

Natural Resources/Operating

HEAL Act, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Provide additional resources to natural resource agencies to meet the requirements of the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act. Work will also be completed to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and implement Executive orders 22-02 *Achieving Equity in State Government* and 22-04 *Implementing Pro-Equity, Anti-Racism (PEAR)*. Unique to the natural resource agency missions, environmental justice and tribal connections are a priority.

(\$6.7 million General Fund-State, \$800,000 other)

State Parks and Recreation Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Natural Resources

Manage recreation on state land

Develop advanced decision-making tools based on ecological health of public lands, balancing conservation and recreation. Create a data management system to analyze how outdoor recreation impacts state natural resources. Engage tribal governments to ensure cultural resources and cultural practices are considered and incorporated into recreational management planning. Provide 10 additional recreational law enforcement staff at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enhance public safety and protect 5.6 million acres of DNR-managed lands.

(\$10.7 million GF-S)

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Park experience

Address impacts of increased visitation by investing in maintaining grounds and facilities, trails, restrooms and water access sites. Includes a project to collect, maintain, and make all in-park trails data publicly available. This includes terrain, surfacing, and slope information to benefit all park users, particularly those with disabilities, as they explore park trails.

(\$4.4 million GF-S; \$934,000 other)

Capital project development

Additional staff capacity will help monitor known cultural resource sites, perform needed evaluations for historic properties, manage historic preservation capital projects, and support Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act compliance.

(\$1.8 million GF-S; \$300,000 other)

Recreation and Conservation Office

Recreation information center

Increase the quality of outdoor recreation data sets on trails, parks, open spaces and public lands to be used in recreation and conservation grant decision-making and planning. An equity review of the agency's grant programs found that this type of data is limited or difficult for overburdened communities to access. This is addressed by making the information publicly available for all potential grant applicants.

(\$372,000 GF-S)

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Natural resource protection and public safety

Increase compliance for marine water fisheries by funding officer positions and a dedicated coastal patrol vessel. Support transparency and reduce liabilities by deploying body worn cameras for enforcement officers. Address issues resulting from human-wildlife interactions and livestock depredations.

(\$6.8 million GF-S)

Toxics and chemicals of emerging concerns

Leverage existing long-term toxics monitoring program by analyzing additional chemicals of emerging concern (CEC) — such as 6PPD-quinone and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) — in already collected tissue samples. This research will accelerate recovery and protection by identifying CEC exposure locations and sources.

(\$4.8 million Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Department of Agriculture

Minimize invasive species

Eradicate invasive species to protect the state's forestry and agricultural sectors. This includes moths, Japanese beetles, northern giant hornet, spotted lanternfly and flowering rush.

(\$8.2 million GF-S; \$3.7 million GF-Federal; \$50,000 other)

Enhance emergency food and strengthen food resiliency

Direct emergency food resources to underserved communities and increase support

for hunger relief organizations through the Emergency Food Assistance program and We Feed Washington. Make supply chain investments for overall food resilience and improved local meat processing capacity.

(\$48.8 million GF-S; \$66.5 million GF-F)

Department of Natural Resources

Conservation Corps

Full-time and seasonal crews from the Washington Conservation Corps and other corps programs are funded to conduct work that benefits state-managed lands. This includes natural areas restoration and conservation, trail work, forest resiliency activities and recreation and habitat projects with agency partners.

(\$4.9 million GF-S)

Forest health and wildfire protection

Build upon investments to improve forest health and increase effectiveness in wildfire prevention and protection by providing an additional \$20 million in pass-through funding to tribes, local governments, fire and conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, forest collaboratives and small forest landowners.

(\$20.2 million Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account)

Scientifically based conservation

Provide active management of DNR natural areas. Create a statewide map of essential conservation areas and areas of high forest conversion risk to determine and mitigate climate change impacts and support long-term conservation goals.

(\$3.4 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Natural Resources/Capital

Note: Some of the items in this section also appear in the Salmon and Climate breakout sections of Budget Highlights.

