU)**, a national conservation organization, aims to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated uplands for North American waterfowl, other wildlife and people. DU works to restore and maintain fully functional wetland systems by supplying technical expertise and limited partnership funding support.

DU has five main focus areas in Washington: north Puget Sound, coastal bays and estuaries, the lower Columbia River, the mid-Columbia river, and the channeled scablands and pothole areas of eastern Washington. They primarily use restoration and enhancement of wetlands as conservation methods. But they also accept donations of conservation easements and land or purchase easements and land on a limited basis.

**Pacific Coast Joint Venture and Intermountain West Joint Venture:** In 1986 the U.S., Canada and Mexico signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a treaty to restore waterfowl populations along migratory corridors in North America. They created habitat joint

ventures, international and interstate public partnerships, to implement the goals of this treaty. The Pacific Coast Joint Venture and Intermountain West Joint Ventures are the two joint ventures that operate within Washington State. North America currently has 13 active habitat joint ventures, essentially along major migratory flyways. Joint ventures coordinate and focus public and private efforts to identify, protect, restore, and enhance critical wetlands and associated waterfowl habitat. The Pacific Coast Joint Venture operates in coastal British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The Intermountain West Joint Venture operates in eastern Washington and ten other western states.

In Washington, the Pacific Coast and the Intermountain Joint Venture partners include a mix of private and public participants such as:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Audubon Society
- Washington Duck Hunters
- Trumpeter Swan Society
- Washington Wildlife Federation
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Yakima and Colville Indian Tribes

Participating public agencies include:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Department of Ecology

Most areas of interest to the Pacific Coast Joint Venture are wetlands. The Washington branch first adapted a strategic plan in 1992 and updated it in 1996. The eastern Washington Intermountain West Joint Venture developed its strategic plan in 1994 and updated it in 2004. The planning process has identified eleven “focus areas” statewide where joint venture partners are collaborating to secure funding and complete on-the-ground habitat projects.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers two federal grant programs, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants and the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants (see Chapter 4), through the Pacific Coast and Intermountain West Joint Ventures.

**People for Puget Sound**, a non-profit citizens’ group, works to protect and restore the health of the Puget Sound and Northwest Straits through education and action. The organization works to develop plans for wetland protection and engages in wetland protection and restoration through on-the-ground implementation projects. You can find more information about the organization at their homepage: <http://www.pugetsound.org>.

**Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC)**, a broad-based coalition of groups and individuals, has a long-range goal of securing continued funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The Washington State Legislature appropriates the program's funding. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program provides significant Washington state grant funding to state agencies and local governments. These entities use the funding to acquire land for wildlife habitat conservation (including wetlands) and outdoor recreation (including state and local parks). The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office administers the program. WWRC works actively with the Legislature, public agencies, and citizen sponsors to secure funding and implement spending of Program funds. The Coalition's program depends on citizen support and participation to secure continued funding.

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** is a nonprofit established by Congress in 1984. Its mission is to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations and leveraged, with its partners, more than \$400 million in federal funds into over \$1.3 billion for conservation.

**Wildlife Forever**, founded in 1987, has provided funding to more than 600 projects in 50 states through private special interest conservation groups, state game and fish departments and federal agencies. Wildlife Forever projects target research, management, land acquisition, and educational purposes. Special emphasis is placed on grassroots programs.

**See Appendix C-3 for contact information on organizations.**

## Conservation Districts

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Conservation Districts (CDs) work with local landowners to provide technical assistance and cost sharing, as well as information and education about stewarding lands. Conservation Districts, legal subdivisions of state government, administer programs to conserve natural resources. Washington has a network of 48 Conservation Districts.

A five-member (elected and appointed) board of volunteers governs each Conservation District at the community level. The board establishes priorities and sets policy for the district. Essentially, conservation districts identify problems and guide voluntary solutions at the grassroots level. They use grants and some locally matched state general funds to implement projects.

The Washington Conservation Commission, a small state agency, supports the Districts. The Commission administers the grant programs and provides training. Conservation Districts also work closely with the technical and engineering staff of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency with a similar mission, to help owners conserve natural resources on private lands. Conservation Districts and the NRCS often work out of the same office to better coordinate their efforts.

Conservation Districts provide free technical assistance. They frequently advise on the application of best management practices, like helping farmers correct agricultural nonpoint pollution. This may involve restoring wetlands or creating new ones. When working on watershed enhancement projects to protect endangered salmon, they advise how to protect riparian and wetland areas and apply bioengineering techniques.

Conservation District staff work with rural landowners to develop **“conservation or resource protection” plans** required by many of the wetlands conservation programs in the Farm Bill. These include the Conservation Reserve Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and others. Landowners that develop these plans and implement approved conservation practices can become eligible for many cost-sharing and payment assistance programs. They may also become eligible for property tax exemptions on improvements to their property that benefit fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or water quantity under 1997 state legislation.

Conservation Districts also sponsor, or help support, special programs such as the Budd/Deschutes GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network). This program mobilizes students and citizens to learn about and address problems in watersheds. These may include, water quality and quantity issues and protection of fish and wildlife habitat. Programs like these engage community volunteers in a variety of environmental monitoring efforts. They also conduct action projects such as stream clean-up and restoration.

**See the “Index of County Level Contacts” (Appendix C-1) for a listing of conservation district offices by county.**

## Cooperative Extensions and Universities

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The Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service has offices in all 39 counties. The faculty of Cooperative Extension will conduct informal education programs in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, family living, community resource development, and 4-H. Some of the conservation oriented education programs they provide include:

- agricultural Best Management Practices,
- the role of wetlands in water quality, agricultural engineering, wildlife and fisheries management, and
- forestry and rangeland management.

Faculties of varying backgrounds staff the county-based offices. Campus and research station specialists support the offices by working with them to develop local programs. Cooperative extension offices also work closely with conservation districts, providing the most current scientific information on best management practices.

Many of the county offices support groups of volunteers trained in specific fields. Some of these volunteer groups include Water Watchers, Beach Watchers, Watershed Masters, Bay Watchers, Land & Water Stewards, etc. Volunteers receive a number of hours (generally 60-80 hours) of training on water quality and other issues, in exchange for an equal or greater number of community service hours providing educational outreach to the public. These volunteers will conduct monitoring, do clean-ups, and generally help to maintain natural resource areas.

**See the “Index of County Level Contacts” (Appendix C-1) for a listing of cooperative extension offices by county.**

Universities provide good information about the technical aspects of conducting restoration work and ways to monitor achieving success. University professors and graduate students can offer a wealth of information and assistance with innovative project approaches for wetland ecosystem recovery. Also, many universities, such as University of California at Davis, can provide research funding for projects that stretch our scientific understanding of resource issues and thus improve resource management.

# Foundations and Corporations

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A number of national and regional foundations provide grants to organizations and individuals for environmental and educational projects. Many corporations and local companies also have their own “giving” programs, which make grants to worthy environmental, educational, or social service projects.

These programs usually focus on community service and public resources. But in some situations they may consider private landowners for grants. For example, they may fund a landowner who wants to take special measures protect critical wetland habitat. Some programs may provide funding to private landowners if they use their lands to promote research or education for students. Involving multiple owners or demonstrating partnerships with conservation groups or government agencies may improve chances of getting a grant.

Eligibility requirements, application procedures, visibility, and funds vary widely among foundations and corporations. For more information on foundation grants and corporate giving programs:

1) **Consult the internet for the following resources:**

**Directory of Environmental Grantmaking Foundations**

[www.environmentalgrants.com](http://www.environmentalgrants.com)

**The Foundation Directory** [www.library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0026.html](http://www.library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0026.html)

**Philanthropy Northwest** [www.philanthropynw.org](http://www.philanthropynw.org)

**Washington Foundation Databook** [www.foundationdatabook.com](http://www.foundationdatabook.com)

**Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington**

[www.mrsc.org/subjects/finance/grants/grants.aspx?r=1](http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/finance/grants/grants.aspx?r=1)

2) **Contact businesses in the local community.** Most companies have an interest in projects that improve their own communities and benefit their own employees. If you know an employee of a particular business, ask them to help you identify the right decision maker in the company. Then have a personal conversation with that person regarding your project proposal.

# Land Trusts

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**Land trusts, usually locally based, non-profit organizations,** directly protect important land resources for the public benefit. Land trusts form when citizens wish to protect community open space values. Land trusts depend on the financial support, volunteer assistance, and participation of the people in the community.

Land trusts are not “trusts” in the legal sense. In fact, many refer to themselves as conservancies, foundations, or associations. Land trusts often offer quick response, flexibility, and confidentiality, and provide friendly land preservation assistance. .

**Land trusts protect a range of different resources** from greenways to farmland to open space. They protect land that has natural, recreational, scenic, historic, cultural, scientific and educational, or productive value, depending on the needs of the community. Many protect wetlands as their highest priority.

**Land trusts protect land permanently and directly.** They can take on the responsibility of overseeing, managing, and enforcing the land restrictions, as official “holder” of a conservation easement. They also directly own land.

**The hallmark of land trusts is their direct involvement in land transactions.** Almost all land trusts offer technical assistance to landowners to preserve quality natural resources. They use a variety of flexible and creative conservation methods that achieve conservation goals while meeting the specific needs of the community and landowner. Some common tools/techniques include: accepting donations, securing conservation easements, and outright purchase or bargain sales.

**Landowners may expect many benefits from conveying all or some of the interests in their land to a land trust.** These include: direct compensation, income tax deductions for donations, and lowered property and estate taxes. By working out an agreeable transaction landowners may gain a better understanding of their real estate rights and a plan for managing their estates.

**Land trusts are not adversarial,** but work cooperatively with landowners and government agencies. Therefore, trusts can lead community efforts to preserve open space. They can work with local residents and officials to strengthen planning and zoning regulations and non-regulatory protection of sensitive areas.

**National land trusts** are larger organizations and provide major support in a number of important areas.

- **The Land Trust Alliance** ([www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)), an umbrella group based in Washington, D.C. serves as a network for all the country’s trusts. It provides education, training, and technical assistance.

- **The Nature Conservancy** ([www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)), an international membership organization, focuses on protecting ecologically significant lands and waters. It owns and manages more than 1,600 preserves in the U.S. The Nature Conservancy has the resources to buy outstanding natural areas for preservation. It also works with a wide range of individual and agency partners to assist in the acquisition and/or cooperative management of significant natural lands.
- **The Trust for Public Land** ([www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)) specializes as an intermediary between private landowners and government or non-profit agencies to engineer land preservation. They make purchases and exchange properties to rescue key landscape amenities.

**Regional and statewide land trusts** are also appearing that address specific resource deficiencies in the Pacific Northwest. These focuses relate to wetland stewardship needs in some cases:

- **Pacific Forest Trust** ([www.pacificforest.org](http://www.pacificforest.org)) aims to enhance, restore, and protect privately owned forests. They aim to protect private forests that community sprawl and other development are over-harvesting, breaking up and converting at alarming rates. Forested wetland systems would benefit from this trust.
- **Washington Water Trust** ([www.thewatertrust.org](http://www.thewatertrust.org)) works exclusively to restore rivers by improving stream flow through the purchase or donation of allocated water rights. Often the trust works on small streams and tributaries where returning a small amount of water to the stream can significantly benefit salmon habitat, such as:
  - re-watering a dry section of stream,
  - providing fish passage, improving over-winter rearing habitat, etc.
 The trust has worked on restoring water allocations to wetlands.

See the “**Index of County Level Contacts**” (Appendix C-1) for a list of land trusts by county.

Also, the **land trust directory** (Appendix C-4) offers a brief synopsis of land trusts at the local, regional, and national levels. For other information on land trusts, or a list of land trusts throughout the country, contact The Land Trust Alliance homepage at: [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org).

# Local Governments

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The role of local government is to provide for the welfare of the community. Meeting the public's needs for health, safety, and economic livelihood contribute significantly to community vitality. Understanding the natural functions that wetlands provide helps communities recognize that maintaining intact wetlands provides local communities with real "infrastructure". These functions include:

- water quality filtration,
- flood dissipation,
- water recharge and discharge, etc.

Complementing regulatory programs with active local stewardship better protects the community's resources over time and can save the community money.

**Local governments have the most flexibility to provide stewardship programs** and opportunities for landowners of any government body in Washington. Decision makers on local planning commissions and councils readily respond to their constituents. Therefore, one can most effectively influence the development or modification of stewardship programs at the level of city and county government.

**In Washington, local governments have a number of exclusive options for enhanced stewardship opportunities.** Along with applying land-use designations to direct community growth, local governments can provide several voluntary stewardship opportunities including:

1. property tax incentives
2. revenue generating levies for conducting stewardship,
3. on-the-ground restoration and enhancement projects, and
4. regulatory-based conservation incentives.

(See **Table 5: Local Government Programs/Options that follows for a breakdown of counties implementing some of these opportunities.**)

## 1) Property tax incentive

### **Open space current use taxation (CUT)**

Current Use Taxation programs offer a reduction in property taxes on private lands when the current open space on these lands, such as wetlands, likely benefit the community and thus, justify the tax incentive to retain them in their natural state. Local governments can apply a "Public Benefit Rating System" (PBRs) to determine appropriate classifications and levels of tax relief for each. (Refer to the "stewardship techniques" section of chapter 2 for more details on CUT Programs.)

The table of "Local Government Programs" lists those counties that have established a PBRs. Although some counties have not established a PBRs and/or received any enrollment applications (and thus have not officially enacted the "open" open-space provision), nonetheless, all Washington counties have the opportunity to establish a PBRs. A landowner has only to apply to engage a review for enrollment.

If the county Comprehensive Plan has not designated a property as open space, or if a county has established a PBRs, the county must hold a public hearing. At the hearing the local legislative body makes a determination regarding classification. Thus, the property owner applies for enrollment to the legislative authority of the county in which the property is located. **Contact the local land-use planning or assessor's office.**

## **2) Funding mechanisms and programs or stewardship**

### **Conservation Futures**

The state Current Use Taxation law<sup>1</sup> () also provides authority for local governments to raise funds for open space preservation through purchase of easements, development rights, or outright acquisition. The law authorizes counties to levy a property tax of up to \$0.0625 per \$1000 assessed valuation. A vote of the legislative body enacts this levy. The local government may credit these funds to a special Conservation Futures fund. It may then use accumulated funds to acquire interest in conservation lands as authorized by the statute.

Counties applying this authority usually refer to their acquisition programs as **Conservation Futures Programs**. County parks and recreation departments usually administer these programs. Most have developed a set of criteria for selecting properties for purchase and/or participate in a community nomination process on a periodic basis. If interested in these programs, landowners with valued wetlands could contact the local parks department to approach the county for sale, donation, or the holding of an easement. .

Counties in Washington with conservation futures levies supporting active preservation programs include:

- Clark
- Ferry
- Island
- Jefferson
- King
- Kitsap
- Pierce
- Skagit
- San Juan
- Snohomish
- Spokane
- Thurston
- Whatcom

**Refer to the List of County Level Contacts (Appendix C-1) for parks department contacts.**

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<sup>1</sup>Revised Code of Washington 84.34, Section 200

### **Capital Improvement Programs**

Counties can levy a property tax to pay for flood hazard reduction to water resource protection projects. These range from acquisition and restoration of wetlands and riparian systems to storm sewer systems. Some county programs, like Pierce County's Rivers Improvement Program, use Capital Improvement Program funds to acquire and restore 100-year floodplains to reduce maintenance costs and flood hazard. The program can help pay for larger restoration projects identified within individual basin management plans.

In King County water resource protection efforts also include some funds for small, grass-roots projects sponsored by environmental groups or neighborhood associations. **Contact the local public works department's storm water or surface water management division for information** about availability, program focus, and potential for landowner stewardship linkages.

## **3) Restoration/enhancement projects and community stewardship programs**

### **Restoration and enhancement projects**

Some counties are beginning to engage in non-compensatory wetlands restoration and enhancement projects. They usually choose wetland areas with the following potential benefits:

- flood attenuation (temporary storage of water during flood events),
- water quality enhancement, or
- salmon recovery

Existing management plans or watershed inventories have usually identified these areas. Often the local public works departments or parks departments spearhead these large-scale projects to return wetland benefits to the watershed and correct costly engineering problems facing the community.

If the landowner has a larger-sized, degraded wetland site that can address these types of watershed problems, the local government may wish to become involved. Check local floodplain and land use management plans for identification of problem areas, and contact the local public works or planning department to determine their interest in working on the project.

### **Community stewardship programs**

Many counties and larger cities have active community stewardship programs, such as "Stream Teams." These programs enlist volunteers to help address water quality and habitat issues. Volunteers may work on monitoring, eradicating noxious weeds, planting vegetation, salmon habitat improvements, etc. **Contact the local public works department's storm water or surface water management divisions for details.**

## **4) Regulatory-Based Conservation Incentives**

Chapter 2 discussed various types of on-site and off-site density transfers. The local planning department can help determine which of these options to include in local land use regulations.

# Innovative Solutions in Urban Areas

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As local governments annex, re-evaluate for future zoning, or consider land for project development, numerous opportunities exist to reduce development conflicts with wetlands.

**Assessment starts by evaluating the extent of the wetland, including buffers, on the parcel or project.** As a general rule, on parcels one acre and larger, wetlands may cover up to 50% of the property before significant limitations exist; especially in residential areas. For smaller parcels and commercially zoned lands, significant limitations begin to occur at 33% wetland coverage.

Shifting site plans, modifying footprints of buildings, increasing height in place of horizontal coverage, or obtaining zoning variances can provide minor wetland coverages.

**For major wetland coverage,** the following strategies can help:

- **Lot line adjustment** between adjacent parcels to create a more favorable distribution of buildable area.
- **Parcel consolidation** joins several small parcels for the benefit of a larger more flexible site, on which cluster development can be applied, where feasible.
- **Clustered development** consolidates units on the property, but may require a variance. Variances allow for the use of land in a way that is not permitted by the dimensional or physical requirements of the zoning law.
- **Rezone**, usually to commercial or multi-family residential, allows equal or greater value to be derived from much less land area, allowing wetlands to remain undeveloped.
- **Rezone modification** requires an open space dedication where previously not required, with a concomitant density bonus on the remainder of the upland.
- **Trading adjacent unopened right-of-way** for wetlands elsewhere on-site.
- **Acquiring** wetlands as open space or habitat, by greenways or public works departments, for stormwater storage in place of structural alternatives like regional detention facilities, etc.
- **Dedication of wetlands** to satisfy both open space and usable space requirements for residential developments in lieu of actively developed park or recreational facilities.
- **Purchase and restoration of degraded wetlands** in desired locations for mitigation sites.
- **Preservation as a marketing tool** for certain residential or office park developments to attract consumers who prefer natural settings.
- **Creation of wetlands as landscape enhancement** with ponds or pools to diversify sites.
- **Site-Specific Master Plan areas allowing development transfers** that result in opportunities as well as restrictions on certain lands.
- **Variances from road standards, zoning setbacks, and infrastructure requirements** in exchange for wetland preservation.
- **Update comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, and road plans** to eliminate avoidable impacts. Curve linear roads to avoid sensitive areas.

**Table 5: Local Government Programs/Options**

County	CUT with PBRS	Conservation Futures Levy Program	Transfer of Development Rights
Adams			
Asotin	No ordinance		
Benton			
Chelan	Yes		
Clallam	Yes		Yes
Clark		Yes	
Columbia			
Cowlitz	Yes		
Douglas			
Ferry		Yes	
Franklin			
Garfield			
Grant			
Grays Harbor			
Island	Yes	Yes	Revoked
Jefferson	Yes	Yes	
King	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kitsap	Yes	Yes	
Kittitas			
Klickitat			
Lewis	Yes		
Lincoln	No ordinance		
Mason			
Okanogan	Yes		
Pacific			
Pend Oreille			
Pierce	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Juan	Yes	Yes	
Skagit		Yes	
Skamania			
Snohomish		Yes	Yes
Spokane	Yes	Yes	
Stevens			
Thurston	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wahkiakum	(developing)		
Walla Walla			
Whatcom	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whitman			
Yakima	Yes		

Key: CUT = Current Use Taxation  
 PBRS = Public Benefit Rating System

## Tribal Governments

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Unique opportunities may exist to work with tribal governments on actions to protect and restore wetland and riparian areas of value to salmon and other natural resources. State and tribal leaders recognize they share an interest in, and commitment to, the future health and productivity of fisheries resources. Therefore, they work together to cooperatively manage these natural resources of joint interest.

Under treaty obligations, Washington's Indian tribes have the legal right to take fish at all usual and accustomed grounds. They received this right in exchange for giving up ownership of most of their lands in Washington. With the recent decline of salmon in the Northwest, many tribal nations are actively engaged in salmon habitat recovery, both inside and outside reservation lands.

Tribal treaty rights extend beyond reservation boundaries. Therefore many tribes work with others in the watershed community to help meet the growing need for habitat protection through stewardship. Tribes have an interest in activities within watersheds that improve salmon habitat, such as streamside revegetation, estuarine wetlands restoration, and removal of blocked access to spawning grounds.

Tribes offer a unique perspective on the issue of stewardship from their historical and cultural heritage as long-time residents of the Washington landscape. They also have a strong technical background in fisheries management and habitat protection.

Therefore, when engaging in a conservation or restoration effort, contact the nearest tribe within the local watershed in which the project is located. **Call their environmental division, natural resources department, or fisheries division to inquire about** their interest and potential to help with the project. Recognize that not all tribes have the staff resources to assist, but some do and others are expanding their capacity. It could be well worth the call to get the special expertise and participation of tribal government.

**See the “Index of County Level Contacts” (Appendix C-1) for a list of the appropriate tribal government to contact.**

## Watershed Planning Units and Councils

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**Watershed efforts around the state address environmental problems.** With urbanization and heavy resource use has come an overall decline in watershed function due to the loss of ecological processes. Common resource problems in watersheds include:

- Decreased water quality.
- Increased flooding.
- Increased sedimentation and erosion.
- Declining habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Declining water quantity.
- Overall decline in aesthetic and recreational opportunities.

Concern for sustainable watershed health has led communities to establish watershed-based planning committees or councils composed of government entities and a broad cross-section of the community.

**The watershed planning units or councils** have similar roles across watersheds. Whether defined by one title or another, these groups are taking responsibility for a number of watershed protection and recovery tasks.

Some watershed planning units or councils are conducting watershed resource characterizations to understand watershed processes. This would help them to gauge the condition of water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. From this information they can identify which areas need the most protection. Many are developing watershed plans which recommend restoration and preservation of natural features to improve these functions. They will follow these plans with on-the-ground projects to preserve or restore these lands.

Watersheds have access to plan implementation and mitigation funds to assist with restoration and recovery work. In addition, state and federal agencies offer watershed-focused grant programs for both planning and implementation. Two of these are the Washington Watershed Grant Program (administered by the Department of Ecology under RCW 90.82) and the Salmon Recovery Fund (administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office). (See chapter 4 for program listings.)

Several regional, non-profit support organizations provide assistance to local communities working on watershed protection and restoration efforts. One of these, **Salmon Nation**, has established itself as an information center to provide technical support and to encourage the formation of local watershed groups dedicated to recovering salmon. They maintain a **comprehensive list of watershed groups in Washington** and a salmon information database on their homepage site at: <http://www.4sos.org>

**In addition to watershed planning units and councils, local non-profit citizen groups are established around the state.** Groups like the Chehalis River Council are examples of grass-roots community organizations who aim to protect and restore a particular watershed. They support activities that implement existing watershed management plans, ranging from education

to technical assistance and financial help. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups are another example of non-profit organizations working to protect and restore fish runs in watersheds around the state.

In summary, many alliances are bringing together citizens, non-profit groups, government agencies, businesses, and other interests to implement watershed protection plans.

When implementing a landowner stewardship project, check out the existing watershed councils, alliances, and non-profit organizations in the watershed to identify any potential allies or sources of help.

**Review the watershed group directories mentioned in this section and/or contact the coordinators for the watershed planning units ([http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/pdf/wsleads\\_03192008.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/pdf/wsleads_03192008.pdf)) (see Washington Watershed Grant Program description) or “watershed lead entities” (see Salmon Recovery Fund description) to link to watershed activities.**

# Chapter 4:

## Stewardship Program Profiles by Agency

### About the Quick Reference Guide

The Quick Reference Guide that begins this Chapter summarizes the characteristics of each stewardship program in a quick-access format. It will help you narrow down which programs to look at more closely. Once you identify likely matches, refer to the agency profiles which follow for more detailed information to determine which programs are the best fit for your project.

Due to size limitations, the Quick Reference Guide condenses certain attributes into categories (i.e., preservation using acquisitions, donations and easements, are lumped together under “Securing Land”). Refer to the definitions that follow when using the Reference Guide. If no definition is provided, a standard interpretation of the term applies.

**Databases:** Another way to quickly review just a description of potential programs is to access the interactive grant database maintained on the Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) homepage at <http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov/>. This database contains restoration, recreation, and infrastructure funding sources. The query matrix allows you to request funding information specific to wetlands.

A couple of important notes: 1) This database provides only a brief description of each program with a contact name and number. 2) This guidebook contains more programs on wetlands than are likely to be found in the DOT database. 3) This guidebook is updated on a fairly regular basis, while the DOT database does not provide a date of update.

Restore America’s Estuaries has a listing of federal funding programs for wetlands in their database found at: <http://www.restorationmarketplace.org>

Programs can come and go quickly, so don’t be surprised if you hear of a new program that isn’t appearing in these reference sources yet.

## ***Definitions for Quick Reference Guide***

### **Stewardship Areas:**

**Securing land** – All preservation techniques such as sales, donations, easements, etc.

**Restoration** – Includes restoration and enhancement activities.

**Management** – Applying best management practices (including bioengineering) and management agreements. (NOTE: Does not refer to property maintenance associated with a purchase or easement.)

### **Clients:**

**Local governments** – Cities, counties, special districts such as ports, PUDs, irrigation districts, etc. Also includes Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension offices.

**Non-profit organization** – Those with tax-exempt status, such as environmental, education, and research organizations.

**Community groups** – Informally structured groups such as watershed action teams, stream teams, etc.

**Ag community** – Farmers and ranchers; does not include forestry.

### **Financial Awards:**

**Maximum financial award** – The most that can be awarded; but this amount may not be the typical amount given.

**Varies widely** – Awards are too variable to indicate a maximum allocation.

**Match required** – Cost-share of dollars or “in-kind” such as materials, labor, land donations, etc.

**Focus on wetland:** – Level of emphasis the program places on wetlands.

**Primary focus** – Concentrates its efforts on wetlands.

**Some focus** – Does not solicit projects in wetlands specifically, although wetlands are frequently included in projects. During the project-selection process, wetlands are often given equal weight to other habitats.

**Peripheral focus** – Concentrates on other resources such as forests or uplands. Wetlands and wetland buffers may be included only if they are not separable from the rest of the project.

