



Washington State Conservation Commission

2024 Supplemental Capital Budget Request Table of Contents

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

September 13, 2023

TO: David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management

FROM: Kirk Robinson, Interim Executive Director
Washington State Conservation Commission

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget Request

The state of Washington faces multiple natural resource challenges, including salmon and orca recovery, climate and drought resiliency, shellfish recovery, and forest health protection. The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) implements vital incentive-based programs that provide for the construction of conservation projects to achieve effective, multi-benefit solutions for our most pressing natural resource issues and create jobs and drive economic activity.

SCC is requesting capital funds to continue the following programs that empower landowners and conservation districts in every corner of our state to implement vital conservation projects.

I. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) State Matching Funds - \$3,000,000

This amount covers the state portion of the dollar match needed to bring millions of Farm Bill dollars to Washington for RCPP projects. These projects unite multiple partners in solving natural resource issues. SCC has been designated as the agency to coordinate the pass-through dollars that require a state capital match for RCPP projects. RCPP projects create jobs and make measurable progress on urgent issues, including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, drinking and irrigation water supply, forest health and wildfire resiliency, and farmland preservation. With the increase in federal funds investment in the RCPP, several new RCPP projects are forming statewide that have approached SCC for state match funding if they successfully get an RCPP award from USDA NRCS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Robinson".

Kirk Robinson
Interim Executive Director

cc: Sarah Groth, Director of Accounting and Budget

**471 - State Conservation Commission
Ten Year Capital Plan by Project Class**

2023-25 Biennium

*

Version: 24 SCC FY 24 Supplemental Request

Report Number: CBS001

Date Run: 9/11/2023 2:06PM

Project Class: Grant

| Agency | Estimated | Prior | Current | Reapprop | New | Estimated | Estimated | Estimated | Estimated |
|------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Priority</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Expenditures</u> | <u>Expenditures</u> | <u>2023-25</u> | <u>Approp</u> | <u>2025-27</u> | <u>2027-29</u> | <u>2029-31</u> | <u>2031-33</u> |
| 0 | 40000040 Regional Conservation Partnership Program | | | | | | | | |
| 057-1 State Bldg | 27,000,000 | | | | 3,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 |
| Constr-State | | | | | | | | | |

Total Account Summary

| <u>Account-Expenditure Authority Type</u> | <u>Estimated</u> | <u>Prior</u> | <u>Current</u> | <u>Reapprop</u> | <u>New</u> | <u>Estimated</u> | <u>Estimated</u> | <u>Estimated</u> | <u>Estimated</u> |
|---|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Expenditures</u> | <u>Expenditures</u> | <u>2023-25</u> | <u>Approp</u> | <u>2025-27</u> | <u>2027-29</u> | <u>2029-31</u> | <u>2031-33</u> |
| 057-1 State Bldg Constr-State | 27,000,000 | | | | 3,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 |

Ten Year Capital Plan by Project Class

*

Report Number: CBS001
Date Run: 9/11/2023 2:06PM

| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Entered As</u> | <u>Interpreted As</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Biennium | 2023-25 | 2023-25 |
| Functional Area | * | All Functional Areas |
| Agency | 471 | 471 |
| Version | 24-A | 24-A |
| Project Classification | * | All Project Classifications |
| Include Enacted | No | No |
| Sort Order | Project Class | Project Class |
| Include Page Numbers | Y | Yes |
| For Word or Excel | N | N |
| User Group | Agency Budget | Agency Budget |
| User Id | * | All User Ids |



Dr. Whitlam,

June 10, 2021

I am writing to seek your Agency's concurrence that the Washington State Conservation Commission's (WSCC) cultural resources review process as revised complies with EO 21-02.

The following is an overview both of how the proposed WSCC policy and procedure will change and also what will remain the same. The overall process by which projects to implement NRCS conservation practices are reviewed is not envisioned to change significantly. The following are currently in place and will remain so when these policy and procedures are updated.

