

## WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION COALITION



The Washington state legislature received a record number of applications for WWRP grants to fund new parks, trails and wildlife habitat and to preserve working farms. Yet the state is proposing to fund just 17% of them.

Yes, our state is facing the largest budget crisis since the Depression, but these are capital projects that are paid for over decades, so they don't compete with teacher salaries and human services.

In fact, a quarter of these projects are development projects that would create jobs. The rest are acquisitions and conservation easements that will put dollars in the pockets of local landowners, helping to stimulate the local economy.

Your legislators need to hear from you TODAY that our state should not abandon its long term goals to protect our natural resources and provide access to recreation so all of Washington's families have a place to play outside.

<http://www.wildliferecreation.org/getinvolved/take-action-in-2009/please-support-100m-for-wwrp-park-habitat-farmland-grants>

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is an award-winning grant program that funds new parks, trails, wildlife habitat and working farms in every corner of the state.

This year our Coalition is asking the state legislature to renew its support for the WWRP grant program at the \$100 million level. This would fund the top 115 projects selected by a state agency that uses independent experts to competitively rank each project.

The state's proposed budget includes just \$50 million for WWRP projects, returning this program to its 1990 level. No other capital program is getting a 50% cut!

Please check our website to see what projects are proposed in your city, county or legislative district. Then click on the TAKE ACTION button to send a letter to the Governor and your legislators asking them to protect the projects you care about.

[www.WildlifeRecreation.org](http://www.WildlifeRecreation.org)

Here are my favorite reasons for supporting the WWRP grant program:

- **Restoring Puget Sound** At \$100 million, 35 projects totaling \$35 million would help protect or restore Puget Sound. Local matches raise the total to \$53 million.
- **Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change** We need to protect our drinking water supplies and connect habitat areas so plant and animal species can migrate.
- **Reducing our Carbon Footprint** Protected forests sequester carbon and urban parks and trails promote walking and biking. The WWRP is the single largest source of trails funding in the state!
- **Healthy Families Need Access to Recreation** Getting kids outside is the key to reducing childhood obesity and diabetes.
- **Planning for Future Generations** Washington's population has grown by 25% since 1990, and it is projected to add 2 million people in the next 25 years.
- **Our Quality of Life Drives the Economy** - If we don't act now, we will lose the natural values that help attract qualified employees and retain jobs.

Now is the time for you to tell your legislator why you care about Washington's great outdoors:

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