Flood reduction and water supply

Department of Ecology

Floodplains by Design

Restore natural floodplain conditions by preserving open spaces, correcting problems created by erroneous flood control actions, improving long-term community flood resilience, reducing flood risks to infrastructure and development, and improving habitat conditions for salmon and other species. Floodplains by Design is an integrated approach that combines flood-hazard reduction actions with salmon recovery, river and habitat restoration and other public benefits.

(\$49.8 million bonds)

Chehalis Basin strategy

Pursue and oversee an integrated Chehalis Basin strategy to reduce long-term flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat. Five of the largest floods in the basin's recorded history have occurred in the past 30 years. Delaying action could cost families and communities \$3.5 billion in flood-related damages, and the survival of the basin's spring-run chinook salmon populations will be imperiled.

(\$70 million bonds)

Yakima River Basin water supply

Fund infrastructure, programs and policies in the Yakima River Basin that support aquatic resources, fish, and wildlife habitat, dry-year irrigation and municipal water supplies.

(\$42 million bonds)

Columbia River Water Supply Development program

Develop new municipal, domestic, industrial, and irrigation water throughout the Columbia River Basin and place one-third of these new water supplies in-stream to meet the flow needs of fish, wildlife, and recreational users.

(\$42.4 million bonds; \$1.5 million other)

PFAS contaminated drinking water

Study PFAS (a group of long-lasting synthetic chemicals found in many everyday products including drinking water) contamination in the Lower Issaquah Valley and other potentially impacted areas and help develop effective treatment techniques.

(\$17.2 million bonds)

Local government infrastructure

Department of Ecology

Water Pollution Control Revolving program

Provide low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts and recognized tribes for high-priority water quality projects statewide. Ecology uses these funds to finance planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and improving water pollution control facilities. Funding will also go toward related nonpoint source pollution control activities that help meet state and federal water quality requirements.

(\$435 million Water Pollution Control Revolving Account; \$200 million federal)

Centennial Clean Water program

Finance the construction of water pollution control facilities, and plan and implement nonpoint pollution control activities. Grant recipients are public entities that use funds for high-priority statewide water quality needs.

(\$40 million Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Landfill methane capture

In 2021, the Legislature passed new requirements on landfills to measure and reduce their emission of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. This year, the governor proposes \$15 million to assist landfills with the cost of complying with the new law, including installing methane capture and control technologies.

(\$15 million Climate Commitment Act)

Toxics cleanup

Department of Ecology

Remedial Action Grant program

Clean up contaminated sites in Washington with help from local governments. Support cleanup at contaminated industrial sites that affect the air, land, and water resources of the state, and continue cleanup of Puget Sound. Funding protects public and environmental health, creates jobs and promotes economic redevelopment by allowing contaminated properties to be redeveloped. Leverages local match funding.

(\$115.1 million Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Clean up toxics sites in Puget Sound

Integrate shoreline habitat restoration opportunities with cleanup projects. This will

protect public and environmental health, create jobs, and promote economic development in the Puget Sound Basin.

(\$7.5 million Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Product Replacement program

Identify the sources of the worst chemicals reaching the environment and develop recommendations on how to reduce or eliminate those sources.

(\$6.5 million Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Stormwater Financial Assistance program

Finance retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas throughout the state. Distribute funds to the highest priority projects through a competitive rating and ranking process to ensure projects provide good water quality value and address problems from urban development. The work accomplished by local governments will help reduce toxics and other pollution from entering waterways and protect marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources.

(\$68 million Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account)

Reducing toxic wood stove emissions

Replace wood stoves with cleaner home heating options and deploy cleaner burning emission control solutions.

(\$4.1 million Model Toxics Control Capital Account)

Salmon and habitat protection

State Conservation Commission

State match for the federal Regional Conservation Partnership program

Add matching funds for federally approved Regional Conservation Partnership program projects to increase the restoration and sustainability of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales.

(\$3 million bonds)

Recreation and Conservation Office

Salmon Recovery Funding Board programs

Implement the Salmon Recovery Act and provide funding for projects that protect or restore salmon habitat, and other salmon recovery programs and activities across the state. While other grant programs concentrate on a particular geographic region or focus on other nonsalmon values, this is the only grant program in Washington that focuses exclusively on protecting and restoring salmon habitat statewide. Local groups develop and evaluate the projects to assess if and how well each will implement the priorities listed in federally adopted salmon recovery plans.