- The WSCC values the protection of cultural resources and takes seriously its obligation to ensure that districts comply with requirements for their protection.
- Conservation districts reference a list we provide of likely non-soil-disturbing NRCS practices that do not require a cultural resources review.
- Conservation districts reference a list we provide of likely soil-disturbing NRCS practices that require consultation with a professional archeologist and/or consultation with DAHP and potentially impacted Tribes.
- If a project involves federal funding, the process laid out in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act should be followed and will be considered to represent compliance with the state requirement.
- If the project involves WSCC funds and funding from another state agency, WSCC normally accepts that agency's cultural resource review.
- Before WSCC will reimburse a district for installation of a conservation practice (whether funded with capital dollars or operating dollars) the district must attest that they are in compliance with requirements for cultural resources review.
- To the extent they have not already received training, appropriate state agency staff managing grants must attend Government-to-Government training and Cultural resources training provided by GOIA and DAHP. Conservation district employees are also encouraged to pursue these and other training opportunities - including the NRCS cultural resources training.
- All districts are advised to have a UDP in policy and on file with staff trained in implementing the plan.

There are a number of areas where new language in EO 21-02 requires changes to our program and where updates are needed. These are as follows.

- Under the revised policy, conservation districts will need to email copies of all documents regarding the review and consultation to DAHP before they will be reimbursed.
- Unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process), property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02.
- Going forward, the SCC will update our practice lists to keep current with NRCS's. This includes matching NRCS's categorization of practices by likelihood of soil disturbance. Conservation districts must use the updated lists to determine if they need to consult with an archeologist and/or DAHP and potentially impacted Tribes regarding their project.
- We will revisit this program as a whole and concurrence from DAHP at a minimum every five years.
- Forms such as the "0505 cultural resources complied statement form" and some procedures will be modified to match the new policy.

The WSCC cultural resource policy language is proposed to be changed from the current language which reads:

Purpose:

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is sensitive to the cultural resource concerns of the tribes in Washington State and in an effort to help preserve and protect those cultural resources, the Commission encourages each District to communicate with their local tribes regarding the conservation work that they do, in an attempt to develop a working relationship that supports their conservation activities while protecting important cultural resources.

The WSCC for its part, will ensure that future activities of the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 0505 regarding the preservation and protection of our statewide Archeological and Cultural Resources in the disbursement of State funds to conservation districts for capital construction projects to conserve the state's natural resources.

Policy:

Before a Conservation District can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC managed funds (regardless of the source, such as Operational Funds or Capital Funds), a District must provide documentation to WSCC that:

1. *a EO-0505 review has been completed or*
2. *the project/practice is exempted from the EO-0505 review or*
3. *a EO-0505 review is not needed.*

To the following language:

Purpose (date):

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) values the protection of archeological and cultural resources. We encourage each district to develop good working relationships with local Tribes that can help inform and support their conservation activities and better protect cultural resources.

The WSCC will ensure that future activities funded by WSCC are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding Archaeological and Cultural Resources.

Policy (date):

Projects funded by the WSCC must follow current policy and procedures regarding the protection of cultural resources. Before a Conservation District can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC-managed funds (regardless of source and including both Operational Funds and Capital Funds) a District must attest to WSCC that:

- 1. a cultural resource review compliant with EO 21-02 has been completed or*
- 2. per WSCC policy the project/practice does not require EO-21-02 review or*
- 3. a cultural resource review was conducted by another state agency in compliance with EO 21-02 or*
- 4. a cultural resource review was conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and*
- 5. all records pertaining to cultural resource review and tribal consultation have been emailed to DAHP.*

Additionally, unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02.

The governing body of the WSCC meets next on July 15th. Staff will present this policy change at that meeting. Per WSCC's "Policy on Policies" once the Commission authorizes staff to do so, we will send the changes out to conservation districts throughout the state for comment. Following that comment period, the Commission can then consider adoption of the revised policy at the next meeting which is scheduled for September 16th.

Thank you for your patience and guidance while we navigate this update. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.



Jean Fike
WSCC Cultural resources coordinator

cc:
Carol Smith, Executive Director
Shana Joy, Regional Manager Coordinator



Washington State Conservation Commission

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Policy Name and # | 21-02 Cultural Resources |
| Applies to: | Projects funded by WSCC |
| Effective Date: | September 16, 2021 |
| Approved By: |  WSCC Chairman, Dean Longrie |

PURPOSE

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) values the protection of archeological and cultural resources. We encourage each district to develop good working relationships with local Tribes that can help inform and support their conservation activities and better protect cultural resources. The WSCC will ensure that future activities funded by WSCC are compliant with the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding Archaeological and Cultural Resources.