# Quick Reference Guide

Program	Stewardship Areas			Target Area				
	Securing land	Management	Restoration	Statewide	Coastal	Easidside	Puget Sound	Specific area(s)
1. Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration			X	X				
2. Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	X		X	X				
3. ALEA Volunteer Coop. Fish/Wildlife		X	X	X				
4. Aquatic Reserve Program		X		X				
5. Aquatic Weeds Management Fund			X	X				
6. BLM Challenge Cost Share	X	X	X	X				
7. Centennial Clean Water Fund		X	X	X				
8. Chehalis Fisheries Restoration		X	X					X
9. Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation	X				X			
10. Coastal Protection Fund	X	X	X	X				
11. Coastal Protection Fund - Terry Husseman			X	X				
12. Community-Based Restoration Program			X		X			X
13. Conservation Dist Technical Assistance		X	X	X				
14. Conservation Easement Program	X	X		X				
15. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program		X	X					X
16. Conservation Reserve Program		X	X	X				
17. Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	X			X				
18. Ecosystem Restoration	X	X	X	X				
19. Environmental Quality Incentive		X	X	X				
20. Estuary Habitat Restoration			X		X		X	
21. Family Forest Fish Passage Program			X	X				

Program	Clients									Maximum Financial Award						Focus on Wetland				
	Federal agencies	State agencies	Local governments	Tribes	Non-profits	Community groups	Land Trusts	Private landowners	Ag community	None	under \$10,000	under \$25,000	under \$50,000	under \$100,000	over \$100,000	Varies widely	Match required	Primary	Some	Peripheral
1		X	X	X											X		X	X		
2		X	X	X											X		X		X	
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X			X	
4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X	
5		X	X	X									X				X		X	
6												X					X		X	
7		X	X	X										X		X				X
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X				X		X	
9		X	X	X	X		X								X	X	X			
10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X						X
11			X	X	X	X	X					X								X
12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X		X		
13								X	X			X					X			X
14									X							X				X
15	X	X	X	X				X	X							X				X
16									X			X					X			X
17		X	X		X		X	X	X					X		X				X
18		X	X	X	X									X		X		X		
19								X												X
20				X				X	X					X		X		X		
21		X		X	X									X		X		X		

## Quick Reference Guide (Continued)

Program	Stewardship Areas			Target Area				
	Securing land	Management	Restoration	Statewide	Coastal	Eastside	Puget Sound	Specific area(s)
24. Fisheries Restoration & Irrigation Mitigation			X	X				
25. Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants			X	X				
26. Flood Control Assistance Account	X	X	X	X				
27. Forest Legacy Program	X							X
28. Forest Riparian Easement		X		X				
29. Grassland Reserve Program	X	X	X	X				
30. Habitat Conservation Planning		X		X				
31. Hazard Mitigation Grant	X	X	X	X				
32. King County Grant Exchange		X	X					X
33. Living Lands Project		X		X				
34. Model Toxic Control Act	X		X				X	X
35. National Coastal Wetlands Conservation	X		X		X			
36. National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	X	X	X	X				
37. National Wild and Scenic Rivers	X	X	X					X
38. National Wildlife Refuge Challenge Cost Share		X	X	X				
39. Natural Resource Stewardship Network		X	X					X

Program	Clients									Maximum Financial Award					Focus on Wetland					
	Federal agencies	State agencies	Local governments	Tribes	Non-profits	Community groups	Land Trusts	Private landowners	Ag community	None	under \$10,000	under \$25,000	under \$50,000	under \$100,000	over \$100,000	Varies widely	Match required	Primary	Some	Peripheral
24			X	X				X					X				X			X
25	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X						X		
26			X	X										X	X	X			X	
27			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X				X
28					X	X	X	X	X						X				X	
29								X	X						X				X	
30		X	X					X	X	X									X	
31		X	X	X										X		X			X	
32	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X					X		X	
33							X				X									X
34		X	X	X				X						X					X	
35		X												X		X	X			
36	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X			X	X			X	
37	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X				X	
38		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X					X		X	
39			X	X	X	X	X					X				X				X

# Quick Reference Guide (Continued)

Program	Stewardship Areas			Target Area				
	Securing land	Management	Restoration	Statewide	Coastal	Eastside	Puget Sound	Specific area(s)
40. NRCS Technical Assistance		X	X	X				
41. Nisqually Delta Mitigation Trust	X		X					X
42. Non-point Water Quality Section 319		X	X	X				
43. North American Wetlands Conservation Act	X		X	X				
44. Northwest Salmon Initiative		X	X					X
45. Open Rivers Initiative			X	X				
46. Partners for Fish and Wildlife		X	X	X				
47. Planning Assistance to States			X	X				
48. Plant Materials Program		X	X	X				
49. Private Lands Habitat & Access	X	X	X	X				
50. Puget Sound & Adjacent Waters Ecosystems Restoration			X				X	
51. Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem			X				X	
52. Puget Sound Coastal Program			X				X	
53. Pulling Together Initiative		X	X	X				
54. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups		X	X	X				
55. Resident, Anadromous Fish/Wildlife Mitigation	X	X	X					X
56. Resource Conservation & Development	X	X	X					X
57. Riparian Open Space Program	X			X				
58. Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance	X	X	X	X				
59. Salmon Recovery Funding	X	X	X	X				
60. Section 1135 of Water Resources Development Act of 1986			X	X				

Program	Clients										Maximum Financial Award					Focus on Wetland				
	Federal agencies	State agencies	Local governments	Tribes	Non-profits	Community groups	Land Trusts	Private landowners	Ag community	None	under \$10,000	under \$25,000	under \$50,000	under \$100,000	over \$100,000	Varies widely	Match required	Primary	Some	Peripheral
40	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X	
41	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X	
42		X	X	X	X									X		X				X
43	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X	X			
44		X	X	X				X	X						X	X		X		
45		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		X				X
46	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X		X		
47		X	X	X		X	X		X				X		X	X		X		
48										X									X	
49		X		X	X			X	X	X										X
50		X	X	X										X		X		X		
51		X	X	X	X		X							X		X		X		
52		X	X	X	X		X								X	X		X		
53	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X			X		X		
54					X	X		X				X								X
55	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X				
56	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										X
57				X	X	X	X	X						X					X	
58	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									X	
59		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X		X		X		
60		X	X	X	X									X		X				X

## Quick Reference Guide (Continued)

Program	Stewardship Areas			Target Area				
	Securing land	Management	Restoration	Statewide	Coastal	Eastside	Puget Sound	Specific area(s)
61. Small Habitat Restoration Program		X	X					X
62. State/Tribal/Local Wetland Planning Grants		X	X	X				
63. Tribal Assistance Grants		X						X
64. Tribal Landowner Incentive Program	X	X	X					X
65. Tribal Wildlife Grants	X	X	X					X
66. Washington Conservation Corps		X	X	X				
67. Washington Register of Natural Areas		X		X				
68. Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund	X	X	X	X				
69. Washington Watershed Planning Act		X		X				
70. Washington Wildlife and Recreation	X		X	X				
71. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention	X	X	X	X				
72. WaterWorks Grants		X	X					X
73. Wetland Protect/Restoration & Stewardship		X	X	X				
74. Wetlands Reserve Program	X	X	X	X				
75. Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants	X	X	X	X				
76. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program		X	X	X				
77. WSDOT's Wetlands Mitigation Program	X	X	X	X				

Program	Clients										Maximum Financial Award					Focus on Wetland				
	Federal agencies	State agencies	Local governments	Tribes	Non-profits	Community groups	Land Trusts	Private landowners	Ag community	None	under \$10,000	under \$25,000	under \$50,000	under \$100,000	over \$100,000	Varies widely	Match required	Primary	Some	Peripheral
61			X		X	X		X	X				X						X	
62		X	X	X									X		X	X	X			
63				X											X				X	
64				X										X		X			X	
65				X										X					X	
66	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X						X			X	
67	X	X						X	X										X	
68		X	X	X										X						X
69	X	X	X	X		X									X				X	
70		X	X	X										X	X	X			X	
71		X	X	X	X	X	X							X		X			X	
72	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X				X			X	
73	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X							X	
74		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X				X	
75	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X					X			X	
76		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						X			X	
77	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										X	

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<a href="#">ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Program</a> ..	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<a href="#">Aquatic Reserve Program</a> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
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<a href="#">BLM Challenge Cost Share Program</a> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
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# **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206)**

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## **Summary**

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program is authorized under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The goal of this program is to address and restore degraded aquatic ecosystems including wetlands, riparian, floodplain, and other aquatic areas. The program focuses broadly on the restoration of multiple species of flora and fauna and ecosystem function and process; individual projects may concentrate on specific threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species and their habitat requirements. Projects funded must be for restoration of aquatic ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to achieve a less degraded, more natural condition. This will usually involve modification of hydrology in and along bodies of water, including wetlands and riparian areas.

The Corps investigates to see if the restoration will: 1) improve the environment, 2) is in the public interest, and 3) is cost effective. If the restoration project meets these conditions, the site is approved for implementation. An approved project site can be funded up to \$5 million in federal funds for project-related costs of feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction, supervision, and administration.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

A sponsor needs to make a written request to the Corps to study a degraded aquatic ecosystem for potential restoration. The sponsor must be a “public body” such as state, local, or tribal government. A non-federal sponsor can also be a national non-profit organization that is capable of undertaking future requirements for operation, maintenance, etc., provided that the affected local government consents to the non-profit being the sponsor.

The initial feasibility phase is funded 100% up to a limit of \$100,000. Feasibility phase costs above \$100,000 are cost-shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal. After approval of the feasibility report, the project enters the Design and Implementation Phase. Costs of this phase are shared 65% federal and 35% non-federal with the non-federal sponsor given credit for lands, easements, rights-of-way and relocations. Operations, maintenance, repair and replacement of the project in the future is at 100% non-federal.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Under this authority, the Corps can respond quickly to restoration needs.

The Corps covers 100% of the first phase planning and design which includes environmental assessments. Up to \$5 million can be spent on an approved project. The entire sponsor's share of project costs may be provided as lands, easements, and rights-of-way and/or work-in-kind contributions - though credit for work-in-kind will not result in any reimbursements to the sponsor.

USACE will take the primary project management role, unless the non-federal sponsor desires joint management and then would be a full partner in all project phases and a joint decision maker for the project.

## Limitations

The process, which includes a planning/design phase and construction phase, usually takes 1 to 2 years to complete depending on the complexity of the restoration. The sponsor must agree to provide 100% of the cost of land, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction and subject maintenance of the project as credit toward their cost-share.

Although there are no minimal dollar amounts set, projects with a construction cost estimated less than \$250,000 may be too small to be included in the program.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Continuous annual, with applications and awards ongoing.
- *Allocations:* Varies: \$250,000 - \$5 million Federal on any single project site.
- *Cost-share:* 35% non-Federal sponsor, 65% USACE.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* All design, planning, field work, and implementation is done by the Corps in cooperation with the project sponsor.
- *Field work:* Construction contracts are managed by Corps.
- *Education:* Done by the sponsor

## Contacts

Seattle District  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Planning Branch  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124

Planning Branch.....(206) 764-3600

## Home Page

None at this time.

# **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)**

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*Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)*

## **Summary**

This program increases public recreation, shoreline access, environmental protection and other public benefits associated with state aquatic lands. This is accomplished through grants to public entities

Projects meeting program objectives typically fall into one of three categories:

- 1) Providing public access (non-motorized, pedestrian-oriented) public access to water, water-related recreation opportunities, and installation of interpretive signs or displays of aquatic resources;
- 2) Restoration of critical marine, estuarine, and riverine habitat for federal and state listed species, and
- 3) Acquisition of land (tideland, freshwater shorelands, uplands, and wetlands) for the purpose of habitat protection or public access.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Tribal, state, and local governments are eligible for grants. All projects must be on or associated with “navigable waters.” Unless specifically excluded, all grant supported properties must be retained for public use in perpetuity, or be replaced with a project of equal or greater value and utility. A permanent sign must acknowledge/credit ALEA.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Public entities can protect aquatic resources in conjunction with providing public access, recreation, and educational opportunities. In many cases, funds can be combined with other state grants. Large grants are available. Maximum awards vary with type of project.

## Limitations

Competition for funding is very high. Usually requests for funds exceed allocations fourfold. Funds are available approximately 14 months after applications are due and each project must be approved by the Legislature.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Proposals are accepted biennially, with applications due May 1 of even years. Funds are typically available in July of the following year.
- *Allocations:* Available funds depend on state allocation of revenue generated by Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) managed geoduck harvesting and leases of state-owned aquatic lands. Historically the program has received \$3 to \$6 million each biennium. Individual grant awards vary among projects with awards ranging between \$5,000 and one million.
- *Cost-share:* A 50 % match is required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* RCO staff provides limited assistance with development, design, and planning of projects.
- *Field work:* Site inspections are conducted by program staff during various phases of the project.
- *Education:* Educational materials are available from the DNR on aquatic resources.

## Contacts

Recreation and Conservation Office  
1111 Washington Street SE  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Phone (360) 902-3000

E-mail: [info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)

Marguerite Austin, Manager  
Recreation & Habitat Section .....(360) 902-3016

RCO grant managers are responsible for different areas of the state. Contact RCO or check the web site for the name of the grant manager assigned to your area.

## Home Page

<http://www.rco.wa.gov>

# **ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Program**

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*Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*

## **Summary**

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program provides funding on a cost-reimbursement basis for individuals and organizations that undertake cooperative fish and wildlife projects. Acceptable project types include: Habitat Enhancement, Facility Development, Research, Education/Outreach and Artificial Production. The outcome of qualifying projects must be made available to the public, including information about fish and wildlife reared and released.

## **Eligibility Requirement**

Eligible applicants include individual volunteers, non-profit organizations, schools and tribes. State and federal agencies are not eligible.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Many types of costs can be reimbursed including goods and services, equipment, contracted services and some travel costs.

WDFW staff may provide technical support, if necessary.

## **Limitations**

Funds may not be used for wages, stipends or benefits. Grantees must follow state purchasing rules.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications are accepted annually during the open application period of December 1 through February 28. Currently, \$1.4 million is available on a biennial basis.
- *Allocations:* There are no set minimum and maximum grant awards.
- *Cost-share:* Volunteer labor is required. Projects that have a cost-share are given priority in the selection process.

## Contact

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 North Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Josh Nicholas (360) 902-2685

Diane Ludwig .....(360) 902-2252

## Home Page

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/volunter/vol-7.htm>

# Aquatic Reserve Program

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*Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

## Summary

To identify and withdraw state owned aquatic lands from conflicting uses to protect aquatic lands of special educational, scientific interest, or environmental importance. The program accepts and reviews nominations on a two-year cycle.

## Eligibility Requirements

Members of the public, non-governmental organizations, tribes, and government entities can submit an application for consideration. All proposals must be for sites on state owned aquatic lands.

## Target Area

The Aquatic Reserve Program is a statewide program focusing on state-owned aquatic lands. Special regional and habitat or species conservation emphasis (if any) will be made prior to each new nomination cycle.

## Advantages

N/A

Because of limited funding and staffing, DNR may limit the number of new reserves established every cycle.

## Financial Assistance

N/A

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* DNR provides assistance in the form of technical information to a site proponent for the development of their application.
- *Field work:*
- *Education:*

## Contacts

WA Dept. of Natural Resources  
Aquatic Resources Division  
P.O. Box 47027, Olympia, WA 98504-7027

Kyle Murphy..... (360) 902-1073  
[Kyle.murphy@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Kyle.murphy@dnr.wa.gov)

## Home Page

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/aqr/reserves/index.htm>

# Aquatic Weeds Management Fund

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Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)

## Summary

The aquatic weeds management fund provides grants to governments to manage the growth of invasive non-native aquatic plants such as *Eurasian watermilfoil*, *Lythrum salicornia* (purple loosestrife), and *Brazilian elodea* in freshwater lakes and rivers. This fund supports planning, restoration, and education activities.

## Eligibility Requirements

Any government entity (state, local, tribal or special purpose district) may apply. Projects funded include: planning, education, monitoring, implementation of plans, pilot/demonstration projects, and surveillance and mapping projects. Projects must address problems caused by non-native invasive freshwater weeds. Funding priorities, in descending order, go to projects which: 1) deal with Class A weeds on the state noxious weed list, 2) implement Ecology approved plans, 3) address Class B submerged species like *Eurasian milfoil* over Class C weeds or emergent weeds like *Lythrum salicornia*, and 4) have not been previously funded by the program. Plans must be completed and approved before implementation funds are awarded. Projects must take place in freshwater lakes or rivers with a publicly provided boat launching facility.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Funding can be received for “early infestation” projects. Early infestation occurs when a non-native invasive freshwater plant like *Eurasian water-milfoil* first invades a water body. Typically the area of infestation would be less than three acres total.

## Limitations

The program does not fund the removal of native plant populations or control of algae on lake restoration projects. Funds are targeted toward invasive non-native freshwater plants only.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Yearly, due November 1
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$300,000 per year

Also, \$100,000 (1<sup>st</sup> come- 1st served) for “early infestations”  
[There are grant ceiling amounts per project type and water body.]

- *Cost-share:* A 25% cost-share is required for most projects. A 12.5% cost-share for “early infestation” and pilot projects.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Assistance with grant applications
- *Field work:* Aquatic plant identification and other field assistance
- *Education:* Talks and presentation to lake groups, Internet site, education materials and boat launch signs

## Contacts

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Jean Clark (technical assistance) .....(360) 407-6970

[jcla461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jcla461@ecy.wa.gov)

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/grants/index.html>

# **BLM Challenge Cost Share Program**

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*US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*

## **Summary**

This program restores, enhances, protects, and manages the habitat values on public lands. Significant natural resources such as wetlands and riparian areas are the focus. Assistance is provided through property exchanges, acquisitions, and direct cooperative restoration projects. Easements are done on rare occasions.

This is not a landowner assistance program but rather a program of partnerships among government agencies, private interest groups, and occasionally property owners/managers. Education and technical assistance is provided to property owners and some training is offered in schools.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Participants must own, lease, or control lands belonging to or contiguous with lands managed by the BLM. A Management Plan for the area is developed by the cooperator(s) and the participating agency and any work done on the site must comply with that Plan.

## **Target Area**

Focuses on lands east of the Cascades. Emphasis is given to watershed and habitats with anadromous fish populations and riparian/wetland habitats in the Columbia Basin. Occasionally education programs are offered to west-side areas.

## **Advantages**

The program realizes: both short and long term increases in land and habitat productivity; habitat and species protection and resource restoration; increases in amenity values for so-called “non-productive” lands; and possible tax advantages for landowners. The program often utilizes multiple partnerships to achieve project objectives. Approximately 70% of the projects involve wetlands or riparian areas. The program also helps with tribal projects on river systems.

## **Limitations**

Projects must meet objectives in the Management Plan and be located on public lands. Private land is included in the program only when its inclusion is needed to achieve the overall objectives of large efforts such as watershed work. Funds are limited and highly competitive.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual, with applications due in September for November funding.
- *Allocations:* Approximately 10-12 projects are funded annually for \$50,000 - \$75,000 each. Funds cover cost-share expenses such as materials, construction, equipment, and contracts.
- *Cost-share:* A 50% cost-share from participants (non-federal money), required; can be in-kind.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* The BLM and cooperators in the area of interest will develop a Management Plan which identifies problems and solutions in the area.
- *Field work:* Staff from participating groups jointly do field work, or hire a consultant. The Agency has equipment for field work and does follow-up monitoring.
- *Education:* Training is provided in the field for participants. Educational materials are available. Agency staff from BLM conduct classroom training for High School and College students 10-15 times a year.

## Contacts

US Bureau of Land Management  
1103 N. Fancher Way  
Spokane, WA 99212

Jason Lowe.....(509) 536-1200  
Neal Hedges (Biologist, Wenatchee).....(509) 665-2100  
Pam Camp (Botanist).....(509) 665-2100

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Centennial Clean Water Fund

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

Grants and loans are provided for projects which prevent and control water pollution. These are available to state agencies and public bodies for activities such as: implementation of agricultural best management practices; lake or wetland restoration; and public information and education efforts. Wetland projects eligible under this funding might include: education about the values of wetlands for water quality improvement, stormwater retention facilities, and restoration of riparian vegetation along stream corridors or lake shores.

## Eligibility Requirements

Participants must be a public body (local or tribal government and special improvement or conservation district). Projects must address an existing water quality problem. Applicants must describe the water pollution control problem; explain the method to be used and the anticipated water quality outcome.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Grants are available for 75% of the total eligible project cost. State Revolving Fund loans, which require no match, are also available. Current interest rates for loans are very low. There are opportunities to fund a wide variety of water pollution control projects.

## Limitations

Grants are highly competitive. Most of the nonpoint source pollution control projects focus on riparian protection and restoration, public education and outreach, and water quality monitoring. Some projects include wetlands. Limited technical assistance is available.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications are accepted each year in September and October for the fiscal year two years hence.
- *Allocations:* About \$11 million in competitive funding is available statewide. Non-structural projects can receive up to \$500,000 each. Grants are available to facilities only for financial hardship up to \$5 million. See guidelines at web page below.
- *Cost-share:* 25% of total project cost for grants. No cost-share for loans to local governments, but interest rates do apply.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* This program is primarily financial assistance and provides very limited technical help. Quarterly progress reports and payment requests are reviewed by staff for compliance to the agreed contract.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

Washington Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Jeff Nejedly .....(360) 407-6566

[jnej461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jnej461@ecy.wa.gov)

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/indexfunding.html>

# Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

Funding is provided for projects intended to help restore Chehalis River salmon. Project proposals should follow the format in USFWS annual Request for Proposals (RFP). Information about habitat conditions, recommended restoration approaches, as well as the annual RFP, is available from the program contact. Projects that have been funded include addressing the removal of invasive species and replanting, riparian and wetland restoration of off-channel rearing habitat like reconnecting oxbows, restoring agricultural wetlands for fish use, and monitoring fish use to these habitats.

## Eligibility Requirements

Any group (public agency, tribe, etc.) or private landowner is eligible. Any proposal that would restore salmon populations is considered, including habitat restoration, environmental monitoring, and education and outreach.

## Target Area

Chehalis River and Grays Harbor Basins.

## Advantages

Technical support and project development assistance is available.

## Limitations

Limited to work in the Chehalis River Basin, including Grays Harbor tributaries.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual Requests for Proposals are circulated in the Spring; are available throughout the summer; and are ranked in the Winter; with funds available the following Spring.
- *Allocations:* Project allocations have ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000.
- *Cost-share:* Ranges from 25 to 75% depending on the applicant. Private individuals and groups require a 25% match, whereas, large companies require 75%.

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## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Assistance available.
- *Field work:* Some field work is done; grant recipient and USFWS staff typically share responsibility for project monitoring.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Western Washington Fisheries Resource Office  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, Washington 98503

Brian Peck.....(360) 753-9560

[brian\\_peck@fws.gov](mailto:brian_peck@fws.gov)

## Home Page

[www.fws.gov/westwafwo/ear/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/westwafwo/ear/index.html)

# **Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation (CELCP)**

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*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and  
Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## **Summary**

This is an acquisition program directed at protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. The program will give priority to lands which can be effectively managed and protected and which have significant ecological value.

In FY 2002-2006, funding was provided via Congressional earmarks to specific projects nationwide. Beginning with FY 2007 funds, projects are selected through a competitive project selection process. Ecology drafted a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan which has been approved by NOAA to guide project selection. Each year, NOAA will issue a funding announcement that will include guidance on the number and cost of projects that can be nominated for funding. Once these allocations are established, the State will screen competitive applications prior to submittal to the national ranking and selection process conducted by NOAA. Congressional funding allocations may vary from year to year. The number of projects selected for funding depends on the amount of funding appropriated each year.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Local governments, Federally recognized Indian tribes, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and Recreation Commission, and Padilla Bay Natural Area Preserve

## **Target Area Advantage**

Coastal

## **Limitations**

Only those projects that compete well at the national level will receive funding. Projects must be in 1) Pacific Ocean coastal area, 2) lower Columbia River estuary, or 3) Puget Sound basin or marine inlet. Numerous freshwater streams and rivers empty into these water bodies creating estuarine environments at their mouths.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual.
- *Allocations:* Unknown at this time, has varied from \$8 million to \$15 million.
- *Cost-share:* 50%

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* N/A
- *Field work:* N/A
- *Education:* N/A

## Contacts

### *National Legislation & Program Guidelines:*

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Kris Wall (301) 563-1168

### *WA Program Establishment:*

WA State Dept. of Ecology  
Jeanne Koenings .....(360) 407-7258

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/celcp/index.html>

# Coastal Protection Fund (CPF)

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*Washington State Department of Ecology*

## Summary

The Coastal Protection Fund is designed to restore natural resources injured by oil spills in state waters. Payments for natural resource damages assessed by the state after an oil spill are deposited in this account. Habitat restoration (including wetlands) is often a component of projects. If damages are assessed for a significant oil spill which directly affects a wetland, the resulting payment into the CPF fund might only be disbursed for wetlands restoration activities. The program can support restoration, acquisition of conservation easements, leases, management agreements, etc. which facilitate the protection and management of the resource.

An interagency steering committee of natural resource agencies determines the selection criteria for each target area and then participate in the project selection process. In areas where a more regional approach is used by the steering committee, restoration can be done in parts of the watershed other than those directly affected by the spill as long as the resource being restored benefits the resource that was lost.

## Eligibility Requirements

Proposals must meet the specific criteria established by the steering committee for a given funding round. Projects that have funds or support from other sources may receive priority in project selection. Projects must restore resources damaged by an oil spill at a specific site or in a “regional account area” (described below). Solicitations for projects funded from these “regional accounts” are generally applied broader than those derived from spill-specific accounts.

## Target Area

The CPF covers restoration activities statewide. “Regional accounts” have been established in: South Puget Sound/Hood Canal (bounded on north by Edmonds; including all drainages into this area); North Puget Sound/Strait of Juan de Fuca (bounded by Edmonds, including all drainages into this area); and the Columbia River/outer coast (remaining state marine waters).

## Advantages

The highest priority of the program is funding for restoration and enhancement activities, but there is a potential for cash payments for easements or land acquisition.

## Limitations

CPF funding can only support environmental restoration and enhancement projects, or resource replacement through acquisition of land that is directly linked to oil spill damage. Routine activities of permanent staff cannot be funded. A minor portion of project funding involves wetlands when those resources are impacted.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* The cycle and application dates are dependent on availability of funds from recent spills.
- *Allocations:* Up to several \$100,000 grants are available annually, with no minimum or maximum per project.
- *Cost-share:* None.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Projects that are selected receive assistance in design and planning.
- *Field work:* Field evaluations and monitoring are done.
- *Education:* None.

## Contacts

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dale Davis.....(360) 407-6972  
Rebecca Post.....(360) 407-7114

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html>

Also, link to projects funded by CPF:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/restorationprojects/cptrestorationprojects.html>

# **Coastal Protection Fund (CPF): Terry Husseman Account**

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## **Summary**

Under RCW 90.48.390, the Washington State Legislature created the Coastal Protection Fund (CPF) to serve as a non-appropriated revolving fund for restoration of natural resources. Since July 1998, water quality penalties issued to violating parties under Chapter 90.56 RCW have been deposited into a newly created sub-account of the Coastal Protection Fund called the Terry Husseman Account. Funds under this account are to be used for restoration projects related to water quality.

All projects that meet the criteria identified in RCW 90.48.400 will be eligible for funding. Expenditures under the Coastal Protection Fund can be used for projects that restore or enhance environmental, recreational, archaeological, or aesthetic resources for the benefits of Washington's citizens, but may not be used to reimburse agencies for salaries or benefits of permanent employees for routine operational support.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

The following applicants are eligible to receive funding under the Water Quality portion of the Coastal Protection Fund and shall be given equal weight in proposing projects: local governments, Tribes, Planning Units, and groups organized by a designated lead local government under watershed planning efforts.

Projects are eligible if they meet statutory criteria.

## **Target Area**

Statewide.

## **Advantages**

## **Limitations**

Limited funds are available and are managed on a regional basis; therefore, a project could wait on a list for some time.

## Financial Assistance

*Funding Cycle:* Proposals are accepted year round. They are placed on a regional project list and when the project is submitted.

- *Project Allocations:* The allocation per project can vary, with a maximum amount of \$50,000.
- *Account Funds:* The fund balance varies as revenues are collected. A fund balance of \$50,000 will remain in the account for emergencies.
- *Cost-share:* At present there is no match requirement.

## Technical Assistance

No project design, field work, or training is provided by program staff.

## Contacts

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Bill Zachmann.....(360) 407-6548  
Cathy Hubbard.....(360) 407-6491

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP)

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*National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service*

## Summary

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) promotes strong partnerships at the national, regional and local level to fund grass-roots, community-based activities that restore living marine resources and their habitats and promote stewardship and a conservation ethic for NOAA trust resources.

NOAA trust resources are living marine resources that include commercial and recreational fishery resources (marine fish and shellfish and their habitats); anadromous fish species (fish, such as salmon and steelhead that spawn in freshwater and then migrate to the sea); endangered and threatened marine species and their habitats; marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, and other coastal habitats; and resources associated with National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves.

Restoration is defined as activities that contribute to the return of degraded or altered marine, estuarine, coastal and freshwater anadromous fish habitats to a close approximation of their condition prior to disturbance. Restoration may include, but is not limited to, improvement of coastal wetland tidal exchange or reestablishment of historic hydrology; dam or berm removal; improvement or reestablishment of fish passage; reef/substrate/ habitat creation; establishment of riparian buffer zones and improvement of freshwater habitat features that support anadromous fish; exclusionary fencing and planting; invasive species removal; planting of native coastal wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation; and enhancement of feeding, spawning and growth areas essential to marine or anadromous fish.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal governments; institutions of higher education; non-profits; commercial organizations; and international organizations that propose projects that benefit NOAA trust resources. Federal agencies are not eligible but are strongly encouraged to work with partners on a project.

Projects on private lands need to provide assurance that the project will be maintained for its intended purpose for the life of the project. Projects on permanently protected lands may be given priority consideration.

Projects must involve significant community support through an educational and/or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Implementation of on-the-ground habitat restoration projects must involve community outreach and monitoring to assess project success and may involve limited pre-implementation activities, such as engineering and design and short-term baseline studies.

## **Target Area**

Priorities for habitat restoration activities include: areas identified by NOAA Fisheries as essential fish habitat (EFH) and areas within EFH identified as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; areas identified as critical habitat for federally or state listed marine and anadromous species; areas identified as important habitat for marine mammals and turtles; watersheds or such other areas under conservation management (as special management areas under state coastal management programs; and other important commercial or recreational marine fish habitat, including degraded areas that historically were important habitat for living marine resources.

## **Advantages**

Funds are provided directly through the CRP, as well as through numerous partnerships it has established with national non-profit organizations and regionally-focused organizations. This means that funding opportunities open periodically throughout the year, and vary in the complexity of application processes as well as having a variety of funding ranges that are available to address different needs and capabilities.