(\$40 million bonds; \$75 million federal)

Puget Sound acquisition and restoration

Protect and restore salmon habitat. A large portion of the habitat restoration is for chinook salmon, which provide one of the most critical food sources for Southern Resident orcas.

(\$50 million bonds)

Estuary and Salmon Restoration program

Enhance protection and restoration of the Puget Sound near-shore, a uniquely critical area for salmon recovery. Local communities throughout Puget Sound and recreational and commercial fishers are impacted by these restoration efforts. Tribes who are working to maintain federally-protected tribal treaty rights benefit from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration program (ESRP) nearshore project implementation.

(\$25.5 million bonds)

Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative

Restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat on the Washington coast to protect salmon populations and provide jobs. Projects strengthen communities through job creation, more work options for local contractors, flood control, access improvement, climate resiliency and more.

(\$17.6 million bonds)

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

Provides funding to design and construct solutions to fish passage barriers. Completing these projects will restore access to salmon habitat and help rebuild whole salmon populations by opening watersheds.

(\$27.3 million bonds, \$20.8 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Deschutes Watershed Center

Design and permitting for construction of a new hatchery on the Deschutes River in Thurston County to increase Chinook salmon production in south Puget Sound.

(\$12 million bonds)

Spokane Hatchery renovation

Design and construction to renovate the Spokane Hatchery, which will reduce nutrient and pollutant discharges from the facility and repair hatchery infrastructure, buildings, and residences.

(\$38.4 million bonds)

Duckabush Estuary Habitat Restoration

Address habitat degradation by reconnecting historical channels and by removing estuary blockages such as highways, fill, levees, and bridges. Improving this habitat creates favorable conditions for juvenile salmon as they pass through the estuary that provides food, rest, and protection from predators — all vital to growth and increasing their chances of survival in open saltwater.

(\$41 million bonds, \$30 million federal)

Recreation

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Nisqually new full-service park

Design, permit, and construct an additional phase for a new full-service park in partnership with the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Construct a new park entrance, a campground, and support facilities including comfort stations, a welcome

center, RV dump station, roads, utilities, landscaping, and complete the maintenance facility.

(\$35.8 million bonds)

Palouse to Cascades trail improvements

Improve public safety by assessing, renovating, or replacing dilapidated bridges, trestles, culverts, and tunnels along the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail. Also funds a new foundation and other improvements for the historic Kittitas railroad along the trail.

(\$3.9 million bonds)

Cape Disappointment – Welcome Center and entrance improvements

Revise previous designs and submit permits for the new welcome center, administration building, road realignment, trail and parking. The existing welcome center building is overcrowded for staff, volunteers, and visitors, and is not ADA compliant for visitors who use the building to check-in for camping, purchase Discover Passes, or request general information for day-use activities.

(\$4.8 million bonds)

Statewide ADA compliance

Design, permit, and construct a series of access improvements to achieve ADA compliance for key buildings and landscapes at multiple state parks across Washington. This helps make state parks more accessible for a wide variety of ages and abilities, thus making state park access more equitable.

(\$2 million bonds)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Washington Wildlife and Recreation program

Renovate new local and state parks, protect and restore wildlife habitat, and preserve working farms and forests. Projects funded by this grant program contribute significantly to economic opportunities and a healthier population.

(\$54 million Outdoor Recreation Account, \$12 million Farm and Forest Account, \$54 million Habitat Conservation Account)

Nonhighway and off-road vehicle activities

Develop and manage recreation opportunities for users of nonhighway roads (roads not supported by state fuel taxes), including hikers, equestrians, off-road vehicles, bicyclists, hunters, and other users of nonhighway roads.

(\$11.2 million NOVA Program Account)

Youth athletics facilities

Provide grants for projects that improve or renovate community athletic facilities and encourage people to participate in outdoor athletics. Outdoor recreation participation surveys show increasing demand for these facilities, and they tie directly to other public policy efforts to reduce childhood obesity and increase fitness.

(\$10.8 million bonds)