BACKGROUND

The Commission had been operating under Executive Order 05-05 since July, 2015. Policy and procedures were developed at that time to comply with EO 05-05, mitigate impacts and protect cultural resources as conservation districts implement projects funded through Commission programs.

Following the issuance of EO 21-02 on April 7, 2021 Commission staff were in communication with DAHP to determine what changes would be needed in the Commission's cultural resources process to bring it into compliance with the new EO. As in 2015, the process is closely modeled after that used by NRCS.

POLICY

Projects funded by the WSCC must follow current policy and procedures regarding the protection of cultural resources. Before a Conservation District or other recipient can be reimbursed for conservation practices (capital construction projects) with WSCC-managed

funds (regardless of source and including both Operational Funds and Capital Funds) they must attest to WSCC that:

- 1) a cultural resource review compliant with EO 21-02 has been completed or
- 2) per WSCC policy the project/practice does not require EO-21-02 review or
- 3) a cultural resource review was conducted by another state agency in compliance with EO 21-02 or
- 4) a cultural resource review was conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and all records pertaining to cultural resource review and tribal consultation have been emailed to DAHP.

Additionally, unless subject to Section 106 (federal cultural resources review process) property acquisition projects culminating in soil-disturbing construction activities will be subject to cultural resources review under EO 21-02.

**471 - State Conservation Commission
Capital FTE Summary**

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: 24 SCC FY 24 Supplemental Request

Report Number: CBS004

Date Run: 9/11/2023 4:13PM

FTEs by Job Classification

| <u>Job Class</u> | Authorized Budget | | 2023-25 Biennium | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 2021-23 Biennium | | 2023-25 Biennium | |
| | <u>FY 2022</u> | <u>FY 2023</u> | <u>FY 2024</u> | <u>FY 2025</u> |
| Environmental Planner 4 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Environmental Specialist 4 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Fiscal Analyst 3 | | | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Management Analyst 5 | | | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Program Specialist 3 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Program Specialist 4 | | | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| WMS 1 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| WMS 2 | | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Total FTEs | | | 6.5 | 6.5 |

Account

| <u>Account - Expenditure Authority Type</u> | Authorized Budget | | 2023-25 Biennium | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | 2021-23 Biennium | | 2023-25 Biennium | |
| | <u>FY 2022</u> | <u>FY 2023</u> | <u>FY 2024</u> | <u>FY 2025</u> |
| 057-1 State Bldg Constr-State | | | 600,000 | 600,000 |

Narrative

FTE's Manage and support the capital grant programs that are critical to meet the statutory conservation Objectives. None of these programs would be possible without this support; they are an essential element of each program's implementation, monitoring and reporting.

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**471 - State Conservation Commission
Capital FTE Summary
2023-25 Biennium**

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Version: 24 SCC FY 24 Supplemental Request

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Capital FTE Summary
2023-25 Biennium
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Report Number: CBS004
Date Run: 9/11/2023 4:13PM

| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Entered As</u> | <u>Interpreted As</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Biennium | 2023-25 | 2023-25 |
| Agency | 471 | 471 |
| Version | 24-A | 24-A |
| Include Page Numbers | Y | Yes |
| For Word or Excel | N | N |
| User Group | Agency Budget | Agency Budget |

**471 - State Conservation Commission
Capital Project Request**

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2024
 Project Class: Grant
 Agency Priority: 1

Project Summary

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) originated with the 2014 Farm Bill and evolved in the 2018 Farm Bill. With the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), millions of additional dollars have been added to the RCPP opportunity. RCPP awards are five-year agreements that require partnership and coordination between the NRCS and multiple state and local partners to deliver conservation technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and landowners, combining federal Farm Bill programs, unprecedented IRA investment, and partner contributions for amplified and focused delivery of conservation programs at the local level. Local entities, such as conservation districts, submit proposals to NRCS for review and approval as part of the competitive application process. There are currently seven RCPPs ongoing in Washington reliant upon state match funding to make their overall conservation projects budgets whole. Additionally, ten new RCPP proposals are pending as well. Without state match funding these current RCPPs cannot complete the conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, cannot fulfil contractual obligations with private landowners, and cannot meet the requirements of and could lose their federal grant awards. The new pending RCPPs will not be able to begin work if awarded funds by the NRCS without this state match funding, delaying their overall RCPPs for 18 months or more. This is a significant amount of time to delay in a program that only allows for five federal fiscal years to be completed.