## **Limitations**

Funding does not support expansion of an organization's administrative activities. Proposals emphasizing a singular restoration component, such as only outreach or program coordination are discouraged. Funding does not cover direct water quality improvement projects such as treatment plant upgrades or combined sewer outfall improvements. Other items not covered are: mitigation required under regulatory programs, restoration of natural resource damages under existing laws, and activities required under consent decree, court order, statute or regulation.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* CRP direct funds are on an annual cycle with a 24 month completion time; partnerships vary in funding cycles and project period durations.
- *Application Due Dates:* Applications for NOAA restoration grants are due annually in September.
- *Award Dates:* CRP direct funds are generally available in late spring.
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$1 million is available per year within the program. Typical project awards range from \$50,000 to \$200,000.
- *Cost-share:* 1:1 non-federal match is recommended, which can include cash and/or in-kind donations.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* NOAA Fisheries staff can be consulted on initial project ideas and can assist with permitting requirements, and technical methodology development.
- *Field work:* Staff perform site visits to help shape project objectives and identify resource benefits achieved through restoration efforts. They will also provide guidance on monitoring completed projects.
- *Education:* Successful applicants often have strong outreach efforts associated with their projects to raise awareness and foster stewardship for restored resources.

## Contacts

NOAA Community-based Restoration Program  
NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation  
1315 East West Highway, F/HC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Robin Bruckner..... (301) 713-0174

## Home Page

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding\\_opportunities/funding.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding.html)

# Conservation District Technical Assistance

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*Washington Conservation Districts and Washington State Conservation Commission*

## Summary

Local Conservation Districts provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for resource planning and implementation of best management practices to get water quality improvements on the ground. Activities must be related to water quality objectives that apply conservation practices. Eligible water quality activities include, but are not limited to: technical assistance and cost-sharing to landowners, implementation of best management practices, occasional demonstration projects, site data collection, resource planning, etc.

## Eligibility Requirements

Water quality related technical and financial assistance is available to any landowner. Emphasis is placed on providing assistance for the higher priority water quality problems within the respective local district. Federal, state, local, and tribal entities are encouraged to partner with local conservation districts on projects, when applicable.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Conservation districts can provide cost-share to local landowners for implementation of projects that apply best management practices such as fencing of stream corridors from livestock, re-vegetation of riparian banks, tillage crop rotation, manure management, etc.

## Limitations

None mentioned.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Application accepted at anytime of year
- *Allocations:* \$5,000 up to \$25,000 maximum
- *Cost-share:* Generally a 50% cost share

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## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Conservation Districts advise on project design and set-up
- *Field work:* Conservation District staff is available to conduct field assessment of site condition and help with implementation of the project.
- *Education:* Conservation District staff provides information on how-to address water quality problems and offer best management practice advice to all interested landowners.

They also assist with management advice after installation of a project.

## Contacts

Local Conservation District listings by county are in Appendix C-1.

In addition, for general information on Conservation District assistance:

Washington State Conservation Commission

PO Box 47721

Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Mary Bilderback..... (360) 407-6205

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Conservation Easement Program (CEP)

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*Farm Service Agency (FSA)*

## Summary

Persons with Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans secured by real estate may qualify for a cancellation of a portion of their FSA (formerly Farmers Home Administration) indebtedness in exchange for a conservation easement protecting sensitive features on the property. On marginal cropland or other sensitive lands, these easements can be established for conservation, recreation, and wildlife purposes.

In some cases, the USFWS provides technical and financial assistance to restore wetlands and other important habitats on the easement areas. This is a cooperative program between FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and state agencies.

## Eligibility Requirements

The borrower must have a loan with FSA that is secured by real estate. Eligible lands include: wetlands, highly erodible lands, land containing aquatic life, endangered species or important wildlife habitat, lands in the 100 year flood plain, and areas of high water quality or scenic value. The conservation contract may be for a period of 10, 30, or 50 years and the borrower cannot crop the easement land during the term of the easement. The amount of the debt cancelled will be directly proportionate to the length of the conservation contract.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Participation in the program helps the borrower to reduce their FSA debt, improving the participant's financial stability. The natural resources or scenic values of the farm will be enhanced by the easement. Participants retain the right to control public access and may use the land in a manner compatible with the easement. Wetlands can be restored through cooperating agency programs such as Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## Limitations

This voluntary program is only available to FSA borrowers with a loan on real property. Temporary delays may occur in qualifying decisions and development of management plans because of the multi-agency review requirement. Although it is possible, thus far, no wetland areas have been enrolled in the program.

## Financial Assistance

Rather than a cash payment, a portion of the FSA debt is canceled. The agency covers the cost for all surveys, appraisals, and recording fees associated with the conservation easement.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Assistance is provided through cooperating agencies to develop planting and maintenance plans.
- *Field work:* Cooperating agencies also assist in field evaluations. Monitoring of the project is done after completion.
- *Education:* Information and training of participants is provided through the local Conservation District.

## Contacts

Borrowers would contact the Farm Loan Manager with the Agricultural Credit Team responsible for the servicing of their account. The Agricultural Credit Teams usually cover multi-county areas and are located in the FSA office in the following counties:

Chelan .....(509) 664-0283  
Okanogan .....(509) 422-2767  
Franklin .....(509) 545-8518  
Spokane .....(509) 353-2932  
Grant .....(509) 754-0994  
Whatcom .....(360) 354-5658  
Lewis .....(360) 748-9997  
Yakima .....(509) 454-5746

### FSA State Office

316 W. Boone Ave., Suite 568  
Spokane, WA 99201-2350

Farm Loan Division ..... (509) 323-3023

Main FSA number..... (509) 323-3000

## Home Page

[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

# **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

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*Washington State Conservation Commission*

## **Summary**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program. The Washington State CREP is a voluntary program to restore 100,000 acres – approximately 2,000 to 3,000 stream miles of salmon spawning habitat adjacent to agricultural lands. The objectives of the habitat restoration are to: stabilize stream banks, create shade that lowers water temperature, provide a source of large woody debris which will create ponds, reduce sediment, reduce chemicals and nutrients, and increase wildlife. Cost share is available for the installation of a riparian buffer (trees, shrubs, plantings), fencing, and animal watering stations.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Lands adjacent to streams where riparian habitat is limiting for salmon, as determined by contacting the local conservation district for list of eligible stream mile areas. Also the land must be used for production of agricultural commodities, and suitable for riparian habitat restoration. The amount of land enrolled parallel to the stream is up to the landowner to determine. The width of the habitat will vary depending on the stream involved. The minimum width is 35 feet up to a maximum width of 180 feet.

## **Target Area**

Most of the State except the northeast portion.

## **Advantages**

CREP is a proactive way for agricultural producers to address environmental problems, meet regulatory requirements and receive compensation. Landowners enrolled will earn an annual payment based on the county's average dryland rental for agricultural land – for the life of the contract. This rate is adjusted to accommodate the productivity of the specific soils in the offered acreage. This rate, the soil rental rate, is then multiplied by 200% due to the importance of the program. In addition, if the land is land of agricultural significance identified by the State's Growth Management Act, an additional 10% is given, making the rate 210%.

Landowner can not make commercial use of the land while it is under the 10-15 year contract.

## Limitations

### Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Ongoing, continuous sign-up period. (The landowner may choose to defer the start date of the contract until October 1 of a year to get the full 15-year contract.)
- *Allocations:* Funding is available through 2007, dependent upon appropriations.
- *Cost-share:* U.S Department of Agriculture, through the Farm Service Agency, provides 50% of the cost; Washington State provides 10%, with the remaining 40% covered by a federal practice incentive payment or the landowner. Work done by the landowner is counted towards their contribution.

### Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Technical assistance with land eligibility, an initial assessment and design are provided by both the State through local conservation districts and the USDA through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* Education and outreach provided by the State Conservation Commission, local Conservation Districts, and by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency located in the USDA service centers.

## Contacts

### Program Level Questions:

- a) USDA – Farm Service Agency  
W 316 Boone Ave, Suite 568,  
Spokane, WA 99201-2350  
Rod Hamilton..... (509) 323-3015
- b) Washington State Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 47721, Olympia, WA 99504-7721  
Debbie Becker..... (360) 407-6211

### Interested Landowners Must Contact:

Local Conservation Districts to determine eligibility  
(See county directory in Appendix C-1)

## Home Page

<http://crep.scc.wa.gov/>

# Conservation Reserve Program

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*Farm Service Agency (FSA)*

## Summary

This program for agricultural landowners is designed for: long-term protection of environmentally sensitive farmland from erosion, improvement of water quality, reduction of surplus farm commodities, and improvement of wildlife habitat. Over one million acres are enrolled in the program in eastern Washington and provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Two types of benefits are available: cost-sharing to establish protective cover; and annual rental payments to retire land from agricultural production for a period of 10 to 15 years. The rental payment is made when the producer begins preparing the soil for the protective cover.

This program focuses on upland areas and wetland buffers. Wetlands receive benefits from the program indirectly by improving water quality and stabilizing soils that drain into wetlands.

## Eligibility Requirements

Persons or operators with cropland categorized as highly erodible or identified as environmentally sensitive are eligible. Riparian buffers receive maximum priority points and are generally accepted into the program. Land must have been annually cropped for 4 of the years between 1996 through 2001. Participants must be willing to take rental payments in lieu of further cropping for a period of 10 to 15 years.

## Target Area

Statewide, with emphasis in agricultural areas east of the Cascades.

## Advantages

Eligible landowners receive revenue from rents in lieu of proceeds from agriculture. Control is retained by the landowner. Cost-sharing is provided for the cost of materials, labor and equipment used to establish protective cover.

## Limitations

Landowner/operator has contractual obligations to maintain protective conservation cover and to curtail agricultural and certain other uses on the land. Funds for the program vary based on Congressional appropriations. Under 0.5 % of the approved projects contain wetlands. Only wetlands that are defined by the NRCS as “farmed wetlands” (seasonally wet with no human altered hydrology) qualify in this program.

Any significant wetland is excluded and the property owner is referred to the Wetlands Reserve Program (with NRCS).

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Sign-up periods are unpredictable. Payments made after Congressional appropriation made (generally after October 1).
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$65 million was available in Washington in 2002. Maximum of \$50,000 can be awarded to an individual per year.
- *Cost-share:* Usually a cost-share is needed for establishment of protective cover. Participants can receive contributions from other agencies as part of their cost-share.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Planting plans and maintenance provisions are developed.
- *Field work:* Field work is provided, as is monitoring of the project after completion.
- *Education:* Information and training of participants is provided.

## Contacts

There are 29 offices statewide. See Appendix C for the appropriate county agent. This program is administered with cooperation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

## Home Page

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa/conservation.htm>

# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ("Section 6")

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

This program promotes conservation benefits for threatened and endangered (federally listed) species by providing funding to state agencies and their partners.

There are three types of grants associated with the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (also referred to as "non-traditional Section 6" funds):

- 1) Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance grants – For developing habitat conservation plans (HCPs)
- 2) Recovery Land Acquisition grants – For permanently conserving land that contributes to the recovery of listed (federally threatened or endangered) species by supporting approved recovery plans
- 3) Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition grants – For permanently conserving land that complements conservation already being provided under permitted HCPs, for listed, proposed, or candidate species.

The program is authorized by Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act, funded by Congress, and administered in cooperation with two state agencies – the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources.

## Eligibility Requirements

Individuals or groups developing HCPs may apply for funds. Parties interested in securing land for listed, proposed, or candidate species benefits may apply for funds. All applicants must partner with one of the two state agencies mentioned above, to sponsor the grant proposal.

HCP development activities must be completed by the end of the next calendar year if awarded a HC Planning Assistance grant. Habitat acquired under land acquisition grants must be set aside in perpetuity and managed for the purposes of conservation.

## Target Area

Statewide on non-federal lands

## Advantages

Landowners seeking to develop an HCP in support of an incidental take permit from the federal government may receive assistance to develop their HCP. Landowners seeking relief from regulatory restrictions on their property (due to listed species protections) may be compensated for allowing the permanent protection of habitat values on their property.

## Limitations

These grant programs are intended to benefit USFWS-listed species through HCP development and land acquisition. Projects focused on salmon recovery may not be competitive, since salmon are not listed by USFWS. These grants are not for, and cannot be used to pay for: ground-moving activities, habitat restoration, compensatory or required mitigation, or habitat enhancement. Grant funds may not be used to offset any HCP mitigation requirements or other regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act. All land acquisitions must involve willing sellers.

Grant competition is high, and occurs at state, regional, and national levels. Wetland acquisitions are not targeted by these programs, unless those wetlands provide listed species habitat.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* There is an annual competition, with a national Request for Proposals released sometime between January and June, and proposals due within 2 months thereafter for the national competition. In Washington State, proposals and pre-proposals may be requested in advance of the national competition. Timing of grant award selection varies each year.
- *Allocations:* Nationwide in 2007, funding for the three grant programs was: \$7.5 million for HC Planning Assistance; \$13.9 million for Recovery Land Acquisition and \$47 million for HCP Land Acquisition.

Cost-share: Minimum 25% non-federal cost share required (cash or in-kind). More than the minimum cost share is generally provided to increase a proposal's competitiveness.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Recommendations and review from biological and grant staff can be provided, if early coordination is initiated by the grant applicant.

- *Field work:* Onsite evaluation of habitat and species use may be provided, if early coordination is initiated by the grant applicant.
- *Education:* none

## Contacts

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Conservation Planning  
510 Desmond Drive S.E., Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263

Joanne Stellini..... (360) 753-4323

## Home Page

National: <http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/>

State: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/section6>

# Ecosystem Restoration Program

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## Summary

This program addresses ecosystem protection and restoration at the basin scale under Section 210 of the Water Resource Development Act. The Corps identifies the conditions of the watershed, recommends engineering solutions, then implements projects to resolve water and related land resource problems. Ecosystem restoration provides a more comprehensive approach to address problems associated with disturbed and degraded resources than does focusing on only one aspect of watershed health.

This program is designed to resolve major problems in water related resources in a watershed, such as reconnecting streams to the main stem, restoring meandering in river courses, or resolving sediment loading problems. Multiple sites within the watershed are involved simultaneously over a long period of time. Large scale non-compensatory wetlands restoration and creation is possible through this program. The Corps provides the bulk of the design, planning, field work, monitoring and construction elements.

There are three phases to a project, all with Corps involvement: the reconnaissance phase identifies a project; the feasibility phase evaluates the potential for restoration on the site and prepares recommendations; and the construction phase implements the recommendations.

## Eligibility Requirements

A state agency, local jurisdiction, tribal government or private organization must sponsor the project and provide cost share for parts of the project. A demonstrated need for basin restoration must be present and there must be a strong local sponsor with funds to match federal dollars. Local sponsors must provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way. The local sponsor assumes responsibility for operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of constructed features after completion of the project.

## Target Area

Statewide (potentially). Authorized projects are underway in the following areas: Chehalis River, Duwamish/Green River, Howard Hanson, Lake Washington, Puyallup-White, and Stillaguamish River.

## Advantages

A significant financial and technical commitment is provided by the Corps for large scale habitat restoration. Investment for the local sponsor is a small percent of the total expenses and can be matched with in-kind services.

## Limitations

Funds for the implementation phase of a project require a separate congressional appropriation. A significant part of the funding covers staff costs for reconnaissance and feasibility studies done by the Corps. Projects typically take several years to complete.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* No application deadline. Moneys are not available until after congressional authorization.
- *Allocations:* Varies with the project but amount is unlimited and usually greater than \$5 million.
- *Cost-share:* Reconnaissance phase has no cost-share (\$100,000 max.); feasibility phase requires a 50% cost-share; and the construction phase requires a 35% match from local sponsors.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* All design and planning is normally done by Corps staff. The Corps coordinates all construction and implementation through contracts.
- *Field work:* The Corps constructs the project and the local sponsor is responsible for maintenance and monitoring.
- *Education:* Workshops to elicit public involvement are held during the planning phase.

## Contact

Seattle District, Corps of Engineers  
Address Box 3755, Attn: EN-PL  
Seattle, WA 98124

Planning Branch.....(206) 764-3600

### Project Contacts:

*Chehalis River* - Lori F Morris .....(206) 764-3604

*Duwamish/Green River* - Noel L. Gilbrough.....(206) 764-3652

*Howard Hanson* –Michael C. Padilla .....(206) 764-6734

*Lake Washington* –Linda S. Smith.....(206) 764-6721

*Puyallip-White* -Patricia A. Robinson.....(206) 764-3648

*Stillaguamish* – Bernard L. Hargrave .....(206) 764-6839

## Home Page

None at this time.

# **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## **Summary**

This voluntary program encourages commercial agricultural producers to solve point and nonpoint source pollution on farms, ranches and non-industrial forest land.

Local work groups determine priority resource concerns, cost share rates, ranking criteria, eligible practices and applicable practice payment limits.

Practices funded by the program may include: establishment of permanent vegetative cover; sediment retention, erosion or water control structures; stream protection; constructed wetlands system for agricultural water treatment; riparian buffer strips; permanent wildlife habitat; shallow water areas for wildlife; and source reduction of agricultural pollutants. Under this program, incentive payments are also made to manage lands in specific ways that solve pollution problems; including enhancement or improvement of wetland buffer areas.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Participants must be commercial agricultural producers, but can be non-federal government bodies, tribes or private land-owners. Proposals must result in long-term, community wide benefits. Contracts between agencies and producers are for a period of 1 year after the installation of the last conservation practice, not to exceed 10 years. The landowner must continue to maintain the improvements for its life span, which is generally 10 years or more. A conservation plan must be developed by the NRCS and must be implemented to receive funds.

## **Target Area**

Statewide.

## **Advantages**

Participation is strictly voluntary; control is retained by the landowner. Funds cover a wide range of expenses including: materials, labor, and equipment rental fees during construction. Farmers and ranchers may enter into a “pooled agreements” to jointly solve mutual conservation problems. These “pooling agreements” could be used to restore a wetland covering portions of several properties.

## Limitations

Program maximum is \$450,000 per participant.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* The funding cycle is annual. Applications are taken continuously with an annual cut-off usually in mid-January to early February.
- *Allocations:* Year 2006 allocations in the amount of \$20.2 million were made to 11 local work groups and tribes. Project allocations are \$450,000 per participant.
- *Cost-share:* A cost share not to exceed 75% federal as determined by the local work group (there are 11 in the state.) Funds from other agencies can be used as part of the participants cost share. The farmer pays the total cost of the project and is reimbursed by the NRCS.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Planning and evaluation of the potential improvements are provided with minimal field assessments.
- *Field work:* During construction, field inspections are performed. Post construction monitoring is also done.
- *Education:* During and after construction, training on the practices used is provided.

## Contacts

Local NRCS office (see Appendix C-1 for contact)

David Brown (NRCS) ..... (509) 323-2971

## Home Page

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

# Estuary Habitat Restoration

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## Summary

This new program will fund estuary habitat restoration activities including re-establishment of chemical, physical, hydrologic, and biological features and components associated with an estuary. Restoration may include, but is not limited to, improvement of estuarine wetland tidal exchange or reestablishment of historic hydrology; dam or berm removal; improvement or reestablishment of fish passage; appropriate reef/substrate/habitat creation; planting of native estuarine wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation; reintroduction of native species; control of invasive species; and establishment of riparian buffer zones in the estuary. Cleanup of pollution for the benefit of estuary habitat may be considered.

## Eligibility Requirements

The non-Federal sponsor may be a state, political subdivision of a state, a tribe, or a regional or interstate agency. A nongovernmental organization may serve as a non-Federal sponsor as determined by the Secretary of the Army in consultation with appropriate state and local governmental agencies and tribes.

## Target Area

Coastal estuaries and river and stream corridors under tidal influence.

## Advantages

One of the focuses of the program is to encourage new public/private partnerships. There is also a balance sought between large and small projects and geographic distribution of the projects funded.

## Limitations

Limited funds have been appropriated by Congress.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:*
- *Allocations:* Projects must seek a Federal cost of no less than \$25,000 or more than \$1,000,000.
- *Cost-share:* The Federal share cannot exceed 65% except that the Federal share shall be 85% of the incremental additional cost of pilot testing or demonstration of an innovative technology having the potential for improved cost-effectiveness. In-kind contributions are eligible for cost-share credit. Providing more than 35% cost share will result in higher ratings.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* To the extent possible, the Corps will use the planning, evaluation, and design products provided by the applicant.
- *Field work:* The Corps will construct some portion of the proposed project. These costs will be part of the Federal cost of the project.
- *Education:*

## Contacts

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, DC 20314-1000  
Ellen Cummings..... (202) 761-4750

## Home Page

[http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/cecwp/estuary\\_act/8jun05\\_notice\\_of\\_solicitation.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/cecwp/estuary_act/8jun05_notice_of_solicitation.pdf)

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

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*Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

## Summary

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program provides financial and technical assistance to rural landowners who have fish barriers on their forestland. A fish barrier is any artificial (human-caused) instream structure that impedes the free passage of fish. The program provides 75% - 100% of the cost of correcting barriers such as culverts, dams, and other impediments associated with a forest road.

The program addresses barriers on a worse-first basis within each watershed. Projects are ranked and prioritized based on the number and type of fish species benefiting, the amount of habitat to be opened, the presence of additional barriers up- or down-stream, and the cost of the project. Every year the highest priority projects are funded.

Funds for this program are allocated biennially by the State Legislature. During the 2007-2009 biennium, the program received \$6 million of state funding. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation jointly manage the program.

## Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the program, a landowner must meet three basic criteria:

1. The landowner must qualify as a small forest landowner. A small forest landowner is defined as any private landowner with more than 2 acres of land who harvests less than an average 2 million board feet of timber per year. A landowner does not have to harvest timber to qualify as a small forest landowner.
2. The fish barrier must be on forestland. Forestland is defined as land capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and not being used for anything incompatible with growing timber.
3. The barrier must be on a fish-bearing stream. Any stream wider than 2 feet in western Washington or 3 feet in eastern Washington with a gradient less than 20% is considered potential fish habitat.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

If a landowner has not harvested timber within the preceding three years once a project is funded or originally installed the existing fish barrier with a permit, the program will pay for 100% of the cost of the

project. When a project is prioritized for funding, the program will contract the entire construction process through a local “project sponsor” such as a Conservation District or nonprofit fish enhancement group. A landowner can also serve as a project sponsor for his or her own project. Once a landowner applies to the program, they are relieved of any regulatory requirement to fix their barrier until the state prioritizes it and provides financial assistance.

## Limitations

The program only funds the highest priority projects. Landowners with lower priority projects will be put on a waiting list until all higher priority projects are funded and fixed.

## Financial Assistance

- **Funding Cycle:** The application deadline is June 30th annually. Applications are accepted year-round. Projects are typically prioritized for funding by January of the following year and high priority projects are funded and fixed that summer.
- **Allocations:** \$6 million was allocated for the 2007-09 biennium.
- **Cost-share:** 25%. However, if a landowner has not harvested timber within the three years preceding their project being selected as a high priority, or if their fish barrier was originally installed with a permit, the program will pay 100%.

## Technical Assistance

- **Design and planning:** The program typically contracts with a local “project sponsor” to manage the design and planning for the project.
- **Field work:** Field evaluation and on-site assistance is provided.
- **Education:** Information is available on the internet and publications on the program are provided. Technical assistance is also available during site visits.

## Contacts

WA Department of Natural Resources  
Small Forest Landowner Office  
P.O. Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012  
Scott Potter ..... (360) 902-1404

## Home Page

[www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp)

# **Fisheries Restoration & Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)**

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), administered by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*

## **Summary**

The FRIMA program seeks to match federal funds with local, state, and tribal programs to increase native fish survival, reduce entrainment in existing water distribution systems, and increase access to productive fish habitat by constructing fish screening and passage projects.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Local, state, and tribal governments are primary applicants. Other private and public landowners may partner with local governments in submitting applications. Proposed project must be associated with an active water diversion and must benefit fish species native to the project area. Projects on private, public, and tribal lands are eligible.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Funding assistance in meeting applicable federal and state fish passage or screening requirements.

## **Limitations**

The FRIMA program only supports design, permitting, and construction of fish passage and screening projects. Operation and maintenance activities are the obligation of the applicant(s) or project sponsor.

## **Financial Assistance**

**Funding Cycle:** Annually with applications typically due in mid-fall. Awards are typically available mid-spring of the following year.

**Allocations:** The program in Washington has been receiving an average of approximately \$625,000 per year in the last 4 years. Typical projects awarded federal funding have ranged from \$5,000 to \$280,000.

**Cost-share:** 35% minimum non-federal funding.

## Technical Assistance

Design and planning: Design and planning advice or assistance may be available by contacting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or USFWS.

Field work: None

Education: None

## Contacts

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
WDFW FRIMA Coordinator  
3601 West Washington Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98903  
Eric Egbers..... (509) 575-2734

## Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/FRIMA/>

[http://wdfw.wa.gov/recovery/frima\\_application-06.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/recovery/frima_application-06.htm)

For other USFWS funding programs, see  
[www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/fishpassage](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/fishpassage)

# Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants

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*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

## Summary

The Five Star Restoration Challenge grants were born of an initiative to help revitalize the nation's commitment to recovering valuable water resources. The program emphasizes support to community-based watershed protection efforts aimed at high priority areas such as wetlands and encourages natural resource stewardship actions. The grants provide modest financial assistance to support community-based wetland and riparian projects, to build diverse partnerships, and to foster local natural resource stewardship.

## Eligibility Requirements

"Five Star" refers to the emphasis on engaging 5 or more partners in the project to contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support, or other in-kind services as match. Eligible parties include: youth organizations, local governments, private entities, etc. Projects must include a strong on-the-ground habitat restoration component and may also include education, outreach, and community stewardship. Preference is given to projects that are part of a larger watershed stewardship effort.

Projects must demonstrate a resulting ecological, educational, social and/or economic benefit. (Note: mitigation projects are not eligible.)

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

The program champions restoration projects that involve contributions from multiple and diverse partners.

## Limitations

The grant program is highly competitive. In 1999, 50 out of 300+ proposals were accepted for funding. Projects must be completed in one year.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* The funding cycle is annual.
- *Allocations:* Awards between \$5,000 and \$20,000
- *Cost-share:* Contributions from all partners, amount varies

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* None
- *Field work:* None
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

D.C. –

Jon Pai ..... 1-800-832-7828

Seattle –

Krista Rave-Perkins..... (206) 553-6686

## Home Page

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star>

# **Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP)**

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*Washington State Department of Ecology*

## **Summary**

Local jurisdictions receive grants for planning and implementation of projects which reduce flood hazards and flood damages. First, local jurisdictions are supported in developing a Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP) that ideally takes a holistic or watershed approach to minimize flood hazards from headwaters to the coastal areas. Once the management plan is under development or in place, projects that provide solutions to flood hazards can be proposed for funding support. Usually these efforts include: acquisition of structures and properties for open space for conservation only; flood damage reduction projects and studies (including projects that preserve or restore natural conditions or restore/enhance flood protection facilities; bioengineering for bank stabilization; wetland restoration as it relates to flood damage reduction; flood hazard mapping; flood warning systems; public awareness/education programs; and selective land uses in flood prone areas.

Wetlands are a critical component of a Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. Historically the program funded structural solutions such as dikes and levees to reduce flood potential. Local governments can use FCAAP grants for non-structural solutions such as restoration or acquisition of wetlands that absorb surface water overflow and reduce flood hazards.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Local jurisdictions, tribal governments or special districts (i.e. diking districts, flood control districts, etc.) are eligible if they participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and allow only flood compatible uses in flood plain areas. These jurisdictions must have completed (or be included in an existing plan) or be developing a Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan including flood damage reduction and maintenance provisions.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Grants are available which can be matched by state, federal or local sources. Donated match is also eligible. Ecology technical staff assist local communities through a partnership approach from the pre-application stage to project completion.

## Limitations

Grants are competitive; more than twice the dollars are requested than is available.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Biennial, with applications available on the web site in early April and due in early May for a September 1 start date in odd years.
- *Allocations:* WAC 173-145-090 provides \$4 million at the beginning of each biennium. In the 2007-2009 biennium, 26 projects were funded. Awards vary between \$10,000 and \$250,000.
- *Cost-share:* A 25% local match is needed for plan development, and a 50% match is preferred for most projects (construction, maintenance, acquisition, etc.)

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Staff provide planning and technical assistance and perform field evaluations.
- *Field work:* No staff assistance in the field for construction.
- *Education:* Staff can provide training on technical issues relating to flood preparedness and floodplain management.

## Contacts

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 46700  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dan Sokol (technical asst.) ..... (360) 407-6796  
Bev Huether (application info). ..... (360) 407-7254

## Home Page

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/grants/fcaap/intro.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/grants/fcaap/intro.html)

# Forest Legacy Program

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*USDA Forest Service (USFS) and  
Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

## Summary

This program identifies important forest lands and protects them as working forests, i.e. managing land for the production of forest products and traditional forest uses. The program aims to protect important scenic, cultural, timber, fish, wildlife, recreation, and riparian resources by acquiring interests in land primarily through the purchase of conservation easements. Fee-simple (full title) purchase is used in limited cases. Other land conservation mechanisms such as voluntary deed restrictions or covenants are sometimes used. Landowners can also receive financial assistance for legal costs, title transfer work and appraisals when they donate property under this program.

This program is administered as a partnership between the USDA Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources. The USFS provides guidance and funding while the DNR provides oversight, technical assistance, and handles landowner contacts.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligible lands must be: 1) privately owned, and 2) environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. In Washington, proposed lands must provide for at least one of the following public values: continuation of timber management opportunities; water quality improvement; habitat for native fish, or rare wildlife or plants.

