



Washington  
**Wildlife &  
Recreation**  
C O A L I T I O N

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Christine B. Mahler

\*Deceased

November 1, 2024

**SUBJECT: SIGN ON LETTER FOR \$150 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR WWRP  
IN the 2025-2027 BUDGET**

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition, together with the 339 individual, corporate, and organization signatories of this letter, respectfully advocates for your support of the WWRP's Capital Budget request of \$150 million for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the 2025-27 biennium.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted our outdoor recreation landscape, prompting a surge in outdoor activities for mental and physical well-being. To this day, that boom in recreation has not stopped. Simultaneously, the economic repercussions have underscored the critical importance of the outdoor recreation economy.

For over three decades, the WWRP has been instrumental in conserving habitats and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities across our state, investing over \$2 billion in parks, trails, wildlife habitats, and more. It is widely recognized for its fair and independent funding process. Maximizing funding for the WWRP in the capital budget is crucial at this pivotal time.

The need for investment has intensified alongside Washington's population growth, increased demand for recreation, and ongoing threats to wildlife habitats. Failure to match this growth with adequate funding risks diminishing our capacity to preserve and enhance outdoor spaces.

Investing in WWRP projects will alleviate overcrowding, ensure access to emergency services at trailheads, and minimize our ecological footprint while enhancing public access to Washington's natural landscapes.

Economically, funding the WWRP will stimulate job growth and consumer spending statewide. The outdoor recreation industry supports over 264,000 jobs and generates \$26.5 billion annually in the state. Moreover, these investments yield substantial ecosystem benefits valued at \$216 billion, essential for water storage and disaster resilience.

Furthermore, enhancing accessibility and equity in outdoor spaces remains pivotal, especially for underserved communities. The WWRP facilitates local projects with reduced match requirements, promoting park upgrades to ADA standards and advancing equity initiatives. The program continues to adapt with new changes in this application cycle, emphasizing communities who score low via the Department of Health's Geographic Information System (GIS) data which includes socioeconomic

*Unifying voices for Washington's great outdoors*

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

and health factors, availability and proximity of green space, availability and proximity of health care, and much more. Furthermore, these changes also highlight projects with strong community backing and community engagement processes, ensuring that the top-ranking projects that get brought forward are what the communities they serve want and need.

Amid climate change and habitat loss, the WWRP plays a critical role in protecting endangered species and restoring ecosystems impacted by environmental degradation. Robust funding is essential to safeguarding Washington's biodiversity and environmental health.

Given the unprecedented demand for outdoor spaces, rising inflation, and escalating environmental risks, we urge a historic investment in Washington's outdoors through funding of the WWRP in the 2025-27 Capital Budget at the \$150 Million level. This commitment will bolster our economy, support statewide recreation and conservation efforts, and preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

Respectfully,



Christine B. Mahler  
Executive Director

### **Opinion Leaders**

The Hon. Governor Dan Evans, Sr. (signed Aug 2024)  
The Hon. Sally Jewell, Former US Secretary of the Interior  
Eric Artz, President & CEO, REI  
Bill Chapman  
The Hon. Paul Graves  
Jon Hoekstra, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
Mitsu Iwasaki, Trust for Public Land  
Tom Reeve, Former National Board Chair, The Trust for Public Land  
The Hon Christine Rolfes  
Mike Stevens, The Nature Conservancy Washington  
Tom Vogl, The Mountaineers  
Ted Willhite, past Chair, Recreation & Conservation Funding Board

### **Business**

Fisheries Supply Company	Markee Ecological Garden Design
Golden Bricks Events	Mockingbird Farm
Great Western Recreation	Northwest Playground Equipment Inc
Green Diamond Resource Company	Onda Origins Coffee Co
Human Nature Hunting School	Rayonier
LBC Action	Washington Realtors
Live to Play, LLC	Waypoint Consulting Group

### **Recreation Nonprofits & Groups**

American Whitewater  
Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition  
Daffodil Valley Volkssport Assn.  
Eastrail Partners  
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance  
ForeverGreen Trails  
Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition  
Inland Northwest Trails and Conservation  
Coalition  
Kubota Garden Foundation  
Leavenworth Winter Sports Club  
Methow Trails  
Outdoor Equity Coalition  
Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition  
Recreation Northwest  
Seattle Parks Foundation  
Seattle Roller Hockey Association  
Sports Safety and Education Association  
Tacoma Washington Bicycle Club  
The Mountaineers  
Washington Recreation & Park Association  
Washington State Recreational Boating Safety  
Program  
Washington Trails Association  
Wenatchee Outdoors

### **Municipalities & Agencies**

Bainbridge Island City Council  
Bellingham Parks & Recreation  
City of Anacortes  
City of Covington  
City of Ellensburg Parks & Recreation  
City of Lakewood  
City of Pullman  
City of University Place  
Kitsap County Parks  
Lacey Parks, Culture & Recreation  
Metro Parks Tacoma  
Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation  
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District  
Town of Winthrop

### **Hunter & Angler Nonprofits & Groups**

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, WA Chapter  
Ducks Unlimited  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Tri-State Steelheaders

### **Conservation Nonprofits & Groups**

American Farmland Trust  
Audubon Washington  
Bainbridge Island Land Trust  
Black Hills Audubon Society  
Columbia Land Trust  
Conservation Northwest  
Cowiche Canyon Conservancy  
Inland Northwest Land Conservancy  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Methow Conservancy  
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
Okanogan Land Trust  
Pilchuck Audubon  
Protect Open Space for the People!  
San Juan County Conservation Land Bank  
Sierra Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Trust for Public Land  
Vancouver Audubon Society  
Washington Association of Land Trusts  
Washington Farmland Trust  
Western Rivers Conservancy

### **Other Organizations**

The Norcliffe Foundation

## **Individuals**

Randon Aea  
Jon Albright  
Eric Arneson  
Rosie Ayala  
Alex Bair  
Cathy Baker  
Melani Baker  
Len Barson  
Rebecca Bear  
Jen Beatty  
Marc Berejka  
Jeff Betz  
Warner Blake  
Molly Bogeberg  
Amy Borde  
Lincoln Bormann  
Bryan Bowden  
Mark Boyar  
Andrew Braeger  
Sarah Brooks  
Cindy Brown  
Rick Bruya  
Tom Bugert  
Jennifer Burbidge  
Coleman Byrnes  
Jill Calvert  
Geraldine Chambers  
Ching Chan  
Fred Chapman  
Jeff Chapman  
Hannah Clark  
Dirk Coe  
Michael Collins  
David Cook  
Sharron Coontz  
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Marilyn Cornwell  
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Jesse Cunningham  
Sue Danver  
Ryan Davis  
Dustin Deer  
Mary Dodsworth  
Roland Downing

Andrea McNamara Doyle  
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Dan Evans, Jr  
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Owen Fairbank  
Megan Fay  
Jacquelyn Finn  
Paul Fish  
David Fleischhauer  
Arthur Foster  
Ephraim Froehlich  
Harvey Funai  
Bre Ganne  
Hunter George  
Don Gerend  
Cassidy Giampetro  
Nathaniel Gouk  
Robyn Grad  
Clayton Graham  
Sharon Grant  
Chuck Greenough  
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Julie Grialou  
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Anthony Harris  
Emily Heber  
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Barbara Hetrick  
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Catherine Hoffmann  
Katherine Hollis  
Cindy Hoover  
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John Hopkins  
Judith Hoyle  
Mileva Huljev  
Michele Hunt

Sandra Ihly  
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Vanessa Kritzer  
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Maykel Landaverde  
Cameron Lankhaar  
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Kris Lenke  
Larry Leveen  
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Annette Lobeck  
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Taylor Luneau  
Elizabeth Lunney  
Anna Markee

Chris Marks  
Elizabeth Martin  
Emily Matson  
Russell Matthews  
Matt Mauer  
Adam Maxwell  
Ali Maynard  
Cynthia McCormack  
Kristen McCune  
Chris McGarvey  
Erin McMillin  
Amber Mennillo  
Fawzi Mhemedi  
Kate Miller  
Clarence Moriwaki  
Georgia Morris  
Kristi Nakata  
Doug Nelson  
Ethan Newton  
Kjersten Nickleby  
Kerry O'Connor  
Tiffany Odell  
Joy Okazaki  
Cyne Okinczyc  
Kathryn Owen  
Clara Park  
Jeff Parsons  
Genevieve Peaslee  
Susan Peterson  
Ellen Phillips-Angeles  
Cleve Pinnix  
Audrey Pitigliano  
Noel Plemmons  
Chevon Powell  
Lin Provost  
Charlie Raines  
Elizabeth Ransom

Gail Ransom  
Jordan Rash  
Cindy Ray  
Roberta Reedy  
Jim Reinhardtsen  
Cece Reoux  
Betsy Robblee  
Jeanne Robinson  
William Robinson  
David Rosen  
Barbara Rosenkotter  
Debbie Russell  
Olivia Ryan  
MJ Sampang  
Lynn Sanborn  
Jayne Sanderson  
Emma Sando  
Susan Saul  
Katherine Scheulen  
Betsy Schultz  
Rob Sendak  
Steve Seward  
Sarah Shaffer  
Paula Shafransky  
Barbara Shane  
Meredith Shank  
Kat Shepard  
Sam Silver  
Stacy Simanonok  
Paul Simmons  
Niko Simonson  
Alisa Slobodyanyuk  
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Sean Smith  
Todd Smith  
Kathleen Snyder

Jason Spadaro  
Zua Stivers  
David Strausz  
Alex Sutter  
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Scott Tupper  
Eva Tyler  
Nate Ulrich  
Anne Van Sweringen  
Robert Vaux  
Larry Volland  
Richard Votaw  
Reed Waite  
Lindsay Walker  
Jacob Ward  
John Warhol  
Catherine Waterston  
Kristie Wehe  
Keith Wentworth  
Fred Wert  
Patricia Wible  
John Willett  
Jenny Wilson  
Josh Wilund  
Sarah Wolfe  
Tim Wood  
Lauren Woodmansee  
Michael Woodsum  
Steven Woolpert  
Norinda Yancey  
Jennifer Zarnoch