Landowner participation in the program involves voluntarily conveyance of interests in land and the preparation of a Forest Stewardship Plan (for industrial-owned lands, the preparation of a multi-resource forest management plan). Landowners must prepare a Forest Stewardship Plan if they retain timber rights or the right to conduct other resource management activities on the land. A Forest Stewardship Plan identifies and describes the actions to be taken by the landowner to protect soil, water, range, aesthetic quality, recreation, timber, and fish, and wildlife resources on the land, in a manner that is compatible with the objectives of the landowner and is approved by the state forester or equivalent state official.

## Target Area

Primarily focuses on rural transition forest lands statewide (areas between designated urban growth boundaries and resource lands of long-term commercial significance). Since 1994, acquisitions have been focused in the Mountains to Sound Greenway project area (Seattle, King County area).

## Advantages

Participants are offered the appraised fair market value for the interests in the land. Estate tax reduction is possible for some participants. The assessed value of the property rights may be reduced. Also, communities benefit from having a more stable base of forest land for resource production, increased open space for recreation, and amenities which contribute to both the economy and the quality of life.

## Limitations

Funding levels vary and projects compete on a national level. Twenty-one projects have been funded in Washington State since 1992. Future demands for the program far exceed current funding levels. Although projects containing wetlands have an equal standing for assistance, the focus of the program remains with forested areas of environmental significance.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funds are appropriated annually with an application period open in the spring.
- *Allocations:* Allocations for Washington have been as high as \$3,000,000.
- *Cost-share:* Up to 25% cost share is required. Match can come from other agencies or organizations.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* DNR provides planning assistance.
- *Field work:* DNR does field evaluations prior to land transactions. DNR monitors or enters into agreements with land trusts and other private organizations for monitoring Forest Legacy conservation easements.
- *Education:* None.

## Contacts

Washington Department of Natural Resources  
1111 Washington Street SE  
P.O. Box 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

Bob Cannon ..... (360) 902-1102

## Home Page

Washington State Web site:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/forest\\_legacy/legacyhome.html](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/forest_legacy/legacyhome.html)

Federal Web site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

# **Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP)**

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*Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

## **Summary**

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program partially compensates eligible small forest landowners in exchange for a 50-year easement on “qualifying timber.” This is timber the landowner is required to leave standing as a result of forest practice rules protecting Washington’s forest and fish. Trees covered by the easement may not be cut or removed for 50 years.

There are two purposes of the easement: to help small forest landowners keep their land in forestry - remain economically viable, and to protect the qualifying timber and it’s associated riparian function. Riparian function includes: stabilizing the stream bank, trapping sediment, shading the water, and leaf litter and large woody debris.

Funds for this program are allocated biennially by the state legislature. There is no guarantee at what level funding will be approved. The Small Forest Landowner Office is required to maintain a list of applications for compensation when funding becomes available.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Any individual, partnership, corporation, or other nongovernmental legal entity that owns more than 20 contiguous acres may apply providing they meet the following provisions: 1) owns timber next to a river, stream, lake, pond or wetland that is planned for harvesting in the future, 2) harvest less than 2 million board feet of timber a year on average, and 3) are willing to enter into a 50-year agreement with the State of Washington.

The eligible or qualifying timber is primarily but not exclusively in the riparian management zone. This riparian management zone varies in width depending on site class of the soil, the bankfull width of the stream and whether the stream is fish bearing

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## Advantages

Program does provide partial financial compensation for the trees the landowner cannot harvest. Compensation is based on site-specific trees and fair market value. The landowner determines how much of the qualifying timber is in the easement. Participants are not required to allow public access to their lands.

## Limitations

Competition for the funding is high: The demand for the program far exceeds current funding levels. As of January 1, 2008, 177 easements have been signed in the state since 2001. 2007-09 appropriations are committed.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funds are allocated biennially by the state legislature. Applications are accepted throughout the year.
- *Allocations:* \$10 million was appropriated for the 2007-09 biennium.
- *Cost-share:* none

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Reimbursement is available after easement signed, and staff is available for assistance.
- *Field work:* Field evaluation and on site assistance is provided
- *Education:* Training is available when on-site assistance is provided

## Contacts

Contact: Small Forest Landowner Office

WA Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 47012

Olympia, WA 98504-7012

Dan Pomerenk..... (360) 902-1427

## Home Page

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo>

# Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service & Farm Service Agency  
(In cooperation with the US Forest Service)*

## Summary

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary Program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland, pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing land. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal diversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. Under GRP, landowners are provided cost-share funds to restore native grasslands. They are paid 75 percent of grazing value under rental agreements or paid up to fair market value less grazing value for granting an easement and protecting grasslands.

The program is offered to the highest priority sites only. Assistance is provided to landowners and operators for developing the plan which describes intentions and objectives, practices needed and landowner requirements to maintain grassland diversity. Easements may be permanent or for 30 years. Participants may choose a rental agreement for 10, 15, 20, or 30 years.

## Eligibility Requirements

Landowners who can provide clear title are eligible to participate for either easement option. Landowners and others who have general control of the acreage may submit an application for a rental agreement. Individuals and entities that have an average adjusted income exceeding \$2.5 million (previous 3 years) are ineligible, unless 75 percent or more is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry operations.

Eligible properties must contain at least 40 contiguous acres of grassland or land that contains forbs and shrubs and has potential to provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value

## Target Area

Statewide.

Privately owned grazing lands that are at a high risk of conversion to cropland or urban use. Preference is given to offers that are in close proximity to other protected sites, contain critical habitat, provide biological diversity, require no restoration, have low operation and maintenance requirements, provide partnership contributions, and are likely to retain habitat functions and values after easement or agreement period ends.

## Advantages

USDA will provide all administrative costs with recorded easement, including appraisal fees, survey costs, title insurance and recording fees. Easement payments may be provided in lump sum or annual payments (equal or unequal amounts) for up to 10 years. Rental agreement payments will be paid annually for the life of the agreement. Restoration agreements, if needed, will provide up to 90 percent cost share for restoration on lands that have never been cultivated or up to 75 percent on restored grasslands.

## Limitations

Limited to available funds. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while conducting grassland management activities that are compatible with habitat and ecological goals.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual funding with applications accepted during advertised sign-up periods.
- *Allocations:* Not funded in Washington for 2006. Funds are available once the easement is recorded or on the anniversary date of rental agreements
- *Cost-share:* For restoration efforts it's 25% on cultivated land and 10% on land never cultivated.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Planning and Design are conducted with the applicant in the development of the Restoration Agreement (if determined to be needed). Staff assists in preparing a conservation plan for the site including acceptable management practices
- *Field work:* Field evaluations are conducted on all applications. On-site work is conducted to prepare for easement or agreement. Follow-up activities will be conducted in the field to evaluate program success.
- *Education:* Training is done by agency staff during field visits. Sites may be used for media events, producer field days, and environmental education at the discretion of the participant.

## Contacts

Local NRCS field office (see Appendix C-1)

Statewide Contact:

Ross Lahren ..... (509) 323-2971

## Home Page

<http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>

# Habitat Conservation Planning

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

Habitat Conservation Planning is a “conservation management approach” to compensate for the impacts of land use activities on listed endangered or threatened species and their habitat. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is the key component of an application package necessary to apply for an incidental take permit (ITP). The HCP and ITP allow for the incidental take of threatened or endangered species while providing suitable mitigation and conservation strategies to protect those species and their habitats over the long term. Aquatic and wetland habitats and their associated species are frequently addressed in the habitat conservation plans.

Planning occurs on non-federal lands where threatened and/or endangered species are present or of concern. It is a voluntary effort initiated by non-federal landowners (such as industrial or small timber owners, agricultural producers, or jurisdictional entities). Land acreage ranges from one acre to over a million acres, though there are no restrictions on the size of the HCP area.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Habitat Conservation Planning, pre-requisite for authorizing an ITP, allows the landowner to conduct their otherwise legal activities (such as timber harvest and agricultural production) which may result in take of listed species. HCPs provide long-term regulatory assurances to the landowner for the duration of the plan, i.e., the government will honor its permit commitment as long as the HCP permittee honors their habitat management plan.

## Limitations

This program may not always permanently preserve or restore habitat, but rather seeks to “manage” impacts for either temporary habitat benefits and/or long-term gain.

It allows for economic activities that have been “minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable.”

## Financial Assistance

*None*

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Development of the HCP
- *Field work:* On-site habitat assessment
- *Education:* Habitat information to the landowner

## Contact

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Attention: James Michaels  
Manager, Division of Conservation Planning  
510 Desmond Dr., Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503-1263  
James Michaels..... (360) 753-7767

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

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*Washington Military Department – Emergency Management Division*

## Summary

This program aims to reduce the cost that the government incurs from natural disasters. The program receives federal funds following a disaster declaration by the President. Projects that reduce or eliminate future disaster losses are funded. These include projects such as acquisition of property in the floodplain following a flood or drainage projects that maintain adequate flow to prevent flooding. Representatives from state and local government sit on the application review team that develops funding recommendations. The program is administered by the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

## Eligibility Requirements

State and local governments, special purpose districts, certain private non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes can apply for funding. The community must participate and be in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, and be in compliance with Growth Management Act requirements. Applicants must be part of a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan. Eligible projects must be cost-effective, use the most practical, environmentally sound solutions and be in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Grants of \$1 million or more may be available, depending upon the size of the program. The program is adaptable to different local needs to prevent future disaster-caused damage and loss of life.

## Limitations

Funding is available statewide and is highly competitive. Requests for funding typically exceed available dollars by 5 to 10 times. Projects proposed for facilities covered under the primary authority of another federal agency (i.e., Corps of Engineers or NRCS) are not eligible for funding from this program.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding cycle:* The program is available only after a Presidential disaster declaration. Funding for approved, eligible projects becomes available about a year after the disaster declaration.
- *Allocations:* Seven percent of program funds are available for local planning initiatives that lead to development of a FEMA-approved natural hazards mitigation plan.
- *Cost-share:* 75% of funding is federal with state and local share splitting the remaining 25% equally.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Minimal technical assistance.
- *Field work:* Field work and monitoring are done.
- *Education:* When a disaster takes place, a public outreach effort is made. Educational materials are distributed to potentially eligible applicants, although none apply specifically to wetlands.

## Contact

Washington State Military Department  
Emergency Management Department  
Building 20  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

Mark Stewart..... (253) 512-7072

[m.stewart@emd.wa.gov](mailto:m.stewart@emd.wa.gov)

## Home Page

<http://emd.wa.gov>

# King County Grant Exchange

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*King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks*

## Summary

The Grant Exchange is a clearinghouse of grant and technical assistance programs offered by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks with the goals of protecting and enhancing the environment, increasing community stewardship, and providing expertise and consultation to projects.

Grants and technical support are an important way in which King County increases opportunities for community stewardship of natural resources. These funds develop and strengthen partnerships with community organizations and local governments. On average, every dollar invested through grants is matched by three dollars in cash and in-kind contributions. This leverage makes projects possible that couldn't be done alone.

## Eligibility Requirements

Project must benefit waters flowing into/through King County or King County upland habitats located in the Urban Growth Area and trees. Eligible applicants include: schools, special districts (such as utility districts), tribes, local governments (also state/federal/regional), private non-profit organizations, and individuals (only for requests up to \$2,499, except for Natural Resource Stewardship Network and Community Salmon Fund). Applicants who are not incorporated entities must designate a sponsor. Businesses and King County departments are not eligible

## Target Area

King County

## Advantages

Variety of grant programs available.

## Limitations

No lobbying, no general support, no corrective action, no mitigation (except for work above and beyond what's required).

No food, no drinks, no t-shirts, no charge back on equipment, limitation on bus charter costs.

Only ½ of award can pay for design and planning.

Salaries, contract workers, and consultants can be charged to the grant if the amount charged does not exceed 25% of the total project cost (grant + cash and in-kind match)

No blanket overhead. No contingency costs.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* WaterWorks and Wild Places in City Spaces: Spring and fall deadlines.. Natural Resource Stewardship Network: up to \$2,500 you can apply anytime, more than \$2,500 has a summer deadline. Community Salmon Fund: up to \$75,000 with varied deadlines.
- *Application Due Dates:* Varies.
- *Award Dates:* Varies.
- *Allocations:* Usually up to \$1 million is awarded annually. Typical project amounts are \$35,000 for large grants, \$2,000 for small grants (those below \$2,499).
- *Cost-share:* 10% cash match from applicants except for small grants.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:*
- *Field work:*
- *Education:*

## Contacts

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
201 Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Ken Pritchard..... (206) 296-8265  
800-325-6165 ext. 68265

## Home Page

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grants.htm>

# Living Lands Project

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*Defenders of Wildlife*

## Summary

The Living Lands Project provides funding for pilot projects to encourage local land trusts to increase their capacity to engage in biodiversity conservation. Pilot projects include funding and technical assistance to help land trusts advance specific projects with significant biodiversity values.

## Eligibility Requirement

Land Trusts

## Target Area

Nationwide

## Advantages:

Limitations:

## Financial Assistance:

Up to \$10,000

## Technical

Assistance: Advanced to basic trainings and conference presentations on biodiversity planning, habitat restoration, technical tools, and conservation finance.

## Contact:

Aimee Weldon..... 202-682-9400 x 126

## Home Page

[livinglands@defenders.org](mailto:livinglands@defenders.org)

# Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA)

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

This program provides financial and technical assistance to restore habitats and services in areas that have been damaged by release of hazardous substances. MTCA covers both Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects and grants to local governments.

Under NRDA project funds are acquired through settlements with Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for natural resource damages under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Funds cover property acquisition, remediation, construction, and monitoring. Since industrialized port areas have significantly impacted estuarine wetlands, remediation is often directed at wetland areas.

Currently, there are three areas of concern, all in urban embayments of Washington (see target area below). In each of these areas, a group of natural resource trustees is formed that identifies potential restoration sites and provides project guidance. Public input is solicited for the identification process and volunteers are called on for implementing the restoration, such as planting and monitoring activities.

The “Clean-up Grants” portion of MTCA provides funds to local governments for hazardous waste clean-up and allows for some site habitat restoration activity. These funds are raised from a levy on oil activities in the state.

## Eligibility Requirements

NRDA projects must be within the target watershed and approved by the local trustees. Most work must be done in areas that have been damaged by hazardous substances, although some work in the upper watershed is possible to restore critical resources, such as salmon. Larger projects having watershed importance or critical habitat are given higher priority.

## Target Area

Currently, NRDA projects are on-going in Commencement Bay, Elliott Bay, and the Snohomish River.

## Advantages

This program has substantial funding for habitat restoration. Collaboration among federal, state, local, tribal, and citizen

organizations enables broad support. Trustees are available for implementation advice. Areas that are restored are protected in perpetuity using conservation easements.

## Limitations

Funding cannot cover salaries or public participation expenses. Sites cannot be areas subject to recontamination. Currently, the program handles only large-scale projects.

## Financial Assistance

- *NRDA Projects:* Funds are negotiated as remediations are done and vary with severity of impact. Remediation allocations are determined on a case-by-case basis. No cost share is required, but preference is given to project sites with other funding sources and in vicinity of the impact.
- *Hazard Waste Clean-up Grants:* MTCA provides grants for hazardous waste clean-ups that allow for some site habitat restoration actions. These grants are limited to local government entities. Approximately \$25 million in funds are provided to local governments each biennium. Project awards have been as high as several million dollars. More information can be found at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/99505.html>
- *Brownfield Loans:* Private parties may qualify for loans to conduct habitat restoration or enhancement activities. More information can be found at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/vcp/Loan%20Guide.pdf](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/vcp/Loan%20Guide.pdf)

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Minimal assistance for planning. Trustee staff and collaborating agencies can provide phone advice. Field evaluations are done to identify priority areas.
- *Field work:* No field work assistance provided.
- *Education:* Educational materials are available on restoration and ecological habitat improvement.

## Contact

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Craig Thompson..... (360) 407-7234

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cleanup.html>

# **National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant**

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Pacific Coast Joint Venture*

## **Summary**

Since 1992, this program has provided Washington with about \$38.5 million for acquisition and restoration of critical wetland habitat in coastal areas. The program is intended to create partnerships between federal and state agencies.

The program focuses on acquiring, restoring, enhancing, and managing the nation's most pristine and threatened coastal wetlands, which provide critical habitat for a variety of migratory and resident species including Pacific salmon and anadromous trout. Acquisition is between state agencies and willing landowners. Funds originate from a percentage of the federal excise tax on fishing equipment, small engines, and motor boat fuel.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Participation is limited to state agencies administering acquisition programs in coastal areas (Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Parks and Recreation Commission). State agencies may form partnerships with tribes, local governments, or conservation groups to carry out cooperative projects. Eligible agencies are designated by the Governor to apply for the grants.

## **Target Area**

Coastal counties of Puget Sound and Pacific coast.

## **Advantages**

Provides large grants for both acquisition and restoration.

## **Limitations**

Only agencies responsible for coastal wetlands can participate in this program; projects must demonstrate direct connection to coast. Funds have been used mostly for acquisition. Grant funds may not be used for regulatory activities.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual, applications due in early June for following year's money.
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$15 million nationally. Projects compete on a national basis for funding. There is no set amount for each state. No single recipient can receive more than 10% of the total national allocation. Projects range from \$200,000 to \$1 million maximum.
- *Cost-share:* Applicant contributions are a minimum of 25% of project costs, but larger match contributions make the project more competitive. Match must be non-federal.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* None. Applicants are expected be responsible for project development and implementation.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98503

Ginger Phalen..... (360) 412-5819

## Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/>

Also program rules can be found at:

[www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_02/50cfr84\\_02.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/50cfr84_02.html)

# **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Matching Grants**

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*National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*

## **Summary**

Established by an act of Congress in 1984, NFWF is an independent, non-profit, conservation organization dedicated to stimulating private funding of conservation needs by offering federal matching funds. It was established as a vehicle for infusing fresh and creative approaches into the management of the nation's wildlife resources. The matching grants are to assist priority fish, wildlife, and plant conservation programs by focusing on: 1) working landscapes, 2) critical species, and 3) stewardship.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Any government entity (state, local, or tribal), university, or non-profit organization may apply. NFWF will fund: creative protection and restoration; problem-solving applied research; applied conservation; high priority projects as determined by federal, state, and/or other non-governmental organizations; start-up projects as models; and projects that foster partner-ships. When evaluating grants, NFWF looks for cooperation between public and private parties, pilot applications, new and innovative solutions, how new partnerships can be catalyzed, and adequate management of the project.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

When several partners are involved in a project, the project application is more competitive and has higher potential to raise matching support. Wetlands are a significant portion of the projects funded.

## **Limitations**

Project proposals must be for one year only, no multi-year projects.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications due July 15th, and December 1st, with 1-2 page pre-application summary of project due 1.5 months before (June 1<sup>st</sup> & Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>) to receive approval to submit.
- *Allocations:* Average grant support is \$35,000 from the Foundation per project.
- *Cost-share:* Mandatory 50% match of non-federal dollars, (but competitive match is 2:1 with extra match of “documented” in-kind services allowed).

## Technical Assistance

None provided

## Contact

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Attn: Krystyna Wolniakowski  
806 SW Broadway, Suite 750  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 417-8700  
E-mail at: [Projects@NFWF.org](mailto:Projects@NFWF.org)

## Home Page

[www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm)

# National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

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*US Forest Service (USFS)*

## Summary

Congress established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 to preserve selected rivers or segments of rivers in their free-flowing condition and to protect and enhance the associated outstanding values of those rivers. For each designated river a comprehensive river management plan is developed that provides for protection of river values. The plan addresses resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacity and the management practices necessary or desirable to protect and enhance the river's values. Four federal agencies may be charged with administration of a component of the National System: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The WSR Act does not provide river administering agencies with regulatory authority for private lands, but river administering agencies work with regulatory agencies (state and federal) to prevent development of inappropriate water resource projects, eliminate or reduce water pollution, and to protect and enhance WSR values. Further, the WSR Act provides for limited acquisition (both fee-simple and conservation easement) and technical assistance to encourage protection of WSR values.

## Eligibility Requirements

Lands must be in a designated river corridor. Implementation must be consistent with the river management plan.

## Target Area

There are four designated rivers in Washington: Skagit System, Lower White Salmon, Upper White Salmon, and the Lower Klickitat WSR. Actions are focused on the corridors of designated rivers, approximately 1/4 mile on either side of the rivers. Specifically:

- Skagit System includes segments from Sedro Woolley upstream to and including the mouth of Bacon Creek and portions of the Cascade, Suiattle, and Sauk Rivers (totaling 158.5 miles).
- Upper White Salmon is from the river's headwaters on Mt. Adams downstream to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest boundary, including all portions of Cascade Creek (totaling approximately 20 miles).
- Lower White Salmon segment is from Buck Creek to Gilmer Creek (7.7 miles).

- Lower Klickitat segment is from the river's confluence with the Columbia to Wheeler Creek (10.8 miles).

## **Advantages**

Conservation easements are possible when funding is available and where negotiated with willing participants, who receive fair market value for the rights they relinquish. Technical assistance is available at no cost to the landowner and covers a variety of resource fields.

## **Limitations**

Covers a narrow target area. Restoration on private land is financed by other agencies or sources. Projects must meet priorities set out in the management plan.

## **Financial Assistance**

- *Funding cycle:* There are no application deadlines. No funds for implementation of projects on private lands is available through this program, but they may be available through coordinating agencies or groups.
- *Allocations:* Funds vary depending on needs of specific area. Acquisition dollars are appropriated from Congress for specific sites.
- *Cost-share:* Not required.

## **Technical Assistance**

- *Design and planning:* Assistance in preparing the river management plans, and planning and design of individual projects or facilities.
- *Field work:* Agency staff participate in field work for assessment and monitoring.
- *Education:* Agency provides broad education programs related to riparian processes and function.

## Contacts

Regional WSR Program: Pacific NW Regional Program Manager,  
POB# 3623, 333 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97208

(503) 808-2449

Skagit River: WSR Program Manager Mt. Baker Ranger District,  
2105 Highway 20, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360) 856-5700

Upper White Salmon: Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup>  
Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682

(360) 891-5000

Lower White Salmon and Lower Klickitat: Columbia River Gorge  
National Scenic River Area Program Manager, 902 Wasco Avenue,  
Suite 200, Hood River, OR 97031

(541) 386-2333

## Home Page

National Interagency website: <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/index.html>

Skagit Wild and Scenic River website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/skagit-wsr/>

Gifford Pinchot NF website (for Upper White Salmon):

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/>

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area website (for Lower  
White Salmon and Lower Klickitat):

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia/forest/>

# National Wildlife Refuge Challenge Cost Share

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

While the majority of available funds are directed towards USFWS Refuge properties, this program also provides limited financial and technical assistance to private landowners for enhancing or restoring degraded or converted wetlands, riparian areas, or other critical habitats

## Eligibility Requirements

USFWS staff seek private landowners and other non-federal partners for projects that complement activities on refuges (i.e., on adjacent properties or focusing on target species). One or more of the following federal trust resources must be enhanced: migratory birds, anadromous fish, or endangered species.

Projects that qualify for grants administered by the Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service are directed to those agencies and are not eligible for this program. Upland habitats are eligible only if their restoration will contribute to certain program goals (i.e., unique habitats for threatened or endangered species).

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

Funds can be used for wildlife and wetlands management on lands that remain in production. The program can provide up to 50% cost share for habitat enhancement projects.

## Limitations

Funds are very limited and highly competitive, and cannot be used to secure land use rights (i.e., conservation easements).

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding is tied to federal budget cycle (i.e., October 1 to September 30).
- *Allocations:* There is no specific annual allocation for Washington. This program receives limited funding with the majority of available funds going to projects on USFWS refuge properties.
- *Cost-share:* Participant's match is a minimum of 50%.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Limited technical advice is available for project planning.
- *Field work:* Field evaluations only.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Tom Melanson..... (503) 872-2720

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Natural Resource Stewardship Network

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*Multi-agency Sponsorship*

## Summary

The Natural Resource Stewardship Network seeks to support local efforts to improve the urban natural environment by pooling available resources, leveraging funds, and building sustainable partnerships, with a focus on protecting or rehabilitating degraded natural areas. The Network is a coalition of federal, state, and local agencies; businesses; and educational institutions.

## Limitations

This “bottom-up” approach to conservation assistance requires local communities to participate in defining their needs and goals. The program emphasis is on enhancing urban forests and aquatic habitats by planting, managing, maintaining, and/or monitoring trees and understory. Each proposal should include at least 25% of the project expenses dedicated to urban forestry. Projects might include site restoration and habitat enhancement.

## Eligibility Requirements

Projects must be initiated and defined by the local communities. Projects must clearly benefit the public and be located on public land. Priority is given to projects that benefit target populations in under-served urban neighborhoods. Projects with long-term protection and maintenance are preferred. Non-profit and community organizations, local governments, tribes, schools, and special districts are eligible for assistance.

## Target Area

The urban core areas of King County are the primary target area (Seattle, Renton, Tukwila, Des Moines, and White Center), although projects elsewhere in the urban growth areas of King County may be possible. Special emphasis is given to areas harmed by past actions and overlooked for cleanup and restoration.

## Advantages

This program brings many agencies and community groups together, matching the expertise of skilled natural resource professionals with the needs in the community. Financial assistance provides “seed money” for starting projects and partnerships.

## Limitations

Project areas must be urban and in public ownership. There is high competition for funding. There is no funding for administration and minimal funding for planning.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual cycle with applications accepted at any time for projects up to \$2,000. Larger projects up to \$30,000, apply during winter and summer application periods.
- *Allocations:* Program allocation is ~\$150,000 annually. Small projects range up to \$2,000 and larger ones up to \$30,000.
- *Cost-share:* Varies, but generally a 50% match is required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Assistance to match project sponsors with the financial and technical resources needed to get the job done.
- *Field work:* Some assistance is available from various agency field staff, especially for ecological evaluation and urban forestry.
- *Education:* Some urban forestry and watershed ecology education is provided depending on the availability of staff.

## Contact

King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks  
201 So. Jackson St., Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104

Linda Vane..... (206) 296-8042

## Home Page

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/NRSN.htm>

# Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Assistance

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

The main directive of the NRCS is to provide technical assistance to landowners, groups, organizations, tribes, and local and state government for the purpose of conserving and managing soil, water, and natural resources. Rather than describing a distinct program within the agency, this summary represents a broad range of tasks that the NRCS folds under the heading Technical Assistance. The majority of the users of these services are within the agricultural community. The NRCS provides the following wetland-related assistance:

- *Wetland determinations on agricultural lands and small areas adjacent to agricultural land;*
- *Development of conservation plans to protect and manage wetlands;*
- *Development of standards, specifications, design, and installation of conservation measures including wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement;*
- *Information on plant materials for wetland planting; and*
- *Soil surveys and information for identifying, planning, and managing wetlands.*

## Eligibility Requirements

Technical assistance is available to any private landowner.

## Target Area

Statewide. However, the emphasis varies depending on local needs as identified by the local conservation district and field office staff.

## Advantages

Landowners receive free technical assistance on natural resource management issues.

## Limitations

Technical assistance related to wetlands is limited by staff resources and workload priorities. Resource issues such as water quality and soil erosion have traditionally held a higher priority for staff time. Less than 25% of the assistance provided is wetland related, and most of that assistance is mandated by regulation.

## Financial Assistance

Funds are not handled through this program, but may be available through other programs within NRCS.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Field office staff work with the landowner to complete all necessary inventory, evaluation, planning, and design.
- *Field work:* Landowners or contractors install practices as specified by NRCS. NRCS staff will monitor.
- *Education:* On-site education done by field staff; occasional classroom training provided and educational materials are available.

## Contacts

See Appendix C-1 for the appropriate field office contact.

## Home Page

<http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Nisqually Delta Mitigation Trust

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*Nisqually River Basin Land Trust, Trustee*

## Summary

The trust was created to mitigate for development of Lone Star Northwest gravel shipping in Dupont. Lone Star Northwest and Weyerhaeuser fund this trust for the purpose of acquiring property, or interest in property, on undeveloped natural resource lands such as habitat areas and wetlands in the Nisqually delta and river basin.

## Eligibility Requirements

Will focus on properties located in the “target” area and containing highest resource values.

## Target Area

The area of primary interest is the “lower delta” and nearby shorelands, north of I-5. After the primary area is secured, the secondary “upstream” areas in close association to the delta will be sought.

## Advantages

Direct acquisition funds are available. These funds could potentially match funds from other agency programs for purchases of larger parcels.

## Limitations

Coverage is in a small geographic area.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Not applicable.
- *Allocations:* \$500,000 to start up in 1996, and \$50,000 annually for 25 years.
- *Cost-share:* None.

## Technical Assistance

*Design and planning:* Site assessments are done and easements written.

- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* Advise on selecting preservation options is available.

## Contact

Nisqually River Basin Land Trust  
P.O. Box 1148  
Yelm, WA 98597

George Walter..... (360) 438-8687 or  
..... (home) 459-8220

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Nonpoint Water Quality - Clean Water Act – Section 319 Grants

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

Grants to local governments, tribes, and non-profit organizations [501(c)(3)] are awarded to manage nonpoint source pollution and thereby improve and protect water quality. Examples of projects that are funded include bioengineering, use of best management practices, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, etc.

## Eligibility Requirements

Participants must be local governments, tribes and non-profit organizations [501(c)(3)]. Project proposals must demonstrate direct or indirect water quality benefits to be attained by preventing or controlling nonpoint source pollution. Projects that control or prevent nonpoint source pollution, including aquatic habitat protection and restoration, are eligible. The water quality problem and the potential of project success are evaluated in the project selection process.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Grants for 75% of total eligible project costs are available to eligible applicants.

## Limitations

Funding cannot be used to acquire lands. Project proposals must implement actions and activities listed in Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to control Nonpoint Source Pollution, Volume 1—Water Quality Summaries for Watersheds. Proposals must also address key elements critical to watershed Management Plans, such as estimate load reductions, provide public education component, monitor effective implementation measures, etc. Demand for funds far exceeds the funding available. Because the program focuses on water quality improvements and not wetlands directly, only a very small percentage of projects funded through the program have a wetland component.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual applications are accepted in September—October of each year with awards in July.
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$2.2 million is available to local governments, tribes, and nonprofit organizations [501(c)(3)] statewide yearly. Project allocations range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
- *Cost-share:* A 25% match is required.
- *Other:* Direct Implementation Fund or “DIF” reserves ~\$400,000 of Section 319 funds for interagency agreements between Ecology and other State agencies. These funds are specifically for implementation of *Washington’s Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution*.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Limited assistance is available.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

Washington Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Aleceia Tilley..... (360) 407-6429

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/funding.html>

# **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) (Large and Small Grant Projects)**

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Pacific Coast Joint Venture*

## **Summary**

In 1986 the United States, Canada and Mexico signed the North American Waterfowl Plan (updated in 2004) to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-1979 levels. This program provides grants to public-private and state-federal partnership projects to acquire, restore, enhance, and/or manage of wetland habitats, particularly those most important for migratory birds.

Since 1991, over \$2 billion has been spent for acquisition, restoration and enhancement of critical wetland wildlife habitat in North America. Washington State has received over \$30 million which has protected over 50,000 acres of habitat in western Washington. Typical projects include: construction of water control structures, revegetation, erosion control, other restoration activities, wetland acquisition, and habitat enhancement. A partner in this program is the Washington State Pacific Coast Joint Venture (see information for this organization in Chapter 3).

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Any group or individual may submit proposals related to acquisition, restoration, enhancement, management and other activities that conserve wetlands ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that depend on them. A small grant program (up to \$75,000) was initiated in 1996 to encourage new partners, especially smaller organizations such as local conservation districts and land trusts. Proposals must describe specifics on how the project would be done, the affect it would have on the plants, animals and wetland functions, project costs and partnership responsibilities and commitments.

## **Target Area**

Statewide.

## **Advantages**

NAWCA provides large grants (up to \$1 million) for wetland projects, and is one of the few federal funding mechanisms that can support large projects on private lands.

## **Limitations**

The application process for this funding is very complex, and there is a high degree of competition for these funds; thus, it is best suited for large projects. A significant amount of lead time, pre-planning, and

advanced commitment of funding by project partners is required. Projects compete on a national basis for funding. If selected, there is approximately a 6 month lag period before receipt of funds.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications must be received in March and July. Small grant applications are only accepted in December. Allow 2 months lead time to prepare grant proposals.
- *Allocations:* Since 1993, more than \$30 million has been allocated to Washington. Individual projects are generally between \$100,000 to \$1 million, except for small grants which are capped at \$75,000 maximum.
- *Cost-share:* 50% match is required (match can be state, local, tribal or private funding; in-kind services or land).

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* None, applicants are expected to be responsible for all phases of project design and implementation.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

Pacific Coast Joint Venture c/o US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1211 SE Cardinal Courte, Suite 100  
Vancouver, WA 98683

Carey Smith..... (360) 604-2562

or

Pacific Coast Joint Ventures  
120 State Avenue NE, # 1175  
Olympia, WA 98501-8212

Joe La Tourette..... (360) 754-2594

## Home Page

<http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWCA/grants.htm>

# Northwest Salmon Initiative

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

Under this program, interagency teams are formed to develop and implement watershed restoration plans. These plans form a framework that is used in permit review or actions related to the Endangered Species Act. All watershed activities potentially impacting salmon habitat are analyzed, resource problems identified, and corrective measures are proposed.

The Washington Conservation Commission, local Conservation Districts, and other agencies, work with a NRCS staff person who serves as the coordinator of the watershed team. During implementation, technical support is provided for application of best management practices, restoration of wetlands and development of side rearing channels for salmon. Improvement of fish habitat and protection of riparian areas, including wetlands, are considered critical.

## Eligibility Requirements

Generally, watersheds under 250,000 acres with listed salmon species. There must be local support and a strong local watershed council. All landowners can participate in the program.

## Target Area

Currently, the focus is on the Snake or the Columbia River above the Bonneville Dam. Those include the following watersheds: Asotin Creek, Pataha Creek, Tacannun River, Entiat River, Wenatchee River, Omak Creek and the Okanogan River. Other watersheds will be planned in the future.

## Advantages

Small grants are available from NRCS and other participating agencies or groups for applying management practices. A holistic approach is used for ecosystem planning and for addressing potential regulatory impacts.

## Limitations

The single focus of the program is fish habitat improvement. Staff and funds are very limited. Grants are a minor part of this program.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual cycle, with applications due in January.
- *Allocations:* are distributed through a priority setting process established by each local Conservation District office. Generally grants are less than \$10,000.
- *Cost-share:* 25-50% match required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* The interagency team provides assistance in planning and design.
- *Field work:* Field evaluations, monitoring, and on-site work with the landowner is available from collaborating agencies.
- *Education:* Classroom training, educational materials and public meetings are incorporated into the program.

## Contacts

Local Conservation Districts, field offices of NRCS  
(see Appendix C-1 for location), or

Rock Pointe Tower II  
W. 316 Boone, Suite 450  
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

Frank Easter..... (509) 323-2961

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Open Rivers Initiative

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*National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration,  
Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)*

## Summary

The NOAA Fisheries Open Rivers Initiative provides funding to catalyze the implementation of locally driven barrier removal projects to remove dams and other barriers, in order to benefit living marine resources, particularly diadromous fish. Projects funded through the Open Rivers Initiative have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that foster economic, educational, and social benefits for citizens and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other non-profits, industry and commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local, and Indian tribal governments whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources. Applications from Federal agencies or employees of Federal agencies will not be considered. Federal agencies are strongly encouraged to work with states, non-governmental organizations, national service clubs or youth corps organizations and others that are eligible to apply.

## Target Area

Nationwide. Targets are streams with fish passage barriers within historic or present diadromous fish habitat.

## Advantages

Funds are provided directly through the Open Rivers Initiative, as well as through numerous partnerships the NOAA Restoration Center has established with national nonprofit organizations. This means that funding opportunities open periodically throughout the year, and vary in the complexity of application processes.

## Limitations

Accomplishing barrier removal is a multi-faceted effort involving feasibility studies, project design, engineering services, permitting, construction, legal considerations, oversight, pre- and post-removal monitoring, and education and outreach.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding occurs on an annual cycle with a 24-month or less completion time.
- *Application Due Dates:* Applications are due annually in October.
- *Award Dates:* Funds are generally available in late spring.
- *Allocations:* Funding of up to \$6 million is expected annually. Typical awards will range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
- *Cost-share:* 1:1 non-federal match is recommended which can include cash and/or in-kind donations.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Not funded as part of this initiative.
- *Field work:* NOAA staff will be able to provide technical assistance to and conduct site visits with successful applicants, as well as provide guidance on project monitoring, permitting and other implementation aspects.
- *Education:* Applicants whose projects will involve citizens in a significant, strategic pre-removal education and outreach effort that demonstrates that the barrier removal project has been put forward by common agreement, and that the project will have significant community support will be most likely to be successful.

## Contacts

NOAA Community-based Restoration Program  
Open Rivers Initiative  
NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation  
1315 East West Highway, F/HC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Robin Bruckner ..... (301) 713-0174 x208  
Tisa Shostik..... (301) 713-0174 x209

## Home Page

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

This program focuses on re-establishing historic native communities. It offers technical and financial assistance to private landowners wishing to restore fish and wildlife habitats, including wetlands, riparian areas, streams and uplands. Projects given priority are those that:

- *Contribute to the survival of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, or migratory birds of management concern, or benefit anadromous fish;*
- *Contribute to the objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System or the North American Waterfowl Management Plan;*
- *Are located close to existing habitat and help reduce habitat fragmentation;*
- *Contribute to the restoration of globally or nationally imperiled natural communities; and*
- *Result in a self-sustaining system that is not dependent upon artificial structures.*

## Eligibility Requirements

Subject to priority factors stated above, landowners of any degraded or converted habitat area may apply for financial assistance. Cooperative agreements are signed with landowners before funds are provided and the project starts. The duration of the agreement must be a minimum of 10 years, but 25 years is preferred. Preference is given to those projects with long-term agreements.

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

Under the cooperative agreements, the landowner agrees to maintain the restoration project as specified in the agreement, but otherwise retains full control of the land. Project review and application is a relative simple, straightforward process. Landowners benefit from USFWS expertise.

This program cannot secure land use rights (easements or rent). The restoration sites must be free of hazardous materials that would be detrimental to fish and wildlife. Areas where restoration would encourage a predominance of exotic plants are generally not funded. Funds are limited.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual Requests for Proposals are circulated in the spring, proposals are ranked in the winter, and funds are available the following spring.
- *Allocations:* Projects compete for funds with other proposals in the northwestern states. Allocations vary annually, but generally, landowners can request up to \$25,000 per project.
- *Cost-share:* The cost share goal is 50%, but USFWS can contribute a greater percentage if the project justifies it. Landowner contributions can be cash or in-kind services such as labor.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* The USFWS works in cooperation with the landowner on project design and material needs. If cost-share assistance is requested, the landowner and USFWS staff work together to prepare a Habitat Restoration Proposal.
- *Field work:* Field work and use of agency equipment is possible for implementation.
- *Education:* Staff provide education and training to participants.

## Contacts

### *Western Washington:*

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503  
Paco Rodriguez. .... (360) 753-4066

### *Eastern Washington:*

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
11103 East Montgomery Drive, Spokane, WA 99206  
Juliet Barenti ..... (509) 893-8005

## Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov>

# Planning Assistance to States - Section 22

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## Summary

This program implements Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act which provides assistance to local governments and agencies, including Indian tribes in preparing comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related resources. Studies that identify solutions to water and related land resources are conducted by the Corps. Projects must be based on identified problems with water resources such as water quality, wetland habitat improvements, erosion and dam safety. Projects may include the evaluation of wetland restoration or creation sites to address these water resource issues. Corps staff participate in the planning phase and are primarily responsible for research, mapping, and field work. The Corps prepares a document with findings at the conclusion of the study.

## Eligibility Requirements

Almost any non-federal entity can be a sponsor including city, county, state agency, tribe, diking district, etc. Those who can not sponsor a project are: federal agencies, non-profit groups, private companies, or private individuals. Interested state, local, or tribal entities must jointly develop the scope of work with the Corps. The study sponsor pays for 50% of the study costs.

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

This is a cost effective way to study a broad range of topics related to water issues and habitat restoration. This program is very flexible and the application process is not cumbersome. Studies are short-term and unless special arrangements are made, they must be completed within a year. A good percentage of the projects address wetlands.

## Limitations

There is a high demand for funding. The program is strictly focused on planning and conceptual designs; no hard engineering designs or specifications for construction are included. State allocations are limited to \$500,000 per year.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding is first come, first served until all money has been allocated. (Fiscal year begins in October.) There is no strict application deadline but it is best to have the study clearly identified in either June or July.
- *Account Funds:* Washington can not receive over \$500,000 per year; however, Tribes are not included in this ceiling.
- *Allocations:* Most studies cost between \$20,000 and \$150,000 total (federal and state share together). Allocations cover Corps staff costs, equipment, printing, and analysis.
- *Cost-share:* 50% required (a sponsor's federally obtained funds can not be used to match Corps dollars unless there is a statute specifically enabling such action).

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Work can be conducted under contract or by Corps in-house staff or both. Includes conceptual design, report writing, mapping, and equipment. Typical studies are at a planning level, either at a reconnaissance or feasibility level of detail. They may also include studies at the initial design level.
- *Field work:* Done by the Corps.
- *Education:* Training

## Contact

Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District  
PM-PL  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Beth Coffey..... (206) 764-4478

## Home Page

[www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=cw&page name=planning](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=cw&page name=planning)

# Plant Materials Program (PMP)

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

The Plant Materials Program (PMP) is part of the supporting research centers of the NRCS; providing cost effective solutions for soil and water conservation problems. The PMP in Washington is conducted through two Plant Material Centers, one in Corvallis, Oregon, covering the west side of the Cascade Range and one in Pullman, Washington, covering the east side of the Cascades. The PMP offers technical information on plants and methods for erosion control, stabilization, revegetation, and native plant community restoration.

The PMP provides support to other assistance programs offered by the NRCS such as the Wetlands Reserve Program and others. The PMP conducts research and demonstrations on the use, growth, and adaptation of priority plants, including propagation, seed increase, establishment and management as they relate to or benefit various conservation practices. They offer guidance on these topics and information about appropriate native and non-native plant species and genetic strains for specific projects, practices, sites, growing conditions, or ecological regions. The PMP may also select or develop new varieties of conservation plants and provide seed or plants to landowners who cooperate with local soil and water conservation districts as a means of testing plants or plant technologies.

In Western WA the program concentrates on collecting, increasing, and evaluating native plants in association with the development or improvement of plant establishment, production, and revegetation technologies. The plants and related information are for erosion control and upland, riparian/shoreline, and wetland enhancement and restoration. They also evaluate and select strains for improving land management practices and may increase plant materials for special restoration projects with cooperating agencies or other groups.

In Eastern WA the program focuses on:

- *Plants and associated technologies for stabilizing eroding stream corridors,*
- *Identifying plant materials that will effectively suppress weeds in non-cropland environments,*
- *Plant materials for soil erosion control in areas that receive less than 12 inches annual precipitation, and*
- *Crop cover and windbreak species to reduce wind erosion.*

## Eligibility Requirements

This program mainly provides technical assistance to NRCS staff and commercial growers of plants they work with, but will also assist others working with certain erosion control, cover crop, and plant restoration issues. Anyone may request assistance.

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

This is primarily a research and development program that provides some technical assistance.

## Limitations

Funds are not available. Limited planning and design work is available for projects, usually when they are referred by public agency resource staff.

## Financial Assistance

None.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Design and planning have been done for wetland projects in association with local NRCS field office staff.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* Workshops in plant selection for bioengineering projects or wetlands restoration.

The PMP can be contacted directly or through the local Conservation District or NRCS office to assist with landowner of local community site restoration work.

## Contacts

For landowners, contact:

Local Conservation District or NRCS offices  
(see Appendix C-1).

For public agency resource staff, contact:

*Eastern WA:*

USDA Plant Materials Center

P.O. Box 646211

Washington State University

Pullman, WA 99164-6211

Mark Stannard..... (509) 335-7376

*Western WA:*

USDA Plant Materials Center

3415 NE Granger Ave.

Corvallis, OR 97330-9620

Dale Darris .....(541) 757-4812 (ext. 101)

*Statewide:*

Gary Kuhn..... (509) 323-2956

## Home Page

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/wapmc/index.html>

# Private Lands Habitat & Access

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*Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*

## Summary

The program focuses on enhancing habitats on private agricultural and forest lands and providing public wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities on private lands by establishing voluntary agreements with willing landowners. Agreements typically provide incentives or technical advice to landowners for enhancement of priority wildlife habitat on their property. In most cases landowners then allow public hunting or wildlife viewing through one of WDFW's managed public access programs in exchange for the technical or financial assistance. This program can be used to complement other programs that steward wetlands by protecting or managing the area surrounding the wetland (wetland buffer).

## Eligibility Requirements

Any landowner is eligible. Landowners typically enter into an agreement with the WDFW to provide public access for hunting and/or wildlife viewing.

## Target Area

Statewide, but with an emphasis on agricultural lands in eastern Washington.

## Advantages

Landowners receive assistance restoring or enhancing high value wildlife areas on their property with little to no cost to them. Although public access is often required on the area enhanced by the program, it can be tailored to meet the landowner's needs. An agreement removes landowner liability for public access in the event of an injury.

## Limitations

This program is not designed to steward wetlands. Its goals are to provide assistance to landowners to enhance habitat & allow public access. Staffing is limited; the program cannot assist all the projects for which it receives applications.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications are accepted at any time.
- *Allocations:* In 2008, the program had \$610,000. Allocations cover staff time, materials and contracts for on the ground work.
- *Cost-share:* Not required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* The agency provides substantial technical assistance for planning, design and implementation.
- *Field work:* In some cases, agency staff work with landowners on a limited basis to plant vegetation, install fencing, etc. The agency can sometimes provide equipment for construction, materials and plants. Vegetation monitoring is done on all property under agreement.
- *Education:* Education is provided by staff working with landowners in the field. They also train area environmental councils and school children.

## Contact

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 North Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
Don Larsen..... (509) 323-2967

## Home Page

None at this time.

# **Puget Sound & Adjacent Waters Ecosystem Restoration Program**

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## **Summary**

The program will focus on implementing critical projects for the preservation, protection and restoration of critical ecosystem processes, habitats, and functions within the Puget Sound basin. The goal of the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Restoration Program is to recover the ecosystem processes and habitats that have been altered or destroyed through development of the region. The program is authorized by Section 544 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 and received the first appropriation in 2003.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Possible local sponsors include Native American Tribal governments, cities, counties, and State of Washington agencies. In order to achieve the program goal, projects will be prioritized based on criteria developed by the Corps in consultation with Tribal governments, Federal, state, and local agencies and stakeholders. Local sponsors must provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way. They are solely responsible for continued operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement after the project is complete.

## **Target Area**

Projects can be implemented within the watersheds, shorelines, or marine waters of the Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Strait of Juan De Fuca, or Rosario Straits.

## **Advantages**

Restoration can occur at a large scale (up to \$5 million dollars in federal funds). Projects that have been fully analyzed and designed prior to submittal to the Corps may be eligible for construction funding. Some recreation benefit can be included in the project although it is not the primary objective.

## Limitations

Program planning continues with initial project selection on-going. Early action projects will be executed concurrently with the development of project selection and prioritization criteria and are scheduled for Fiscal Year 04. Therefore, early action projects must have completed plan formulation and design phases prior to submittal to the Corps.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funds are appropriated annually within the federal Energy and Water appropriation bill. Application dates fall in November. Funds are managed by the Corps of Engineers after project selection.
- *Allocations:* \$40 million has been authorized, but not fully appropriated for the national program. Each project must not exceed \$5 million in federal funds.
- *Cost-share:* 35% must be non-federal, in-kind contributions can be used for 50% of the non-federal share.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Design and planning work may be done by the local sponsor prior to project selection or by the Corps in cooperation with the local sponsor following project selection.
- *Field work:* The Corps and sponsor does field work, including use of agency equipment and operators.
- *Education:* Done by the local sponsor.

## Contacts

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District  
P. O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124

Bernie Hargrave, P.E. .... (206) 764-6839

## Home Page

[http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=RP  
PS&pagename=home\\_page](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=RP<br/>PS&pagename=home_page)

# **Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project**

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## **Summary**

The purpose of the Puget Sound Nearshore Project is to identify significant ecosystem problems in Washington State's Puget Sound Basin, evaluate potential solutions and restore and preserve critical nearshore habitat. The project is a cooperative effort among government organizations, tribes, industries and environmental organizations to preserve and restore the health of the Sound's nearshore.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

A local sponsor (non-federal) must contact the Corps Project Manager (see below) to nominate a specific restoration project for consideration under the Puget Sound Nearshore Project. Sponsors include public agencies, some private interests and some large non-profit organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. The Corps will screen potential projects using the criteria and models developed during the planning process to identify which projects would best achieve the project goals and objectives.

The draft Guidance for Protection and Restoration of the Nearshore Ecosystems of Puget Sound contains draft criteria for project selection and prioritization (see website below). Project selection will be undertaken using a collaborative approach involving the Steering Committee members, Science Team members, WDFW, the Corps, other potential sponsors, affected Tribes, resource agencies and other interested groups. Local sponsors must provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way. They are solely responsible for continued operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement after the project is complete.

## **Target Area**

The target area is Puget Sound nearshore, defined as that area of marine and estuarine shoreline extending approximately 2,500 miles from the Canadian border, throughout Puget Sound and out the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Neah Bay. It generally extends from the top of shoreline bluffs to the depth offshore where light penetrating the Sound's water falls below a level supporting plant growth, and upstream in estuaries to the head of tidal influence.

## Advantages

Restoration can occur at a large scale (several nationally significant projects are estimated to cost tens to hundreds of millions) with 50% of study costs and 65% of design and construction costs borne by the federal government. Some recreation benefits can be included in the project although it is not the primary objective and recreation must be consistent with the ecosystem objectives.

## Limitations

Although a limited number of demonstration sites may be completed sooner, project restoration and preservation construction is projected to begin after construction authorization scheduled for 2008.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funds are appropriated annually in the federal Energy and Water Appropriation bill. Funds are not awarded or granted to the local sponsor. Instead, the Corps of Engineers manages funds.
- *Allocations:* Funds available for projects will be determined through the on-going feasibility study using cost-effectiveness criteria on estimated costs of proposed project alternatives.
- *Cost-share:* 50% of study costs and 35% of the total cost for engineering, design, real-estate and construction phases must be non-federal. Repairs, rehabilitation, replacement, operations and maintenance must be locally funded.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* All design, planning and field work and implementation work is done by the Corps in cooperation with the local sponsor.
- *Field work:* The Corps and sponsor does field work, including use of agency equipment and operators.
- *Education:* Done by the Corps and the local sponsor.

## Contact

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District  
P. O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124

Bernie Hargrave, P.E..... (206) 764-6839

## Home Page

<http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org>

# **Puget Sound Coastal Program**

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*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## **Summary**

The Puget Sound Coastal Program (PSCP) is one of 22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Programs established to conserve coastal habitat to support fish, wildlife and plants. In 1991, the PSCP was established to protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources of Washington's coastal ecosystems. The program works closely with partners to restore and protect coastal habitats, collect and develop information on the status of threats to fish, wildlife and plants, and use outreach and education to improve stewardship and conservation of Washington's coastal resources. Partnerships with other agencies, Native American Tribes, citizens, and organizations are emphasized. An ecosystem approach is emphasized in habitat protection and restoration activities. Available funds are used each year to enter into interagency or cooperative agreements to jointly accomplish coastal habitat protection and restoration.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Federal, state, local, and tribal entities are typical partners with the USFWS in the Puget Sound Coastal Program. The focus of the program is on large or small-scale coastal wetland habitat restoration projects, recovery actions for listed species, and forming and sustaining partnerships.

## **Target Area**

The PSCP has identified geographic focus areas. These areas are: North Puget Sound and the Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, South Puget Sound and Hood Canal, and Willapa Bay. Projects occurring outside of the focus area boundaries are eligible for funding; however, we prioritize partnership and project development within the focus areas.

## **Advantages**

The program is relatively flexible in the types of projects funded.

## **Limitations**

Partnerships with federal, state, local, or tribal entities are the typical mechanism for restoration project implementation. The program does not usually work directly with private landowners.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual Notifications of Funding Availability are circulated in the spring and early summer, with pre-proposals due in late summer. Proposals are ranked in the winter and funds are available the following spring. The Program also provides technical assistance to partners to develop and implement projects.
- *Allocations:* Funding for the program in Washington State varies on an annual basis.
- *Cost-share:* Program goal is 50% or greater cost share by the participant which can be federal or non-federal match, cash or in-kind contribution.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* USFWS assists in planning, project design, environmental compliance and implementation.
- *Field work:* Agency equipment and operators may be available on a project-specific basis.
- *Education:* Staff provide education and project outreach materials when applicable.

## Contact

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
510 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Ginger Phalen..... (360) 753-5819

## Home Page

<http://www.fws.gov>

# **Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) Matching Grant**

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*National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*

## **Summary**

This program promotes public/private partnerships to address invasive and noxious plant management. PTI provides a means for federal agencies to be full partners with state and local agencies, private landowners and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy.

The goals of PTI are: 1) to prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive and noxious plants through a coordinated program of public/private partnerships; and 2) to increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive and noxious plants. PTI provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local weed management area (WMA) partnerships. Successful projects serve to engender public awareness and increase interest in further partnership projects.

PTI is funded through a partnership program with several federal agencies: NFWF, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service. Please refer to the PTI website for details on the federal partnership funding support categories and eligibility requirements.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

To compete for eligibility under this program the proposed WMAs should cover a considerable area such as a watershed sub-basin or larger. Small individual projects of less than a few hundred areas are not recommended.

Through the matching grant program, each dollar awarded by NFWF must be matched with one non-federal dollar, however NFWF strives to increase resources directed to conservation by encouraging applicants to raise 2 dollars for every 1 received.

## **Target Area**

Statewide. Control of invasive exotic plants on landowner's property.

## Advantages

## Limitations

The program does not support multi-year grants, grantees may re-apply in subsequent years. Under this re-application scenario funding is available for a maximum of 5 years.

PTI does not support general operating expenses, overhead, and other indirect expenses without NFWF's prior written approval. It does not cover salary for permanent federal employees, basic research, litigation, or lobbying.

Funding support is contingent upon NFWF's receipt of funds from each of the federal agency partners.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications are due December 1<sup>st</sup>, with awards the following May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- *Allocations:* Total amount of funds in the program varies each year. Individual project awards range from \$10,000 to \$100,000, with an average award of between \$35,000 and \$45,000.
- *Cost-share:* Min. 1 to 1, but preferred 2 (grantee) to 1 (NFWF)

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:*
- *Field work:*
- *Education:*

## Contacts

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Ave. NW, #900  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Ellen Gabel..... (202) 857-0166

[Ellen.Gabel@nfwf.org](mailto:Ellen.Gabel@nfwf.org)

## Home Page

<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.htm> for a list of many grant programs.

# Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups

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*Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*

## Summary

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) are citizen-based, nonprofit organizations created by the 1991 Washington State Legislature to enhance salmon. There are 14 groups around the state eligible to receive pass-through funds. These funds come from a surcharge on state recreational and commercial salmon fishing licenses, the sale of salmon carcasses and eggs, and allocations of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Every RFEG receives an equal portion of the total funds available each year. Volunteer groups or individual landowners can contact their nearest RFEG to discuss how to identify, fund, and complete a project for salmon enhancement. Projects can include stream-side fencing, construction of off-channel rearing habitat, and estuarine and riparian habitat restoration.

## Eligibility Requirements

Projects benefiting salmon habitat must be approved by a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, their Advisory Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

## Target Area

There are 14 target areas in the state in the following watersheds: Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish/Snohomish, Mid-Sound, South Sound, Hood Canal, North Olympic, Pacific Salmon, Chehalis Basin, Willapa, Lower, mid- and upper Columbia River, and the Tri-Cities Region.

## Advantages

The program improves fish habitat on private lands with little to no cost to the landowner. Technical assistance is provided by WDFW field staff that assist in project design and implementation.

## Limitations

None mentioned.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications are accepted year-round with grants distributed quarterly. The Advisory Board for each RFEG approves projects quarterly. These are then reviewed by WDFW.
- *Allocations:* Usually, RFEGs receive \$10,000 but may receive a maximum of \$40,000 annually. Funding depends on the number of fishing licenses sold.

## Technical Assistance

- *Cost-share:* Not required but encouraged.
- *Design and planning:* The WDFW can provide assistance in designing projects as needed.
- *Field work:* WDFW field staff work with the landowner and volunteers. Limited monitoring assistance is available.
- *Education:* On a limited basis, WDFW staff sometimes train landowners, volunteer groups, and elementary schools about RFEGs and ecosystem health.

## Contact

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 North Capitol Way  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dianne Ludwig (RFEG) .....(360) 902-2252

## Home Page

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/volunteer/index.htm>

# Resident, Anadromous Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Program

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*Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)*

## Summary

This is a mitigation program for resident fish, anadromous fish, and wildlife affected by Columbia River basin federal dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Funded projects must fulfill goals of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NWPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program, directly affecting their fish and wildlife restoration objectives. Projects may take place in the main-stem or off-site in tributaries as long as the project contributes to the goals and objectives for the tributary and benefits the broader goals of this program and are identified in the corresponding sub-basin plan. These goals are to increase, protect, and enhance resident fish, anadromous fish, and wildlife habitat.

## Eligibility Requirements

Anyone can apply. Cost sharing and partnerships are encouraged but not required. Project proposals must reflect a strategy identified in an adopted sub-basin plan or mainstem plan. See [www.nwcouncil.org/fw](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw) for details. There are no restrictions on size or type of project as well.

## Target Area

Columbia River Basin from the mouth to Canadian border with Snake River. Wetlands mitigation may apply to any of the 3 focus areas of resident fish, anadromous fish, and wildlife. Resident fish focus is above the Chief Joseph and Hell's Canyon dams and anadromous fish focus is below these dams.

## Advantages

Benefits may be long-term cash payments on easements, costs of construction, and costs of maintenance.

## Limitations

High competition for funding. Funding supports large and ongoing programs each year which limits available budget for new projects.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* There is one main avenue to project funding: responding to periodic solicitations for proposals from the NWPCC currently tied to the Provincial review period (every 1 to 3 years).
- *Allocations:* 1) Annually program spending is set at \$143 million. 2) Regional funding allocations broken out by province; 3) Individual basin-wide projects vary in funding amounts from <\$10,000 to several million.
- *Cost-share:* Encouraged, but not required on projects except for those projects occurring on USFS land.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Some biological assessments or SEPA/NEPA compliance.
- *Field work:* Costs of field work are usually covered as part of the contract.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

NW Power & Conservation Council  
851 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204

Phone.....1-800-452-5161  
or..... (503) 222-5161

## Home Page

<http://www.nwcouncil.org> – best for all information on solicitations and sub-basin plans

<http://www.cbfwf.org> for past projects and history

# Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

This program helps community leaders develop rural economies by improving and conserving local natural resources. Specific geographic areas are targeted and a council of local officials, citizens, special districts, and nonprofit organizations is formed to identify problems, goals, and a plan of action for each area. The NRCS provides a coordinator for the “authorized areas” who creates partnerships with government groups, local communities, and other nonprofit organizations; seeks outside funding; and provides technical assistance. Projects may include wetland protection, flood plain management, and habitat restoration.

## Eligibility Requirements

Anyone in the authorized area may propose projects to the local council for approval. They are then prioritized for their potential for rural development and resource conservation. Lands may be private or public.

## Target Area & Contacts

- **Big Bend RC& D:**  
Adams, Franklin, Grant, & Lincoln Counties  
*Contact: Andrea Mann..... (509)323-2916*
- **Blue Mountain RC&D:**  
Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, & Walla Walla Counties  
*Contact: Lisa Naylor..... (509) 382-8968*
- **Columbia Pacific RC&D:**  
Grays Harbor, Mason, Pacific & Wahkiakum Counties  
*Contact: Nancy Allen..... (360) 249-2267*
- **North Central Washington RC&D:**  
Douglas, Chelan, and Okanogan Counties  
*Contact: Jay Kehne..... (509) 682-8284*
- **North Olympic Peninsula RC& D:**  
Clallam and Jefferson Counties  
*Contact: Tony Ingersoll..... (360) 379-6740*

- **South Central Washington RC&D:**  
Kittitas, Yakima Counties and Benton Counties  
*Contact: David Myra..... (509) 248-4963*
- **Upper Columbia RC&D:**  
Spokane, Whitman, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties  
*Contact: Vacant..... (509) 323-2916*

## Advantages

The NRCS coordinator networks with other organizations to implement the priorities of the council. They seek outside assistance, both technical and financial, and involve the NRCS technical staff when appropriate. The interagency cooperative nature of this program allows for technical assistance from any participating group. Links to other funding sources are sought.

## Limitations

Currently there are no grants or pass-through moneys. At this time, not all areas of Washington are included in this program.

## Financial Assistance

No funds are available directly from this program, but seeking grants from other sources is a major focus of the program.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Project design and planning is available. Assistance from NRCS and cooperating agencies for on-site implementation is a priority of the program.
- *Field work:* Some field work and monitoring is available through NRCS and cooperating agencies.
- *Education:* Outdoor education is a high priority of the program.

## Home Page

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Riparian Open Space Program

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*Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*

## Summary

This program was authorized by RCW 76.09.040. This program offers reimbursement options for landowners of timbered lands within unconfined avulsing channel migration zones. The lands addressed by this program are essentially islands of timber within rivers or streams. Willing landowners can apply to donate or sell the land itself or a permanent conservation easement covering the trees and/or land to the DNR. These forest lands are to remain unharvested due to forest practice regulations established to protect riparian zones for their habitat and water quality value to the people of the state.

## Eligibility Requirements

Private landowners of lands located within the unconfined channel migration zone as defined by WAC 222-16-010 and identified in the county assessor's records as designated as forest land under chapter 84.33 RCW or currently taxed as forest land under chapter 84.34 RCW. Any private entity is eligible for the program. The land may be purchased in fee or subject to a conservation easement where the timber is managed by the DNR.

An "unconfined avulsing channel migration zone (CMZ)" means the area within which the active channel of an unconfined stream is prone to move and where the movement would result in a potential near-term loss of riparian forest adjacent to the stream. The unconfined avulsing CMZ doesn't include areas permanently restricted from channel movement by a dike or levee.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Landowners are compensated for the value of the standing timber within the CMZ. If the land is sold in fee, it becomes the property of the state. If a conservation easement is purchased, the trees become subject to the management of the DNR with restrictions placed on certain activities. The landowner receives compensation for the timber which cannot be harvested. The landowner is no longer subject to property taxes. If the land is donated, then they are eligible for any tax benefits afforded by law.

## Limitations

Lands must be within the unconfined CMZ as defined by law, and meet the following terms:

Any persons having an interest in the property must agree to convey or subordinate his/her interest to the state to the extent necessary for the purchase of the property or conservation easement. There must be legal access for DNR to get on the land. DNR will reject properties that have unacceptable liabilities, or any circumstances that make the land unsuitable for fisheries enhancement or ecological protection.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Application due dates are ongoing.
- *Allocations:* The program is funded each biennium from the State General Fund as part of the Governor's budget. Typically, it is ~\$1 million. There are no limits on the project eligibility cost.
- *Cost-share:* None

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* None
- *Field work:* Timber assessment and CMZ identification.
- *Education:* None

## Contacts

Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
Asset Management and Protection Division  
PO Box 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

Omroa Bhagwandin..... (360) 902-1059

Program Administrator & Project Manager

## Home Page

[www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/riparian/index.html](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/riparian/index.html)

# Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

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*National Park Service*

## Summary

This program advocates and assists community-based conservation efforts by providing assistance and facilitating grassroots efforts to conserve and protect valued places and resources. All projects are initiated through a community-generated application. The program helps the community define what they would like to see for the future and then assists them in organizing and planning that vision so it will happen.

RTCA does not focus efforts on wetlands. Rather, wetlands would be considered as part of the larger landscape through the protection of greenways, scenic areas, viewsheds, rivers and watersheds, or similar areas. However, the agency can help citizens identify wetland informational resources; aid in interpretation of those resources; and with local, state, and federal partners, develop protection mechanisms and stewardship options.

The RTCA Program advocates tools such as conservation easements, and partnerships with land trusts and local watershed groups to advance protection. RTCA will often help a community locate experts in specific technical areas. In addition, RTCA sometimes assists the community in securing grants or other financial aid from other sources to achieve protection.

## Advantages

Only projects with broad support within the community and local governments are selected. Projects should be part of a larger community-based initiative. It is the responsibility of the applicant to fully participate in the planning, to ensure support, and to provide for long-term implementation.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Communication, partnerships, and collaboration is established between landowners and local governments or private groups. For some land transactions, tax benefits or cash payments may be realized for the landowner.

The National Park Service has limited scientific expertise in wetland issues. The program is oriented toward conceptual planning and design for preservation, interpretation, or public outreach. Staff availability is limited and competition for assistance is very high.

## **Financial Assistance**

None.

## **Technical Assistance**

- *Design and planning:* Staff mainly facilitate the planning/design process, provide technical assistance, and help locals secure funds from other sources.
- *Field work:* Limited staff time is available for field evaluations and on-site implementation is seldom provided.
- *Education:* Interpretation and information is provided through a broad range of publications.

## **Contact**

National Park Service  
909 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Michael Linde..... (206) 220-4113

## **Home Page**

[www.nps.gov/ccso/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/ccso/rtca)

# Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF)

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*Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)*

## Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) administers state and federal funds for salmon recovery efforts. The Board provides funds in the form of competitive grants for habitat protection and restoration projects and related programs and activities that contribute to salmon habitat recovery.

Grant funding may be used for protection (i.e., acquisition of property or conservation easements), restoration (in-stream passage, in-stream diversions, plantings, dike removal, road abandonment, slope stabilization, etc.) and enhancement of upland, riparian, estuarine, marine nearshore, and in-stream habitats. Funds may also be used for associated activities such as assessments, studies, engineering design, and monitoring.

## Eligibility Requirements

Tribal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners are eligible for grants. To receive funding, projects must be evaluated by a lead entity and submitted to the Board as part of the lead entity's prioritized list of projects. [Note: A lead entity represents the community (within watersheds) on salmon recovery efforts at the local government level.] Project sponsors must contact the lead entity for application procedures. (Visit the program web site below for lead entity names and contact information.)

All project sponsors must have a stewardship plan for protection and restoration projects. Project sponsors must also implement a landowner agreement with property owners of sites slated for protection/restoration. Properties acquired for habitat protection must be retained in perpetuity.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Private landowners can be compensated for conservation easements that protect riparian habitat. Restoration projects may offer considerable secondary benefits to landowners in the form of flood control and stream bank protection. “No till” (direct seeding) projects help farmers convert to agricultural methods less damaging to salmon habitat and, in the long run, more cost-effective to the farmer. Large grant amounts are available, which can be combined with other state and federal funding.

## Limitations

Competition for funding is high. The program does not fund salmon recovery activities that are not directly related to habitat protection and restoration projects. For example, hydroelectric, hatchery, and harvest-related activities do not qualify.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual schedule available in May. The web site provides modifications and updates.
- *Allocations:* Available funds depend on state and federal appropriations. Historically, the program has received \$14 to \$36 million annually. Project awards vary but range from \$5,000 to \$1.4 million.
- *Cost-share:* Minimum of 15% from applicant

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Staff provide limited assistance with development, design, and planning of projects.
- *Field work:* Site inspections are conducted during various phases of the project.
- *Education:* Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has a technical assistance program to support lead entities and project sponsors. In addition, technical assistance is an eligible element of a protection or restoration project.

## Contacts

Recreation and Conservation Office  
1111 Washington St. SE  
PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Phone: ..... (360) 902-3000

e-mail: .....[Salmon@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Salmon@rco.wa.gov)

Brian Abbott, Manager..... (360) 902-2638

SRFB grant managers are responsible for different areas of the state.  
Contact RCO or check the web site for the name of the manager  
assigned to a specific watershed or lead entity area.

## Home Page

<http://www.rco.wa.gov>

# Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986

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*US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)*

## Summary

Under this program the Corps can assist a local sponsor to modify a structure or operation of a Corps project to restore fish and wildlife habitat. The program has two essential phases: a planning/design phase and an implementation component. It must be clear that the proposed modification will result in an improvement to the environment. The program is not authorized to restore resources to a condition better than the pre-project condition. Examples of projects include: restored fish passage, wetland restoration, or stream enhancement.

The Corps investigates to see if the restoration: 1) will improve the environment, 2) is in the public interest, and 3) is cost effective. If it meets these conditions, the site is approved for implementation. An approved project site can be funded up to \$5 million in federal funds for project-related costs of feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction, supervision, and administration.

## Advantages

A local sponsor (non-federal) must request that the Corps modify an existing project's structure or operation. Sponsors include public agencies, some private interests, and some large nonprofit organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. The Corps assesses any modifications needed and the project's potential for success. Local sponsors must provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way. They are solely responsible for continued operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement after the project is complete.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Some of the resource impacts of federal facilities can be offset by this program. Restoration can occur at a large scale (up to \$5 million federal dollars). Some recreation benefit can be included in the project although it is not the primary objective. The process usually takes 1-2 years to complete and has a plan/design phase and a construction phase.

The restoration projects must be linked to a past Corps project. The sponsor must agree to provide 100% of the cost of land, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction and maintenance of the project as credit toward their cost-share.

### **Financial Assistance**

- *Funding Cycle:* No application deadline. Funds are available when project is approved.
- *Account Funds:* Nationally, \$30 million is available. Project selection takes place at the national level. Up to \$5 million federal dollars can be spent on any single project.
- *Cost-share:* 25% must be non-federal. Real estate costs can be used for the required match.

### **Technical Assistance**

- *Design and planning:* All design, planning, and field work and implementation work is done by the Corps in cooperation with the local sponsor.
- *Field work:* Construction contracts are managed by the Corps.
- *Education:* Done by the local sponsor.

### **Contact**

Seattle District  
Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Planning Branch  
Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124  
Planning Branch..... (206) 764-3600

### **Home Page**

None at this time.

# Small Habitat Restoration Program (SHRP)

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*King County Water and Land Resources Division*

## Summary

The Small Habitat Restoration Program (SHRP) completes small-scale habitat restoration projects in stream corridors and wetlands. The goal of SHRP projects is to restore habitat-forming processes for fish and wildlife. Projects include stabilizing eroding streambanks, installing livestock fencing, controlling invasive weeds, planting native vegetation, and providing technical assistance to landowners.

## Eligibility Requirements

Projects are constructed on private or public property located in unincorporated King County, as long as they provide benefits to the public at large. Applications can be made through the SHRP web site using the on-line application:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/cposa/shrp/suggest.htm>

A “yes” response to the following questions can help identify if the project will fit the goals and intent of SHRP:

- 1) Is the project proposed:
  - Stream and wetland buffer revegetation
  - Livestock fencing, or planting and fencing of riparian and wetland buffers
  - Addition of woody debris to streams
  - Creation of fish-passable channels and pools
  - Streambank stabilization to protect in-stream habitat
  - Culvert removal (though not under public roads)
  - Enhancement of eroding banks
  - Other fish and wildlife habitat improvements.
- 2) Are the property owners willing to have a project constructed on their property?
- 3) Will permits be easy to obtain? Things like dredging streambeds cannot be done without extensive (and expensive) permitting, which is inconsistent with the program's goals.

- 4) Does the stream or wetland have functions or values that are worth enhancing? Be sure there are not other factors that would negate the benefits of a SHRP project (e.g., poor water quality, isolated or extreme water flows, etc.)?
- 5) Can on-going maintenance and upkeep (such as weeding and watering) be provided without funding from SHRP?
- 6) Is there an absence of land-use or sensitive areas violations on the property during its known history?

## Target Area

Unincorporated King County

## Advantages

Improved habitat conditions, fencing in some cases.

## Limitations

Funds are highly competitive. Private property owners must agree to provide access to King County crews to construct projects and perform follow-up monitoring and maintenance. Applicants must make a commitment to complete follow-up maintenance.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Applications can be made at any time, however, February is the annual cut off to receive awards in March of the funding cycle.
- *Allocations:* Typical project awards are \$5,000 –\$20,000.
- *Cost-share:* SHRP pays all costs.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning & Field Work:* SHRP staff will provide up to 1.5 days of technical assistance.

## Contacts

King County DNRP, WLR, Ecological Services Unit  
201 S. Jackson, Suite 600, Seattle, WA, 98104-8355

Mason Bowles ..... (206) 296-8736

## Home Page

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/cposa/shrp/>

# State/Tribal/Local Government Wetland Planning Grants

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*US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

## Summary

This program (formerly the *Wetland Program Development Grants*) assists states, local governments, and tribes to develop watershed-based, comprehensive land-use plans and technical tools that can be applied to integrate protection and restoration of wetlands and other water resources. A broad spectrum of regulatory and non-regulatory tools and products can be funded to further the protection, restoration, stewardship, and understanding of wetlands. These grants have been used to gather data on wetlands, integrate this information into land use planning, and support policy development. An ecosystem approach is emphasized which protects, maintains, and restores wetlands and other aquatic resources, while meeting the community's needs for growth and development.

## Eligibility Requirements

All state agencies, local governments, and all federally recognized tribes are eligible for funding. Funding decisions are based on the quality of the proposals and adherence to the grant selection criteria. Evaluation criteria include: clarity of work plan, success of previous projects, likelihood of success, transferability to other states/tribes/local jurisdictions, potential environmental results, and involvement/commitment of state/tribe or local jurisdiction. Grants must produce a final, discrete product.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

These funds can be distributed by state agencies to local governments for purposes of developing and supporting wetland protection program development and stewardship.

## Limitations

Funds do not cover: land acquisition or purchase of easements (however, it can support planning efforts to identify areas for acquisition), payment of taxes for landowners who have wetlands on their property, inventory or mapping for the sole purpose of locating wetlands in a state/tribe/local jurisdiction (inventories can be a part of

the project, but not the sole purpose), honorarium, or construction activities.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Grants are awarded annually. Requests for proposals are generally sent out in October and proposals should be received by mid-November. Initial funding priorities are identified by EPA staff in January. Scopes of work are reviewed and revised and final decisions on awards are made by March of each year with funding occurring by June.
- *Account Funds:* Vary each year. Approximately \$250,000 is available annually in Washington. Project allocations are generally \$20,000 to \$80,000.
- *Cost-share:* 25% applicant match.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and Planning:* EPA staff will provide technical assistance by serving on technical advisory committees for projects and reviewing products produced under grants. However, all products are expected to be independently produced by project proponents.
- *Field work:* EPA staff will participate in technical teams to gather data on wetlands and wetland functions.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

Environmental Protection Agency  
Aquatic Resource Unit  
1200 Sixth Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128  
Richard Clark..... (206) 553-6522

## Home Page

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

# Tribal Assistance Grants

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*US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

## Summary

The program provides grants to build tribal capacity to administer environmental regulatory programs or to provide technical assistance to address environmental issues on tribal lands. Projects that have been funded include: environmental assessments to identify problem areas or areas to protect, monitoring to establish baseline data, developing regulatory policies or ordinances, and developing pollution prevention or education programs. Although the grants have not been used to develop wetland management plans, these types of projects are eligible.

## Eligibility Requirements

Any federally recognized Indian tribe or intertribal consortium which has been constituted to act on the tribe's behalf is eligible. There is no "treatment as a state" requirement to receive these funds. Grant awards are made based on the need of the tribe to build environmental management capacity, health or environmental risks of the site, and the likelihood of project success.

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

Tribes determine which environmental programs or activities to focus on.

## Limitations

Funds can be used only to develop programs, not for implementation.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding is annual with RFP letters distributed in the fall of each fiscal year (~November) for the following year's funds.
- *Allocations:* New awards are for a minimum of \$75,000. Continuation grants receive a variable amount depending on need.
- *Cost-share:* Not required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Limited assistance in planning is available.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* None.

## Contact

EPA Region 10 Tribal Office  
for current tribal coordinator staff  
.....(206) 553-4011  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

## Home Page

[www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth)

Click on “tribes” button to right.

Click on “tribal grants” on tribal office page.

Find General Assistance Program.

# **Tribal Landowner Incentive Program (TLIP)**

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*US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## **Summary**

This program is the corollary to the state-level Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). Under the state LIP, grants are awarded for actions and activities that protect and restore habitats that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species on private lands. In the Tribal Landowner Incentive Program, USFWS is providing guidance to federally recognized tribes and the public for actions and activities that protect and restore habitats of these species on tribal lands. The results are voluntary conservation of natural resources.

Types of projects within identified tribal programs that this program could support include, but are not limited to, fencing to exclude animals from sensitive habitats, planting native vegetation to restore degraded habitat, prescribed burning to restore grasslands, etc.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Federally recognized Indian tribes. State-recognized tribes are not eligible.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Tribes may implement TLIP projects on a variety of lands, including reservations, individual allotments, fee lands, and village corporation or regional corporation lands as in Alaska.

## **Limitations**

No tribal organization or other entity may apply for grants. However, organizations or entities may participate as subcontractors or contractors to federally recognized tribes.

Proposals cannot include activities required to comply with a Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act or include activities required to comply with a permit mitigation responsibility.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding cycle is annual with varying application and award periods.
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$2-3 million nationally. Individual projects have no minimum amount but a maximum of \$150,000. (Note: no more than \$200,000 can be awarded to any one tribe.)
- *Cost-share:* 25% non-federal match, including in-kind services.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:*
- *Field work:*
- *Education:*

## Contacts

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1  
Eastside Federal Complex  
911 N.E. 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Scott L. Aikin..... (503) 231-6123

## Home Page

<http://pacific.fws.gov/ea/tribal/>

(Click tribal grants at bottom.)

# Tribal Wildlife Grants

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*US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)*

## Summary

These are Conservation Grants to States and Tribes under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, allowing for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. This program supports the efforts of federally recognized tribal governments in projects that develop or augment the capacity to manage, conserve, or protect fish and wildlife resources by providing funding and technical support.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, planning for wildlife and habitat conservation, ongoing and/or new fish and wildlife management actions, fish- and wildlife-related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, habitat mapping, field surveys and populations monitoring, habitat preservation, land acquisition, conservation easements, and outreach efforts. Priority funding is for those species with the greatest conservation need identified by the tribe.

## Eligibility Requirements

Federally recognized Indian tribes. State-recognized tribes are not eligible.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

No matching funds are required. In-kind contributions provided by the tribe or a third party may be used as a match to improve the potential ranking of a proposal. Tribes are encouraged to submit a single comprehensive grant proposal, but multiple proposals are allowed.

No tribal organization or other entity may apply for grants. However, organizations or entities may participate as subcontractors or contractors to federally recognized tribes.

## Limitations

Proposals cannot include activities required to comply with a Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act and cannot include activities required to comply with permit mitigation responsibilities.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Funding is annual with varying application and award periods.
- *Allocations:* Approximately \$6 million nationally. Individual projects have no minimum amount but a maximum of \$250,000. (Note: no more than \$250,000 can be awarded to any one tribe.)
- *Cost-share:* None, however, providing some match improves the possibility of selection.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:*
- *Field work:*
- *Education:*

## Contacts

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1  
Eastside Federal Complex  
911 N.E. 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Scott L. Aikin..... (503) 231-6123

## Home Page

<http://pacific.fws.gov/ea/tribal/>

(click tribal grants at bottom)

# Washington Conservation Corps (WCC)

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*Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

The Washington Conservation Corps offers supervised field teams at minimal cost to public agencies and nonprofit groups for implementing restoration and enhancement projects. The WCC mission is to conserve and enhance the natural resources of Washington while helping young adults enrich themselves by providing meaningful work and service experiences. WCC can provide the critical labor force needed to accomplish a variety of tasks for restoration and enhancement projects such as vegetating riparian corridors, building protective boardwalks in public use areas, in-stream fish habitat recovery, slope stabilization work using bioengineering techniques, project monitoring, etc. WCC will give highest priority to activities that make direct physical improvements to the environment.

## Eligibility Requirements

Project sponsors must be a public entity (i.e., federal, state, local, or tribal government) or a nonprofit organization providing cost reimbursement funds. (Occasionally, WCC may have matching funds from various sources to apply to project costs.) Project sponsors are responsible for project designs, materials, and permitting. Work is conducted on public lands primarily, although some private lands may be eligible if the project is sponsored by a public or nonprofit entity.

## Target Area

Statewide. (Note: If a crew is not based within a reasonable travel distance to the project site, WCC can put a crew in mobile status for a week at a time.)

## Advantages

The WCC offers supervised teams that come with their own transportation and a basic complement of tools at a minimal reimbursement rate. The WCC is a service and training program made up of energetic young adults ages 18-25 who are interested in environmental work as potential careers. The result is pride and ownership in the quality and quantity of their work.

## **Limitations**

The WCC may not do projects for private benefit or for profit-making companies.

## **Financial Assistance**

Limited availability

## **Technical Assistance**

The WCC can provide the critical field labor force needed to help public and nonprofit entities implement restoration and enhancement projects. Potential sponsors may contact the WCC at any time for assistance. Assistance will be given based on availability and natural resource priority. Reimbursement rates to hire a six-person crew are approximately \$2,000-\$3,200 per 36-hour work week (plus travel and lodging as applicable).

## **Contact**

Washington Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Nick Mott..... (360) 407-6946

nmot461@ecy.wa.gov

## **Home Page**

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wcc>

# Washington Register of Natural Areas

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*Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy*

## Summary

This program is a voluntary landowner protection program that targets priority species and ecosystems that are identified in the State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan. Landowners are encouraged to manage their lands in a manner consistent with maintaining the rare species and/ecosystems on their property. Participating landowners receive a certificate from the Governor and the Commissioner of Public Lands. Participation in the Register program is non-binding; landowners can remove their property from the Register at any time.

## Eligibility Requirements

Priority species or ecosystems, as identified in the State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan, must be present for property to be eligible. The landowner must be a willing participant. Potential additions to the Register must be approved by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

The advantage for landowners is that by participating they receive recognition in the form of a certificate from the Governor and the Commissioner of Public Lands, stating that they are contributing to the conservation of Washington's natural heritage.

## Limitations

This program does not include any support for on-the-ground management activities.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* N/A, no funding with this program
- *Allocations:*
- *Cost-share:*

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Initial identification of sites for inclusion in the Register program is usually undertaken by staff of DNR's Natural Heritage Program (NHP). NHP staff identifies and recommend potential sites for the Registry.

- *Field work:* With the consent of the landowner, NHP staff (or others) may periodically visit the site to monitor the features of interest present on the property.
- *Education:* Information about the species or ecosystem of interest is provided to the landowner, including information about appropriate management practices.

## Contacts

Washington Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014  
John Gamon..... (360) 902-1661

## Home Page

None at this time.

# Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

This program helps local governments finance water quality projects by providing low interest loans to public entities. Although the majority of the \$45 - \$50 million in annual funds are used for wastewater treatment facilities, 20% of each year's available funds are allocated to nonpoint source and estuarine management water pollution control. Nonpoint funds may be used for wetlands acquisition. Funds for estuarine management may include wetlands acquisition in the Puget Sound and lower Columbia River Estuary. Loans may cover both planning and implementation aspects of projects. Approximately 80% of funds are from EPA who oversees the program.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be a public body (state, local, tribal government recognized by the federal government, a municipal or quasi-municipal corporation or conservation district). The public entity must be able to collect revenues to repay the loan. Projects must demonstrate a link to water quality improvement or pollution prevention. To obtain a loan, local jurisdictions with facility projects must be in compliance with the Growth Management Act. Any land that is purchased under a loan must be publicly owned.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Substantial loans are available with low interest rates. Loans are available for up to 100% of eligible project costs. Wetland projects are directly eligible for loans. In 2005 the nonpoint and estuary categories had approximately \$13.9 million. Projects that take more than one year to complete are eligible, and repayments start one year after the project completion date.

## Limitations

There is high competition for funds. Funds are not available for commercial, industrial or institutional wastewater or stormwater treatment of runoff projects, solid or hazardous waste treatment, flood control or stormwater drainage, water supply, etc. Because of the limited revenue-generation associated with wetland purchase projects, the Fund has not been widely used for that purpose.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* In 2006 applications will be accepted in September for fiscal year '08 funding and again in September 2007 for fiscal year '09 funds.
- *Allocations:* In the past, \$68-\$131 million have been available to the state annually, although appropriations vary from year to year. Largest loan has been \$73.4 million.
- *Cost-share:* None.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* This program is primarily financial; some planning assistance is provided through field evaluations.
- *Field work:* None.
- *Education:* Some training done.

## Contact

Washington Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
PO Box 47690  
Olympia, WA 98504-7690  
Brian Howard..... (360) 407-6510

## Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding>

# Washington Watershed Planning Act Grants (RCW 90.82)

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*Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)*

## Summary

Provides grants to local governments to join together with tribes, state agencies, and community members as an organized planning unit for development and implementation of watershed-wide management plans focused on water supply. Planning units are required to conduct a detailed assessment of the watershed's current water supply and uses, and recommend long-term strategies to provide adequate water for fish and future growth. The planning units may also choose to develop strategies for improving water quality, and for protecting or restoring fish habitat; and may recommend to the Department of Ecology in-stream flow standards for in-stream flow rule-making.

## Eligibility Requirements

Watershed planning must include an entire WRIA (Water Resource Inventory Area) or a multiple number of complete WRIsAs (all WRIsAs are eligible areas). All counties within the WRIA(s), the largest city or town within each WRIA, and the water utility obtaining the largest quantity of water within each WRIA must agree to start the watershed planning process. These entities are defined in the legislation as the "initiating governments." A "Lead Agency" designated by the planning unit is eligible for grant funding under the grant program and must be a governmental agency.

## Advantages

Offers a coordinated structure for watershed-wide planning and project implementation.

## Target Area

Statewide, any WRIA

## Limitations

### Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* year-round
- *Maximum Allocations:*
  - Phase 1 – Organization: forming planning unit and developing a scope of work. \$50,000 for one WRIA, \$75,000 for multiple WRIsAs.
  - Phase 2 – Assessment: conducting watershed assessment. \$200,000 per WRIA
  - Phase 3 – Planning: writing the Watershed Plan (Phase 2 & 3 together have a 4 year timeline for completion) \$250,000 per WRIA
  - Phase 4 – Plan Implementation – development of a detailed implementation plan and carrying out the plan. \$100,000 per planning unit for each of the first 3 years with possible extension.
- *Cost-share:* None for phases 1, 2, and 3, but 10% for Phase 4.

### Technical Assistance

- *Design, planning and implementation:* Ecology watershed leads support plan development and implementation.
- *Field work:* Ecology staff may provide implementation project technical assistance.
- *Education:* Ecology staff offer technical information to planning units.

### Contact

Washington Department of Ecology  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Bill Zachmann..... (360) 407-6548  
Cathy Hubbard..... (360) 407-6491

### Home Page

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html>

# **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

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*Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)*

## **Summary**

The program provides grants to state agencies or local communities for a broad range of land protection, park development, farmland preservation, habitat conservation, and outdoor recreation activities. It has two goals: to assist with rapid acquisition of the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses; and to develop existing public recreation lands and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generation.

Awards for acquisition or improvement of property fall into four categories: Habitat Conservation (critical habitat, natural areas and urban wildlife habitat), Outdoor Recreation (local and state parks, trails, and water sites), Riparian Protection, and Farmlands Preservation.

Typically projects for acquisition or restoration of wetland areas are submitted to categories in the Habitat Conservation Account or the Riparian Protection Account.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Tribal, state, and local governments are eligible for grants. This includes: park and recreation, port, school, utility and other special districts. Land trusts and other nonprofits have been successful partners with eligible public agencies.

The program requires prospective participants to complete an outdoor recreation/habitat conservation plan. Unless specifically excluded, all properties acquired and all lands developed must remain in the public domain in perpetuity or be replaced with a project of equal or greater value and utility. A permanent sign must acknowledge/credit WWRP.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## Advantages

The program can provide landowners with financial compensation and potential tax benefits in exchange for outright acquisition or long-term conservation easements by a government agency. Agencies can acquire valuable land and accomplish long-term conservation or recreation goals with this financial assistance. Large grants are available and can be combined with other state or federal funding programs.

## Limitations

Competition for funding is extremely high. Development or renovation of commercial, industrial, residential, or indoor recreation facilities is not eligible for this funding. Funds are available approximately 14 months after applications are due following approval by the State Legislature.

## Financial Assurances

- *Funding Cycle:* The application deadline for all 10 WWRP categories is May 1 of even years. Funds are typically available in July of the following year. The application deadline for the State Parks category is April 1 of even years.
- *Allocations:* Historically, the program has received \$45-\$65 million for the biennium, which funds approximately 40% of the projects. Grant award amounts vary among categories and range from \$10,000 to \$10 million. The Local Parks category has a maximum limit of \$300,000 for development/renovation and \$500,000 for acquisition. There are limits in some categories, however, applicants are encouraged to phase large projects.
- *Cost-share:* Grants to tribes and local agencies require a 50% match.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* The program has staff that provide limited technical assistance regarding development, design or planning of projects.
- *Field work:* Site inspections are conducted by program staff during various phases of the project.
- *Education:* None

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## Contact

Recreation and Conservation Office  
1111 Washington Street SE  
PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Phone: ..... (360) 902-3000

E-mail: .....[info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)

Marguerite Austin ..... (360) 902-3016

RCO grant managers are responsible for different areas of the state.  
Contact RCO or check the web site for the name of the grant manager  
assigned to your area.

## Home Page

<http://www.rco.wa.gov>

# Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

The NRCS provides assistance to state, local, and qualified nonprofit organizations in planning and implementing watershed projects for: flood prevention, water quality improvement, agricultural water management, water-based recreation, municipal and industrial water supplies, and fish and wildlife habitat development. Wetland restoration or acquisition that achieves those goals may be eligible. Technical assistance, the cost of construction for flood prevention, and cost-sharing for other purposes is available.

Local watershed teams are established to identify problems, the extent of damages, and develop an implementation plan. There are two different types of assistance: one for planning (for newly included watersheds) and the other for implementation. To receive funding for implementation, an approved plan must be in place. Projects that create solutions to the identified issues are folded into the Plan. Currently, there are eleven projects in Washington State.

## Eligibility Requirements

Sponsors of the program must be one of the following: soil and water conservation districts; local governments; recreation and park districts; watershed, flood control, conservancy, drainage or irrigation districts; or tribes. Limited other organizations may also qualify. Federal lands are not eligible. The application must include a description of the problems in the watershed, extent of damages, details about the proposed work, and source of local funding. Local sponsors must acquire land, easements, and rights-of-way.

## Target Area

Statewide.

## Advantages

Large blocks of money are available. Supports environmental assessment and planning assistance on a watershed scale. Most watersheds include a wetlands component. Pays for all or part of the cost of land-treatment (non-structural) and flood prevention measures. Long-term loans are also available.

## Limitations

Staff and federal funds are limited. Funds are available after the approval of watershed plans. Limited staff assistance is available for field work once the project has been approved. Only about 10% of funded projects involve wetlands, but this could increase.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* There is no formal application process. When the Plan is complete, projects identified in the Plan are ranked and the highest priority is funded first.
- *Allocations:* Grants for construction costs and long-term loans for a maximum of 50 years are made. Individual awards are generally over \$100,000 and can be several million dollars.
- *Cost-share:* Construction costs are shared with local sponsors contributing 25 - 50%; other cost share varies depending on the project.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Assistance is provided for project planning.
- *Field work:* NRCS and other participating agencies provide technical information and field assistance for studies, and monitoring.
- *Education:* Training and educational materials are provided, both in the field and in classroom settings.

## Contact

Local NRCS field office  
Rock Pointe Tower II  
W. 316 Boone, Suite 450  
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

Frank Easter..... (509) 323-2961

## Home Page

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index.html>

# WaterWorks Grants

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*King County Department of Natural Resources*

## Summary

WaterWorks is part of King County's regional water quality block grant funds. Grants are available for community projects that protect or improve watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and tidewater areas. WaterWorks will fund: 1) preservation such as conservation or access easements to a body of water, 2) protection measures for water quality such as livestock management, 3) streams, lakes, wetlands, and shoreline restoration, 4) water reuse, 5) long-term stewardship of a body of water, 6) water quality monitoring, and 7) education. Extra emphasis is given to projects that improve water quality of small lakes, protect or restore salmon habitat, or are located in target river basins. WaterWorks grants will cover conservation easement transactions for real-estate transactions and supplies and equipment.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants may be a school, a special district, a tribe, a local government, or a private nonprofit organization. Unincorporated areas must designate a grant sponsor. King County departments, individuals, and businesses are not eligible. Waterworks projects must: protect or improve water quality, foster community stewardship, develop long-term partnerships, leverage resources, and have assurances of long-term sustainability. They must show a benefit to rate payers, such as a positive impact on the cost of protecting or improving water quality, public access, recreation and education.

## Target Area

King County and Snohomish County streams flowing into King County. All projects must take place inside the Wastewater Treatment Division Service Area. Projects outside the Service Area may be eligible under certain conditions.

## Advantages

Good local source of funding for small community-based actions. Ongoing projects are eligible for funding.

## Limitations

A compelling public interest is required for those projects located on private land. Awards typically do not exceed an 18-month period. Recipients can only receive one grant from each funding category per year.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Grants up to \$500 have no deadlines. Grants between \$500 and \$2,500 have deadlines on March 1, May 1, July 1, September 1, and November 1. Grants over \$2,500 have deadlines on March 1 and July 1.
- *Allocations:* There are 3 grant categories: <\$500, \$500 - \$2,500 and over \$2,500
- *Cost-share:* 10% cash match for awards over \$2,500

## Technical Assistance

Limited availability

## Contact

King County Department of Natural Resources  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Ken Pritchard..... (206) 296-8265

## Home Page

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/grant-exchange/waterworks.htm>

# **Wetland Protection, Restoration, and Stewardship Discretionary Funding**

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*US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

## **Summary**

This program provides support for studies and activities related to implementation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for both wetlands and sediment management. Projects can support regulatory, planning, restoration or outreach issues.

This grant program is discretionary and funding can be applied to a broad spectrum of wetland stewardship projects. Projects which have been funded in the past include: training for volunteer monitoring; educating citizens through workshops or development of brochures and videos about wetlands regulation or protection; supporting tribes and local jurisdictions to better educated the public; or develop partnerships for wetlands restoration projects that involve local agencies or groups.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Funding can be provided to states, tribes, local governments, other federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, or via a contract with a profit-making organization. Any project related to protection or restoration of aquatic resources is eligible. Priorities are established based on the merits of the proposal and the needs identified by EPA.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Types of projects or studies that can be funded are very broad and funds can be provided to a wide range of qualified organizations both public and private.

## **Limitations**

Funds per project are relatively low and have been declining each year.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Grants are issued annually. Grant proposals can be received any time, though funding priorities are generally determined by March and grants are issued subsequently.
- *Allocations:* Typically, \$5,000-\$20,000 is awarded per project.
- *Cost-share:* 5% match is required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and Planning:* EPA staff and project proponent work together to develop the scope of work, however grant products are expected to be independently implemented.
- *Field Work:* None.
- *Education:* EPA staff provides technical assistance through training.

## Contact

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
Aquatic Resource Unit  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-1128

Richard Clark..... (206) 553-6522

## Home Page

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

# Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## Summary

The Wetland Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners an opportunity to receive payments for restoring and protecting wetlands on their property. Under WRP, landowners are provided cost-share funds to restore wetlands. They are paid up to the agricultural value of the land for granting the government a conservation easement and maintaining wetland values.

The program is offered to the highest priority sites only. Assistance is provided to landowners for developing the plan which describes intentions and objectives, practices needed to accomplish the restoration, landowner requirements for maintaining the restored wetland values, and other details. Easements may be perpetual or for 30 years.

## Eligibility Requirements

For land to be eligible for inclusion in the WRP it must have the potential to contribute to desired ecosystem functions and values and must be one of the following:

- *Agricultural lands with restorable wetlands,*
- *Former or degraded wetlands occurring in pasture, range, or forest production lands,*
- *Riparian areas, that connect with protected wetlands, along streams or other waterways, or*
- *Wetlands previously restored by an individual or under another federal or state program that are not protected by a long-term easement.*

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

Landowners receive cash payments for granting a conservation easement and maintaining wetland values. Restoration costs are borne by the agency for activities such as the removal of drainage ditches and fencing of streams and wetlands. The landowner retains ownership, the active day-to-day management of the property, and control over public access.

## Limitations

Limited by availability of funds as determined on an annual basis. Approximately 10% of the requests receive assistance due to funding limits.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding cycle:* Sign-ups are offered year round. Funds are available once the conservation easement is filed.
- *Allocations:* Funding for 2006 is \$6.5 million. The allocation per award is based on the appraised agricultural value of each parcel, not to exceed a specified amount per acre. Funding covers the costs of easement acquisition including surveying and legal fees; 100% of the costs of hydrologic restoration and vegetative planting are covered when deemed necessary by NRCS.
- *Cost share:* USDA pays 100% of restoration costs for permanent easements and 75% of costs for 30 year easements. USDA also pays 75% cost share for “Restoration Cost Share Agreements.”

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* Design, planning and field evaluations are done in preparation for wetland restoration. Staff assist in preparing a conservation plan for the site and determining acceptable management practices.
- *Field work:* On-site work is done to prepare for restoration, to evaluate property for a conservation easement and to monitor conservation easements.
- *Education:* Necessary training is done with agency staff during field visits. Sites may be used for environmental education as landowner allows.

## Contacts

Contact the local NRCS field office (see Appendix C-1).

or statewide:

David Brown..... (509) 323-2971

## Home Page

<http://www.fb-net.org/wrp.htm>

# Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants

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*Wildlife Forever*

## Summary

Wildlife Forever's mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through preservation of habitat, conservation education, and management of fish and wildlife. Wildlife Forever favors supporting projects that enhance wildlife and fish populations through the restoration and management of land; the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and aquatic habitat; the promotion wildlife and fish habitat quality; and educational projects that engage the public, such as Watchable Wildlife-related programs.

Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants have supported a number of wetland and riparian restoration projects in Washington and nationwide. The program has also contributed to the enhancement and creation of wetlands.

## Eligibility Requirements

Requests from agencies, institutions, and organizations may be considered for grants from Wildlife Forever. Wildlife Forever does not provide monies for individuals, political activities, loans of any kind, endowment purposes, trips, tours, tickets, or advertising. Proposals must include a Letter of Determination from IRS stating 501(c)3 nonprofit status of requesting organization. Wildlife Forever grants are challenge grants, and funds must be matched on at least a one-to-one basis from a third-party donor and sent through Wildlife Forever.

## Target Area

Statewide

## Advantages

The Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants offer an opportunity to add to a project's partnership potential for the benefit of leveraging additional support to good conservation efforts.

## Limitations

Wildlife Forever does not fund: individuals; political activities; loans of any kind; endowments; trips, tours, tickets, or advertising; salaries or general program operations.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Annual funding with applications taken on January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> and awards mid-February and mid-August.
- *Allocations:* Project awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.
- *Cost-share:* Challenge grants must be matched at a minimum of one-to-one from a third-party donor.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* None
- *Field work:* None
- *Education:* None

## Contacts

Wildlife Forever  
2700 Freeway Blvd. #1000  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430  
Pat Conzemius..... (763)253-0222

## Home Page

[http://www.wildlifeforever.org/grants\\_instruction.html](http://www.wildlifeforever.org/grants_instruction.html)

# **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

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*Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*

## **Summary**

This program seeks to enhance priority fish and wildlife habitat in areas that have been impacted by agricultural activities. The objectives of the program are to:

- 1) Provide technical assistance with development of Wildlife Habitat Development Plans and the implementation of conservation practices.
- 2) Provide cost share payments for the purpose of restoring aquatic habitat such as wetlands and riparian areas, enhancing uplands, and protecting threatened and endangered species such as anadromous fish and other wildlife.
- 3) Educate program participants and the public regarding wildlife habitat needs.

Program priorities include:

- 1) Riparian, estuarine, wetland, shrub-steppe, and oak woodland habitat recovery
- 2) Habitat restoration for fish passage and in-stream structures on streams containing critical or depressed stocks
- 3) Restoration and enhancement of wetlands identified in the Pacific Coast and Intermountain West Joint Venture Plans

Habitat restoration and protection of federal and state listed threatened, endangered, and candidate species.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Any landowner is eligible including private, Indian tribal, non-government organizations, and local/state governments. The applicant must demonstrate land ownership and develop a wildlife plan on the offered acres with a 5-10 year contract. NRCS may authorize greater cost share assistance to participants who enter into agreements of 15 years or more. Practices cost-shared under the program must stay on the land for the life of the practice which may extend beyond the agreement period.

## **Target Area**

Statewide in priority habitat areas.

## Advantages

There is no maximum acreage requirement. Conservation practices are completed in stages over 5-10 years. In-kind services can be used as match. NRCS project priorities are established locally by the community conservation districts each year.

## Limitations

WHIP funds cannot be used on Wetland Reserve Program properties. WHIP funds cannot be used for mitigation or on land designated as converted wetland. These acres may be included in the WHIP agreement but are not eligible for cost-share payments.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding cycle:* Annual cycle
- *Allocations:* 2006 allocations in the amount of \$721,000 were made to the 3 NRCS areas within the state including tribes.
- *Cost share:* 25% applicant share, 75% federal.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* NRCS works with participants in creating a wildlife habitat development plan. NRCS designs project features.
- *Field work:* NRCS staff conducts field work in planning, design, and monitoring activities.
- *Education:* Yes.

## Contacts

Local NRCS Service Center (see appendix)

or statewide:

David Brown.....(509) 323-2971

## Home Page

<http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov>

# **WSDOT's Wetlands Mitigation Program**

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*Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)*

## **Summary**

This program provides technical and financial assistance to restore, enhance, and possibly create wetlands on both private and public lands to compensate for wetlands lost as a result of state transportation projects. Historic wetland areas are often used as mitigation sites. WSDOT looks for 2 potential types of mitigation sites: 1) concurrent mitigation areas where potential sites are desired in reasonable proximity to an impacted area, and 2) banking sites which are larger and have the opportunity to create or restore wetland functions on a broader scale for mitigation banking.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

The potential mitigation site must be in an area where state transportation projects are occurring or meet the needs of a mitigation bank. A conservation easement or other assurance of protection in perpetuity is required. Eligible properties must contain degraded wetlands or areas where wetland restoration or creation is possible. WSDOT will maintain a list of interested landowners and contact them if a landowner is in a project location needing mitigation.

## **Target Area**

Statewide

## **Advantages**

Full cost for design and construction of the project and monitoring and adaptive management of the restored or enhanced site will be borne by the agency. Any necessary remedial actions will also be done to ensure the success of the project. Interaction with other programs with technical or financial assistance for wetland restoration/enhancement may be possible.

## **Limitations**

The mitigation must meet regulatory requirements or fulfill WSDOT's wetlands policy; funds are limited; some projects require a long-term design phase and therefore could be delayed.

## Financial Assistance

- *Funding Cycle:* Rather than grants or awards given to landowners, the agency designs and implements projects at their expense.
- *Allocation:* Varies, as needed.
- *Cost share:* Not required.

## Technical Assistance

- *Design and planning:* WSDOT designs the project and may work with the landowner in certain circumstances.
- *Field work:* On-the-ground implementation work and monitoring is done by the agency or contractors hired by WSDOT.
- *Education:* Limited training and technical assistance is available at this time.

## Contact

WSDOT - Environmental Affairs Office

P.O. Box 47331

Olympia, WA 98504-7331

Bill Leonard..... (360) 705-7409

## Home Page

[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/biology/bio\\_wetlands.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/biology/bio_wetlands.htm)

## Success Story: Voluntary, incentive-based restoration

### Farming for Wildlife



Black-bellied plovers

Farmers and environmentalists forged a historic alliance to preserve wildlife habitat *and* valuable farmland on the Skagit River delta. Together they hope to save declining shorebird populations while preserving Skagit County’s agricultural heritage. Three Skagit Delta farmers have added a new crop to their rotation—shorebird habitat.

#### **Shorebird habitat in decline**

The Pacific Flyway, an important route for migratory birds on the west coast, extends south from Alaska to South America. Birds travel all or part of this route annually in search of food sources, breeding sites, and overwintering areas. Migratory birds work up tremendous appetites as they fly on their extraordinarily long journeys. Coastal wetlands along this route support abundant populations of small crustaceans, insects and mollusks—shorebirds’ favorite foods.

Development has eliminated many of these important feeding and resting stops for several shorebird species. Washington has lost more than 66 percent of its intertidal wetlands over the last century. The Skagit Delta is a critical feeding and resting stop for wintering and migratory shorebirds. These include several species the US Shorebird Conservation Plan considers of “high concern” such as dunlin, Western sandpiper, black-bellied plover, and greater yellowlegs.

## **Dwindling agricultural land**

Periodic flooding has made the Skagit River Delta soil some of the most fertile in the Northwest. Generations ago farmers diked, drained and converted this land from its natural wetland state. This led some environmentalists to argue for turning local farms back into wetlands. Also, commercial and residential development became more profitable uses for the land than agriculture. The remaining family farmers feared losing their lands and livelihoods.

## **An unlikely alliance**

Three local farmers, Alan Mesman, Dave Hedlin, and Gale Thulen partnered with the Nature Conservancy to pilot a project to assess how certain farming practices may benefit habitat and wildlife. The three farmers have each committed about 70 acres, for which they will receive compensation. Scientists will evaluate what effects mowing, grazing and flooding different portions of their land have on soil quality and shorebird populations.

The Nature Conservancy received funding for Farming for Wildlife from public and private sources. The EPA awarded the Conservancy a \$90,000 grant and the Puget Sound Marine Fund provided a \$110,000 grant. Private donors David and Nancy Thacher made a generous personal gift. Several local organizations have provided in-kind support.

Nature Conservancy based Farming for Wildlife on a project in the Klamath Basin in Northern California. Pacific Coast Joint Venture funded a trip for the participating farmers to Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge. There they learned from Klamath Basin farmers about wetland rotation techniques. Research at the Klamath Basin site suggests the following benefits of periodic flooding:

- Increased crop yields
- Fewer soil borne pests
- Less need for pesticides and fertilizers

Also, since the USDA requires land to be free of pesticides for three years to obtain organic certification, these farmers will have the option to raise certified organic crops at the end of the project. This means fewer chemicals will enter the watershed, benefiting salmon and other wildlife. Organic certification would also benefit farmers. They can expect higher profits because consumers are willing to pay more for organic products.

## **Common Ground**

The success of Farming for Wildlife bodes well for future alliances between farmers and environmentalists. This win-win arrangement benefits both. Farmers realize that working with natural processes, such as periodic flooding, may improve their yields and profits. Environmentalists understand that preserving viable agriculture saves sensitive ecosystems from irreversible sprawl development. As the group Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland asserts, "Pavement is forever".

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# Appendices

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Land Trust Alliance for conservation information at: <http://www.lta.org>

PRISM Database for conservation project sites and history statewide at: <http://www.iac.wa.gov/oia/prism.htm> -

Puget Sound Near Shore for scientific information on protecting marine nearshore habitats at: <http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org>

The Trust for Public Land for information about land conservation approaches at: <http://www.tpl.org>

Washington State Department of Ecology at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/index.html)

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## Appendix C — Contacts

- C-1 Index of County Level Contacts
- C-2 State Agency Offices
- C-3 Organizations
- C-4 Land Trusts

## Appendix C-1: Index of County Level Contacts

COUNTY	COUNTY PARKS	COUNTY ASSESSOR	CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	COOPERATIVE EXTENTION
<b>Adams</b>		(509) 659-3200	* Othello (509) 488-2802 * Adams (509) 659-1553	(509) 659-3209
<b>Asotin</b>	Fred Poole Rec. Ctr (509) 758-9302	(509) 243-2016	* Asotin (509) 758-8012 * Pomeroy (509) 843-1998	(509) 243-2009
<b>Benton</b>	(509) 783-3118	(509) 786-2046	(509) 786-9230	(509) 753-3551
<b>Chelan</b>	(509) 667-7503	(509) 667-6365	(509) 664-0265	(509) 664-6540
<b>Clallam</b>	(360) 417-2291	(360) 417-2204	(360) 452-1912	(360) 417-2279
<b>Clark</b>	(360) 619-1111	(360) 397-2391	(360) 883-1987	(360) 397-6060
<b>Columbia</b>		(509) 382-2131	(509) 382-4773	(509) 382-4741
<b>Cowlitz</b>	(360) 577-3030	(360) 577-3010	(360) 425-1880	(360) 577-3014
<b>Douglas</b>	(509) 884-8015	(509) 745-8521 x 440	* Foster Creek (509) 745-8362 * South Douglas (509) 745-9160	(509) 745-8531
<b>Ferry</b>	♦ (509) 775-5222	(509) 775-5204	(509) 775-3473	(509) 775-5235
<b>Franklin</b>	(509) 545-3514	(509) 545-3506	(509) 545-8546	(509) 545-3511
<b>Garfield</b>		(509) 843-3631		(509) 843-3701

**FSA** Farm Service Agency

**NRCS** Natural Resources Conservation Service

♦ Local governments that have Conservation Futures Programs

<b>LAND TRUST</b>	<b>TRIBE</b>	<b>FSA</b>	<b>NRCS</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Inland NW Land Trust (509) 328-2939 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 659-1761	(509) 659-0254	<b>Adams</b>
*Blue Mountain Land Trust (509) 525-3136 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 758-7821	* Asotin (509) 758-8012 *Pomeroy (509) 843-1998	<b>Asotin</b>
Tapteal Greenway (509) 946-8966		(509) 786-2313	(509) 786-9230	<b>Benton</b>
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (509) 667-9708		(509) 664-0283	(509) 664-0210	<b>Chelan</b>
N. Olympic Land Trust (360) 417-1815	* Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (360) 683-1109 * Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (360) 452-8471 * Makah Tribe (360) 645-2201 * Quileute Tribe (360) 374-6163	(360) 334-3131	(360) 452-8994	<b>Clallam</b>
Columbia Land Trust (360) 696-0131		(360) 883-1987	(360) 883-1987	<b>Clark</b>
*Blue Mountain Land Trust (509) 525-3136 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 382-2421	(509) 382-2421	<b>Columbia</b>
Columbia Land Trust (360) 696-0131	Cowlitz Tribe (360) 577-8140	(360) 883-1987	(360) 425-1880	<b>Cowlitz</b>
Chelan-Douglas County Land Trust (509) 667-9708		(509) 745-8561	(509) 745-8561	<b>Douglas</b>
		(509) 775-3390	(509) 775-3473	<b>Ferry</b>
Palouse Land Trust (208)882-5248		(509) 545-8543	(509) 545-8546	<b>Franklin</b>
*Blue Mountain Land Trust (509) 525-3136 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 843-1997	(509) 843-1997	<b>Garfield</b>

COUNTY	COUNTY PARKS	COUNTY ASSESSOR	CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	COOPERATIVE EXTENTION
<b>Grant</b>		(509) 754-2011 ext 310	* Moses Lake (509) 765-5333 * Upper Grant Co. (509) 754-2463 * Warden (509) 349-7539	(509) 754-2011 ext. 413
<b>Grays Harbor</b>	(360) 249-5579	(360) 249-4121	(360) 249-5980	(360) 482-2934
<b>Island</b>	♦ (360) 679-7373	(360) 679-7303	Whidbey Island (360) 678-4708	(360) 679-7327
<b>Jefferson</b>	(360) 385-9129	(360) 385-9105	(360) 385-4105	(360) 379-5610
<b>King</b>	♦ (206) 296-8687	(206) 296-5195	(206) 764-3410	(206) 205-3100
<b>Kitsap</b>	♦ (360) 337-7085	(360) 337-7085	(360) 337-7171	(360) 337-7157
<b>Kittitas</b>	(509) 962-7523	(509) 962-7501	(509) 925-8585	(509) 962-7507
<b>Klickitat</b>		(509) 773-3715	* Underwood (509) 493-1936 * Central (509) 773-5823 * Eastern (509) 773-5823	(509) 773-5817
<b>Lewis</b>	(360) 740-1192	(360) 740-1392	(360) 748-0083	(360) 740-1212

<b>LAND TRUST</b>	<b>TRIBE</b>	<b>FSA</b>	<b>NRCS</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
		(509) 754-2463	(509) 754-2463 *Othello (509) 488-2802	<b>Grant</b>
Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (509) 667-9708	* Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis (360) 273-5911 * Quinault Tribe (360) 276-8211	(360) 249-5900	(360) 249-5900	<b>Grays Harbor</b>
Whidbey-Camano Island Land Trust (360) 321-5141	Point No Point Treaty Council (360) 297-3413	(360) 428-7758	(360) 428-7684	<b>Island</b>
* N. Olympic Land Trust (360) 417-1815 * Jefferson Land Trust (360) 379-9501	Hoh Tribe (360) 374-6582	(360) 334-3131	(360) 452-8994	<b>Jefferson</b>
* Evergreen Land Trust (360) 592-5222 * Cascade Land Conservancy (206) 292-5907 *SHADOW (425) 432-9965 * Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust (206) 463-2644	Muckleshoot Tribe (206) 939-3311	North King (425) 334-3131  South King (253) 445-9899	(425) 277-5580	<b>King</b>
* Bainbridge Island Land Trust (206) 842-1216 *Great Peninsula Conservancy (360) 373-3500	* Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (360) 297-2646 * Suquamish Tribe (360) 598-3311	(360) 764-3770	(360) 337-4433	<b>Kitsap</b>
		(509) 925-8585	(509) 925-8585	<b>Kittitas</b>
Sacred Earth Trust (509) 773-4536		(509) 773-5822	(509) 773-5822	<b>Klickitat</b>
Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (360) 807-0764		(360) 748-0084	(360) 748-0083	<b>Lewis</b>

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>COUNTY PARKS</b>	<b>COUNTY ASSESSOR</b>	<b>CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</b>	<b>COOPERATIVE EXTENTION</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>		(509) 725-7011	(509) 725-4181	(509) 725-4171
<b>Mason</b>	(360) 427-9670 x 535	(360) 427-9670 ext 490	(360) 427-9436	(360) 427-9670 x 395
<b>Okanogan</b>	(509) 422-7300	(509) 422-7190	(509) 422-0855	(509) 422-7245
<b>Pacific</b>	(360) 875-9368	(360) 875-9301 ext 208	(360) 875-9424	(360) 875-9331
<b>Pend Oreille</b>	(509) 447-4821	(509) 447-4312	(509) 447-5370	(509) 447-2401
<b>Pierce</b>	◆ (253) 798-4176	(253) 798-3711	(253) 845-9770	(253) 798-7180
<b>San Juan</b>	◆ (360) 378-8420	(360) 378-2172	(360) 376-6621	(360) 378-4414
<b>Skagit</b>	(360) 336-9414	(360) 336-9370	(360) 428-4313	(360) 428-4270
<b>Skamania</b>	(509) 427-9478	(509) 427-9400		(509) 427-9427

<b>LAND TRUST</b>	<b>TRIBE</b>	<b>FSA</b>	<b>NRCS</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Inland Northwest Land Trust (509) 328-2939		(509) 725-4501	(509) 725-4501	<b>Lincoln</b>
Great Peninsula Conservancy (360) 373-3500	* Skokomish Tribe (360) 426-4232 * Squaxin Island Tribe (360) 426-9781	(253) 445-9899	(360) 337-4433	<b>Mason</b>
Methow Conservancy (509) 996-2870	Colville Confederated Tribes (509) 634-2200	(509) 422-3292	(509) 422-2750	<b>Okanogan</b>
	Shoalwater Bay Tribe (360) 267-6766	(360) 924-7350	(360) 748-0083	<b>Pacific</b>
Inland Northwest Land Trust (509) 328-2939	Kalispel Tribe (509) 445-1147	(509) 447-4216	(509) 447-4217	<b>Pend Oreille</b>
* Cascade Land Conservancy (206) 292-5907 or (253) 582-6601 * Great Peninsula Conservancy (360) 373-3500 * Nisqually River Basin Land Trust (253) 458-1111	* Puyallup Tribe (253) 597-6200 * Nisqually Tribe (360) 456-5221	(253) 445-9899	(253) 845-9272	<b>Pierce</b>
* San Juan Preservation Trust (360) 468-3202 * Lopez Community Land Trust (360) 468-3723		(360) 428-7758	(360) 428-7684	<b>San Juan</b>
* Evergreen Land Trust (360) 592-5222 * Walker Creek Community (360) 422-8915 * Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland (360) 336-3974 * Skagit Land Trust (360) 293-4153	* Swinomish Tribe (360) 466-3163 * Upper Skagit Tribe (360) 856-5501 Samish Indian Nation (360) 293-6404	(360) 428-7758	(360) 428-7684	<b>Skagit</b>
Columbia Land Trust (360) 696-0131		(360) 883-1987	(360) 883-1987	<b>Skamania</b>

COUNTY	COUNTY PARKS	COUNTY ASSESSOR	CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	COOPERATIVE EXTENTION
<b>Snohomish</b>	◆ (425) 388-6601	(425) 388-3446	(425) 335-5634	(425) 338-2400
<b>Spokane</b>	◆ (509) 477-4730	(509) 477-5775	(509) 5357274	(509) 477-2048
<b>Stevens</b>	(509) 684-4548	(509) 684-6161	(509) 685-0937	(509) 684-2588
<b>Thurston</b>	◆ (360) 786-5595	(360) 786-5445	(360) 754-3588	(360) 786-5445
<b>Wahkiakum</b>	(360) 577-3030	(360) 795-3791	(360) 795-8240	(360) 795-3278
<b>Walla Walla</b>		(509) 527-3216	(509) 522-6340	(509) 527-3260
<b>Whatcom</b>	◆ (360) 733-2900	(360) 676-6790	(360) 354-2035	(360) 676-6736
<b>Whitman</b>	(509) 397-6238	(509) 397-6220	* Palouse (509) 332-4101 * Palouse-Rock Lake (509) 648-3680 * Pine Creek (509) 397-4636 * Whitman (509) 397-4636	(509) 397-6290
<b>Yakima</b>	(509) 574-2430	(509) 574-1100	* North Yakima (509) 454-5736 * South Yakima (509) 837-7911	(509) 574-1600

LAND TRUST	TRIBE	FSA	NRCS	COUNTY
* Evergreen Land Trust (360) 592-5222 * Cascade Land Conservancy (509) 292-5907 or (425) 339-8007	* Sauk-Suiattle Tribe (360) 436-0132 * Stillaguamish Tribe (360) 652-7362 * Tulalip Tribes (360) 651-4000	(425) 334-3131	(425) 334-2828	<b>Snohomish</b>
Inland Northwest Land Trust (509) 328-2939		(509) 924-7350	(509) 924-7350	<b>Spokane</b>
Inland Northwest Land Trust (509) 328-2939	Spokane Tribe (509) 458-6500	(509) 685-0858	(509) 685-0858	<b>Stevens</b>
* Capitol Land Trust (360) 943-3012 * Chehalis River Basin Land Trust (360) 807-0764 * Nisqually River Basin Land Trust (360) 458-1111	Nisqually Tribe (360) 456-5221	(253) 445-9899	(360) 704-7740	<b>Thurston</b>
Cascade Land Conservancy (509) 292-5907		(360) 883-1987	(360) 425-1880	<b>Wahkiakum</b>
*Blue Mountain Land Trust (509) 525-3136 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 522-6347	(509) 522-6347	<b>Walla Walla</b>
* Evergreen Land Trust (360) 592-5222 * Lummi Island Heritage Trust (360) 758-7997 * Whatcom County Land Trust (360) 650-9470	* Lummi Indian Nation (360) 384-1489 * Nooksack Tribe (360) 592-5176	(360) 354-5658	(360) 354-5658	<b>Whatcom</b>
*Inland Northwest Land Trust (509) 328-2939 *Palouse Land Trust (208) 882-5248		(509) 397-4301	(509) 397-4301 *Palouse-Rock Lake (509) 648-3680	<b>Whitman</b>
* Cowiche Canyon Conservancy (509) 577-9585 *Tapteal Greenway (509) 946-8966 * Yakima Greenway Foundation (509) 453-8280	Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Reservation (509) 865-5121	(509) 454-5746	*North Yakima (509) 454-5746 *South Yakima (509) 829-3003	<b>Yakima</b>

## Appendix C-2: State Agency Offices

Washington State Department of Ecology, <a href="http://www.ecy.wa.gov">www.ecy.wa.gov</a>			
REGIONAL OFFICE	COUNTIES	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
<b>Northwest</b>	1) King, San Juan, Snohomish 2) Island, Kitsap, Skagit 3) Whatcom	3190 - 160th Avenue SE Bellevue, WA 98008-5452	(425) 649-7000
<b>Southwest</b>	1) Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason 2) Thurston, Pierce, Lewis, Cowlitz 3) Clark, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504-7775	(360) 407-6300
<b>Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200, Yakima, WA 98902-3401	(509) 575-2490
<b>Eastern</b>	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend O'Reille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	N. 4601 Monroe, Ste 100 Spokane, WA 99205-1295	(509) 456-2926
<b>Padilla Bay</b>		10441 Bayview-Edison Rd. Mount Vernon, WA 98273	(360) 428-1558

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, <a href="http://www.wdfw.wa.gov">www.wdfw.wa.gov</a>			
REGION	COUNTIES	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
<b>1 – Spokane— Eastern WA</b>	Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend O'Reille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	2315 North Discovery Place Spokane Valley, Wa 99218	(509) 892-1001
<b>2 – Ephrata— North Central</b>	Adams, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Okanogan	1550 Alder Street NW, Ephrata, WA 98823	(509) 754-4624
<b>3 – Yakima— South Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima	1701 S 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720	(509) 575-2740
<b>4 - Mill Creek— North Puget Sound</b>	King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, Whatcom	16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296	(425) 775-1311
<b>5 – Vancouver— Southwest WA</b>	Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Klickitat, Skamania, Wahkiakum	2108 Grand Boulevard Vancouver, WA 98661	(360) 696-6211
<b>6 – Montesano— Coastal WA</b>	Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Thurston	48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563	(360) 249-4628

## Appendix C-3 — Organizations

ORGANIZATIONS	ADDRESS	PHONE NO	OTHER
<b>Conservation Alliance Legacy Fund</b>	P.O. Box 1275 Bend, OR 97709	(541) 389-2424	Homepage: <a href="http://www.conservationalliance.com">www.conservationalliance.com</a>
<b>Ducks Unlimited</b>	1101 SE Tech Center Dr., Suite 115 Vancouver, WA 98683-5510	(360) 885-2011	Homepage: <a href="http://www.ducks.org">http://www.ducks.org</a>
<b>Pacific Coast and Intermountain West Joint Ventures</b>	120 State Avenue, Suite 1175 Olympia, WA 98501-8212	(360) 754-2594	Home page: <a href="http://pcjv.org">http://pcjv.org</a>
<b>People for Puget Sound</b>	911 Western Ave., #580 Seattle, WA 98104	(206) 382-7007	Homepage: <a href="http://www.pugetsound.org">http://www.pugetsound.org</a>
<b>Washington Wetlands Network (WETNET)</b>	1411 Fourth Ave., Suite 920 Seattle, WA 98101	(206) 652-2444	Homepage: <a href="http://wa.audubon.org">http://wa.audubon.org</a>
<b>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition</b>	811 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave. SW #262 Seattle, WA 98104	(206) 748-0580	Homepage: <a href="http://www.wildliferecreation.org">www.wildliferecreation.org</a>
<b>Wildlife Forever</b>	2700 Freeway Blvd, #1000 Brooklyn Center, MN 55430	(763) 560-9961	Homepage: <a href="http://www.wildlifeforever.org">www.wildlifeforever.org</a>

## Appendix C-4 — Land Trusts

### Land Trusts: NATIONAL

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>American Farmland Trust</b> 1200 18<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 331-7300</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.farmland.org">www.farmland.org</a></p>	<p>To work with farmers, business people, legislators, and conservationists to encourage sound farming practices and preserves America's most critical agricultural resources. Provide advice to landowners on ways to include conservation strategies in land-use and estate plans for farmers, and they accept donations of land and conservation easements for conservation purposes. Administers the Farm Legacy Program.</p>	<p><b>WA area of operation:</b> statewide</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> agricultural lands (may include wetlands).</p>
<p><b>Land Trust Alliance</b> 1660 L St NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20036</p> <p>(202) 638-4725</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.lta.org">www.lta.org</a></p>	<p>A national organization that supports local and regional land trusts. The Trust's mission is to strengthen the land trust movement and help land trusts save land by providing information and education, fostering supportive public policies, and building public awareness of land trusts and their goals. Publish the quarterly newsletter called the Exchange and distribute books and brochures on land saving actions.</p>	<p><b>WA area of operation:</b> statewide</p>
<p><b>River Network</b> 520 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, #1130. Portland, OR 97204</p> <p>(503) 241-3506</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.rivernetwork.org">www.rivernetwork.org</a></p>	<p>River Network helps people organize to protect and restore rivers and watersheds. They support river and watershed advocates at the local, state, and regional level, helping them to build effective organizations and work together. They also acquire and conserve riverlands that are critical to the services rivers perform for human communities: floodplain management, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and open space. In the Northwest, River Network has acquired over 20,000 acres on the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and other outstanding rivers.</p>	<p><b>WA area of operation:</b> statewide</p>
<p><b>The Nature Conservancy</b> Washington Office 1917 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Seattle, WA 98101</p> <p>(206) 343-4344</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.tnc.org">www.tnc.org</a></p>	<p>TNC is an international, non-profit, science-based, membership organization whose mission is to preserve the best examples of communities, eco-systems, and endangered species representing the diversity of life on Earth. The Conservancy owns and manages the world's largest system of private nature sanctuaries, including more than 30 preserves in Washington. TNC provides information on the identification, protection, and stewardship of natural areas. They often work in partnerships with public agencies and private organizations to identify, secure, and manage significant natural lands.</p>	<p><b>WA area of operation:</b> statewide</p> <p><b>Primary conservation methods:</b> all land acquisition tools including donation, purchase, and easement as well as cooperative stewardship projects with public and private landowners.</p>
<p><b>Trust for Public Land</b> NW Regional Office 1011 Western Ave, Suite 605 Seattle, WA 98104</p> <p>(206) 587-2447</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.tpl.org">www.tpl.org</a></p>	<p>TPL is a national non-profit land conservation organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, recreational and natural areas. It is a problem solving organization that helps communities, public agencies, and non-profit groups acquire and protect open space for public use. They often work as a quick response transfer agent, negotiating donations and/or land transfers from landowner, to TPL, or to government agency for permanent stewardship.</p>	<p><b>WA area of operation:</b> statewide</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> desirable open land</p>

## Land Trusts: REGIONAL

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</b> 911 Western Ave., Suite 523 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 382-5565 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.mtsgreenway.org">www.mtsgreenway.org</a></p>	<p>To protect and enhance a 100 mile corridor of permanent open space lands along Interstate 90 from Seattle to Central Washington. Promoting a sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment. The Trust's goals are to: enhance scenic beauty along I-90, create an interconnected trail network, improve access to nature, protect wildlife habitat &amp; corridors, and to preserve working farms and forests.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> 100 mile corridor along I-90 from Seattle to Central Washington.</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> forests, mountains, wildlife habitat, etc.</p>
<p><b>Pacific Forest Trust</b> P.O. Box 4035 Seattle, WA 98194 (206) 292-4747 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.pacificforest.org">www.pacificforest.org</a></p>	<p>To enhance, restore and preserve the productive private forestlands of the Pacific Northwest; dedicated to preserving working forests; maintain a center for stewardship forestry and a policy center developing incentives for stewardship forestry.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Pacific Northwest, primarily WA.</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, forests, mountains, water quality, watersheds, wildlife habitat</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations, purchase easements</p>
<p><b>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</b> P.O. Box 8249 5705 Grant Creek Missoula, MT 59808 (406) 523-4500 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.rmef.org">www.rmef.org</a></p>	<p>To ensure the future of elk and other wildlife by conserving, restoring and enhancing natural habitat.</p>	<p><b>Area of protection:</b> Western United States</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, forests, open space, mountains, ranches, recreation, wildlife habitat</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> land purchase, easement donations, land exchanges, option agreements, right of first refusal, lease land to others</p>
<p><b>Washington Water Trust</b> 810 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Suite 180 Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 675-1585 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.thewatertrust.org">www.thewatertrust.org</a></p>	<p>Works exclusively to restore Washington rivers by improving in-stream flow through the purchase or donation of water rights allocations. Thus, restoring out-of-stream uses to in-stream uses like fish and wildlife use. The Trust works with the Department of Ecology to place trust water rights back into the State Trust Water Rights Program for in-stream use.</p>	<p><b>Area of protection:</b> Statewide</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> Water rights only</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> donations, purchases</p>

## Land Trusts - LOCAL

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>Bainbridge Island Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 10144 Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 (206) 842-1216</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.bi-landtrust.org">www.bi-landtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Offer alternatives to land development by acquiring interest in land to be held in trust for the purpose of preservation; assist landowners in methods of development that minimize environmental impact; foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the character, history and ecology of Bainbridge Island through example and education.</p>	<p><b>Area of Operation:</b> Bainbridge Island <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, ecosystems, farms, forests, open space, greenways, scenic views, trails, watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.</p>
<p><b>Blue Mountain Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 1473 Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509) 525-3136</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.bmlt.org">www.bmlt.org</a></p>	<p>Mission to conserve property and natural resources by working with landowners to permanently protect the productive, ecological, scenic, historic, or recreational qualities of land they own from unwanted or inappropriate development.</p>	<p><b>Area of Operation:</b> SE WA &amp; NE OR <b>Main land types:</b> wetlands, riparian corridors, waterbodies, farm open space <b>Main protection methods:</b> conservation easements, donations.</p>
<p><b>Capitol Land Trust</b> 209 4th East Avenue, Suite 205 Olympia, WA 98501 (360) 943-3012</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.capitolandtrust.org">www.capitolandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Increase public awareness of land as an essential natural resource; preserve natural areas, agricultural lands and open spaces; protect the environmental, scenic, historic, recreational, economic, and social values of the community through land conservation.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Thurston &amp; Mason Counties <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, farms, floodplains, forests, open space, river corridors, urban, water quality, watersheds, and wildlife habitat. <b>Main land protection methods:</b> easement donations, land exchanges, fund-raise for others.</p>
<p><b>Cascade Land Conservancy</b> 615 Second Avenue # 625 Seattle, WA 98104-2264</p> <p>(206) 292-5907 (King) (425) 339-8007 (Snohom.) (253) 582-6601 (Pierce)</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.cascadeland.org">www.cascadeland.org</a></p>	<p>CLC is an entrepreneurial conservation organization known for their willingness to take bold steps in partnership with others to protect land. They encourage the dedication of natural and open space lands in urban and rural communities. Promote sound stewardship and land conservation principles; assume a leadership role in the community, providing comprehensive, local programs that compliment and enhance the preservation efforts of local governments.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kittitas, Mason counties <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, ecosystems, farms, floodplains, forests, open space, greenways, river corridors, scenic views, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife habitat <b>Main land protection methods:</b> easement donations, limited development, &amp; innovative solutions such as conservation bonds.</p>
<p><b>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</b> 417 N. Pearl St. Centralia, WA 98531-4668 (360) 807-0764</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.chehalislandtrust.org">www.chehalislandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve and manage waters, wetlands, riparian zones, wildlife habitat, timberlands, floodplains, agricultural land, lands of historical and/or cultural significance and natural ecosystems in the Chehalis River Basin to protect and preserve the indigenous species of the water, land and air.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> The Chehalis River Basin, Washington State. <b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, floodplains, forests, islands, river corridors, watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.</p>
<p><b>Chelan-Douglas Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 4461 Wenatchee, WA 98807 (509) 667-9708</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.cdlandtrust.org">www.cdlandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Encourage the preservation and protection of recreational, forest, agricultural, scenic, historic and open space land resources in Chelan and Douglas counties.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Chelan and Douglas Counties <b>Main land types:</b> forests, open space, recreation</p>

## Land Trusts - LOCAL (continued)

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>Columbia Land Trust</b> 1351 Officers' Row Vancouver, WA 98661 (360) 696-0131</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.columbialandtrust.org">www.columbialandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Provide for open space; protect farms, forest lands, stream valleys, lakes, ponds, hills and vistas; provide for lands for recreation, exercise, education, research, sustenance, and preservation of historical heritage or natural areas; and protect water quality and quantity.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Southwestern Washington and surrounding areas</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> farms, floodplains, river corridors: water quality, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife habitat</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations</p> <p><b>Other main methods:</b> option agreements, lease land to others</p>
<p><b>Cowiche Canyon Conservancy</b> PO Box 877 Yakima, WA 98907-0877 (509) 577-9585</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.cowichecanyon.org">www.cowichecanyon.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve, enhance and maintain Cowiche Canyon as a natural area for use and enjoyment by the public.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Cowiche Canyon, Yakima County</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, hillsides, recreation, river corridors, scenic views, trails, water quality, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife habitat.</p>
<p><b>Great Peninsula Conservancy</b> 3721 Kitsap Way, Suite 5 Bremerton, WA 98312-2461 (360) 373-3500</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.greatpeninsula.org">www.greatpeninsula.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve open space lands, wetlands, and other lands for their scenic and educational values and their natural beauty. Operates on the eastern edge of the Olympic Peninsula.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Kitsap (except Bainbridge Is.), Mason, &amp; Pierce counties.</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> open space, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lands with scenic or educational value.</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations, some acquisition.</p>
<p><b>Inland Northwest Land Trust</b> 35 Main Ave #210 Spokane, WA 99201-0115 (509) 328-2939</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.inlandnwlandtrust.org">www.inlandnwlandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>To preserve and protect land not protected by other groups or government organizations in a natural state for human and ecological benefits.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> 6 counties in NE WA</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, farms, forests, open space, greenways, hillsides, lakes, mountains, prairies, ranches, river corridors, water quality, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife habitat.</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> Easement donations.</p>
<p><b>Jefferson Land Trust</b> 1033 Lawrence Street Port Townsend, WA 98368 (360) 379-9501</p> <p><b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.saveland.org">www.saveland.org</a></p>	<p>Offer landowners in East Jefferson County the opportunity to create a living legacy of special lands and resources through voluntary conservation.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Eastern Jefferson Cty.</p> <p><b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, farms, forests, open space, greenways, hillsides, urban, wetlands, wildlife habitat.</p> <p><b>Main land protection methods:</b> easement donations</p>

\* Contents provided by the Land Trust Alliance

## Land Trusts - LOCAL (continued)

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<b>Lopez Community Land Trust</b> PO Box 25 Lopez, WA 98261 (360) 468-3723 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.lopezclt.org">www.lopezclt.org</a>	Acquire and hold land in trust in order to provide for permanently affordable housing; build homes and use land in an environmentally sensitive and socially responsible manner; serve as a model in land stewardship and community development; provide information, resources and expertise.	<b>Area of operation:</b> Lopez Island
<b>Lummi Island Heritage</b> P.O. Box 158 Lummi Island, Wa 98262  (360) 758-7997 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.liht.org">www.liht.org</a>	Protects significant features of Lummi Island's rural landscape to protect the island's rural character, natural heritage, and scenic beauty.	<b>Area of operation:</b> Lummi Island in Whatcom County
<b>Methow Conservancy</b> P.O. Box 71 Winthrop, WA 98862-0071 (509) 996-2870 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.methowconservancy.org">www.methowconservancy.org</a>	Provide landowners with options for protecting their land for open space, agriculture, wildlife habitat, wetland, and greenway trails.	<b>Area of operation:</b> The Methow Valley in North central Washington <b>Main land types:</b> trails, wildlife habitat
<b>Nisqually Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 1148 Yelm, WA 98597-1148 (253) 458-1111  <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.nisquallylandtrust.org">www.nisquallylandtrust.org</a>	Provide for the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the waters, wetlands, wildlife habitat, timberlands, scenic areas, open spaces and historic, recreational and agricultural lands of the Nisqually River basin by acquisition of title, easement or other property rights for these lands, and the management or maintenance of the same.	<b>Area of operation:</b> Nisqually River basin <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, ecosystems, floodplains, forests, greenways, river corridors, wetlands, wildlife habitat
<b>North Olympic Land Trust</b> 104 N. Laurel St., Suite 114 Port Angeles, WA 98362 (360) 417-1815 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.northolympiclandtrust.org">www.northolympiclandtrust.org</a>	Ensure a stewardship of the natural resources, the cultural heritage and the beauty of the North Olympic Peninsula for the benefit of present and future generations.	<b>Area of operation:</b> North Olympic Peninsula in northwestern Washington <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, floodplains, forests, river corridors, trails, water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat
<b>Palouse Land Trust</b> PO Box 8506 Moscow, ID 83843-1006 (208) 882-5248 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.palouselandtrust.org">www.palouselandtrust.org</a>	To support the private landowner in the permanent protection of rural farm and forest lands, and urban and rural open spaces, and to promote preservation of significant areas of diverse habitat and scenic beauty.	<b>Area of operation:</b> Northern Idaho & SE Washington <b>Main land types:</b> watersheds/water quality, wetlands, river corridors, trails <b>Main protection methods:</b> accept conservation easement donations & pre-acquire land for local govt.

\* Contents provided by the Land Trust Alliance

## Land Trusts - LOCAL (continued)

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>San Juan Preservation Trust</b> Box 327 Lopez, WA 98261-0327 (360) 468-3202 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.sjpt.org">www.sjpt.org</a></p>	<p>Help people protect the wildlife, scenery and traditional way of life of the San Juan Islands through conservation, preservation and careful use of land.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Islands in San Juan and Skagit counties. <b>Main land types:</b> ecosystems, farms, forests, open space, greenways, hillsides, historic/cultural, islands, ranches, scenic views, scenic roads, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife habitat. <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, land purchase.</p>
<p><b>Skagit Land Trust</b> PO Box 1017 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 428-7878 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.skagitlandtrust.org">www.skagitlandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Assist landowners to preserve wildlife habitat, wetlands, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines throughout the mainland and islands of Skagit County.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Skagit County, Washington <b>Main land types:</b> farms, floodplains, forests, open space, islands, lakes, river corridors, scenic views, wetlands, wildlife habitat <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations</p>
<p><b>Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland</b> P.O. Box 2405 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 336-3974 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.skagitonians.org">www.skagitonians.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve agricultural land for agricultural production through research, education and involvement in related land use issues.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Skagit County <b>Main land types:</b> farms, wetlands, wildlife habitat <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations, acquire land for resale with restrictions, pre-acquire for government</p>
<p><b>Tapteal Greenway</b> P.O. Box 3007 Richland, WA 99352 (509) 942-0354 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.tapteal.org">www.tapteal.org</a></p>	<p>To preserve rustic character of the lower Yakima River, protecting native habitats and species through conservation, enhancing recreational opportunities throughout the corridor, providing outdoor education programs, and promoting public access to and understanding of these resources.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> lower Yakima River, Benton County. <b>Main land types:</b> watersheds/water quality, wetlands, river corridors, trails, greenways, parklands <b>Main protection methods:</b> Land purchase.</p>
<p><b>Vashon Maury Island Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 2031 Vashon Island, WA 98070 (206) 463-2644 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.vashonlandtrust.org">www.vashonlandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Acquire, manage, preserve and dispose of land, easements, leases or other rights or interest in land on Vashon Island, Washington in a manner which will promote the preservation of ecological, recreational, scenic, agricultural, hydrological, forest, historic, or other environmental features for wildlife habitat, open space, educational and research purposes.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Vashon-Maury Island <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, ecosystems, wetlands, wildlife habitat <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, land purchase <b>Other main methods:</b> mange protected land for others</p>

## Land Trusts - LOCAL (continued)

NAME / ADDRESS PHONE / WEB SITE	PURPOSE	OTHER
<p><b>Whatcom County Land Trust</b> P.O. Box 6131 Bellingham, WA 98227 (360) 650-9470 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.whatcomlandtrust.org">www.whatcomlandtrust.org</a></p>	<p>Protect lands, including but not limited to streams, valleys, lakes and ponds, and productive land in Whatcom County. Provide individuals or entities the opportunity to set aside land for the purpose of assuring present and future generations an adequate amount of open land for recreation, education, research, sustenance, historic and productive purposes.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Whatcom Cty. <b>Main land types:</b> coastlines, ecosystems, farms, floodplains, forests, open space, lakes, mountains, recreation, river corridors, scenic views, watersheds, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, option agreements, manage protected land for others, conservation buyers</p>
<p><b>Whidbey-Camano Land Trust</b> 765 Wonn Road, Barn C-201 Greenbank, WA 98253 (360) 222-3310 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.wclt.org">www.wclt.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve special lands in Island County, including agricultural, forest, recreational, scenic and open space along with historic and archaeological sites.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Island County <b>Main land types:</b> archeological sites, coastlines, farms, forests, historic/cultural, islands, scenic views <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, easement donations, limited development <b>Other main methods:</b> option agreements, conservation buyers</p>
<p><b>Yakima Greenway Foundation</b> 111 South 18th Street Yakima, WA 98901-2149 (509) 453-8280 <b>WEB:</b> <a href="http://www.yakimagreenway.org">www.yakimagreenway.org</a></p>	<p>Preserve, protect, and enhance the 10 mile corridor along the Yakima River between Selah Gap and Union Gap and the Naches River from confluence to 40th Avenue.</p>	<p><b>Area of operation:</b> Upper Yakima Valley <b>Main land types:</b> floodplains, open space, greenways, recreation, river corridors <b>Main land protection methods:</b> land donations, land purchase, easement donations</p>

\* Contents provided by the Land Trust Alliance

# Assessing Stewardship Needs

## Identify the Needs of the Landowner

### 1. Conservation Interest:

What are the owner's conservation interests for the wetlands?

Do they want to permanently protect the wetland?

### 2. Owning and Living-On:

Does the landowner wish to continue owning the property?

What is the owner's and family's interest in living on the property?

### 3. Economic Needs:

What is the owner's interest or ability to carry costs of owning and managing the property and its wetlands?

What are the owner's estate planning interests?

What is the owner's interest in reducing future tax liabilities?

What is the landowner's need for economic return or compensation from the property? Do they need to cost-share?

### 4. Land-Use Activities:

What activities does the owner desire to have on the property?

Will public use be compatible with the landowner's wishes?

Will extractive uses (logging, fishing, mining, grazing, etc) be permitted?

What is the owner's desire to develop the property?

### 5. Problems:

Are there management problems like water quality, flooding, erosion, etc. that need to be addressed?

Any legal limitations on the property such as existing deed restrictions, management agreements, etc.? What permits might be needed?

### 6. Other Needs:

Are there other special needs to be considered?

Is there more than one owner of the wetland?

## **Evaluate the Wetland on the Property**

### **1. Wetland Type and amount:**

What types of wetlands (forested wetlands, marshes, bogs) are present?

What percentage of the property is wetlands?

What is the water source for the wetland?

### **2. Wetland Functions:**

What functions do they provide? (protect shorelines, aquifer recharge sites, flood attenuation, historic or culturally important areas, habitat values, endangered or threatened species, etc.)

### **3. Wetland Condition:**

What is wetland's condition?

Does the property have farmed wetlands or drained historic wetlands that could be enhanced or restored?

Can the property be developed without degrading the wetlands?

### **4. Wetland Sustainability:**

What are the upland influences on the wetland?

How much of the property must be "protected" to maintain the natural features and their functions?

What management, restoration, or preservation actions will benefit the wetland's long term sustainability?

## **Evaluate the Property in the Context of Basin/Watershed Activities**

### **1. Basin/Watershed Context:**

What are the land ownership patterns and presence of protected open space?

What are the known resource problems within the basin/watershed, such as salmon decline, flooding, water quality, sedimentation, habitat loss, etc., and how does the wetland contribute to addressing them?

What are the significant characteristics of the general area near the property for their contribution to conservation within the watershed, or their suitability for development?

### **2. Land Use:**

What are the land use trends and associated indicators of change, such as locations of Urban Growth boundaries and established infrastructure?

What are the current zoning and other land use regulations affecting wetlands?

### **3. Opportunities:**

What are the real estate market conditions (consideration of wetland amenities in property values)?

What are the local government stewardship programs such as: open space preservation and current use property taxation?