Project Description

What is the problem/opportunity? Identify: priority, underserved people/communities, operating budget savings, public safety improvements & clarifying details. Preservation projects: include information about the current condition of the facility/system.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) originated with the 2014 Farm Bill and evolved in the 2018 Farm Bill. With the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), millions of additional dollars have been added to the RCPP opportunity. RCPP awards are five-year agreements that require partnership and coordination between the NRCS and multiple state and local partners to deliver conservation technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and landowners, combining federal Farm Bill programs, unprecedented IRA investment, and partner contributions for amplified and focused delivery of conservation programs at the local level. Local entities, such as conservation districts, submit proposals to NRCS for review and approval as part of the competitive application process. There are currently seven RCPPs ongoing in Washington reliant upon state match funding to make their overall conservation projects budgets whole. Additionally, ten new RCPP proposals are pending as well. Without state match funding these current RCPPs cannot complete the conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, cannot fulfil contractual obligations with private landowners, and cannot meet the requirements of and could lose their federal grant awards. The new pending RCPPs will not be able to begin work if awarded funds by the NRCS without this state match funding, delaying their overall RCPPs for 18 months or more. This is a significant amount of time to delay in a program that only allows for five federal fiscal years to be completed. This supplemental budget request would provide minimum adequate state match funding for seven currently approved and ten new pending RCPP projects. This request is for \$3,000,000 for the remainder of the 2023-25 biennium. In prior fiscal years of RCPP implementation in Washington, the state legislative appropriations for match return on investment has been a leverage factor of 6. For every .15 cents of state match investment, we are leveraging .85 cents of federal and local funding. It is vitally important that the momentum and project implementation schedules be maintained to enable maximum natural resource conservation impact and leveraging of federal and local dollars.

What will the request produce or construct (predesign/design of a building, additional space, etc.)? When will the project start/end? Identify if the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request. Provide detailed cost backup.

Each of the seven RCPPs has ongoing conservation projects underway and are poised to install additional conservation projects if state match funding is made available. If awarded federal funds, ten new RCPPs will be ready to hit the ground

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2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

running. Potential projects and practices include: exclusion fencing to keep cattle out of streams to improve water quality and habitat for at-risk salmonid species; installation of riparian buffers to benefit water quality, fish and wildlife habitat; correcting fish passage barriers, reducing stormwater runoff from forest roads to streams, manure and nutrient management systems to improve the quality of surface and ground water; irrigation water efficiencies to conserve the resource for fish-passage streams and minimize effects of drought and climate change; easement acquisition to preserve farmland and forested wildlife habitat; direct seed drilling techniques to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation of rivers; improve precipitation infiltration and storage, and sequester carbon; and improve forest health, there by minimizing threats of catastrophic wildfires and subsequent impacts to upland habitat and surface waters.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified in question 1? What would be the result of not taking action?

The requested state match funding for the current RCPPs would allow completion of conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, enable fulfillment of contractual obligations with private landowners for conservation practices and conservation easements, and support each RCPP in meeting the requirements of their federal grant awards. Completion of each RCPPs plan of work would also assist each RCPP to be eligible for a renewal of the RCPP for further conservation work to get done on the ground and additional leveraging of funding to occur. Additionally, new RCPP proposals are pending with USDA NRCS right now that will not be able to begin vital work without this investment of state matching funds.

The results of not taking action and providing this essential state match funding to the RCPPs would be: loss of federal and local leveraged funding, inability to complete conservation projects and establish conservation easements, inability to fulfill current obligations with landowners implementing conservation practices, and loss of the competitive edge for the new, pending RCPPs that have submitted applications to NRCS.

What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen? Be prepared to provide detailed cost backup. If this project has an associated predesign, please summarize the alternatives the predesign considered.

This supplemental budget request to support ongoing and new, pending RCPPs capitalizes on efficiencies of a coordinated, targeted, partnership approach with extensive leveraging of other funding sources to implement conservation on the ground across the state. RCPP is the best option because prior disjointed, uncoordinated approaches missed resource leveraging opportunities and did not achieve the rate of conservation adoption and implementation that the seven ongoing RCPPs (and four concluded RCPPs) have achieved to date. The ten new pending RCPPs will have no chance at all to leverage federal and local dollars to achieve conservation without the state investment to make their project budgets whole.

Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc.

There are two levels of positive impacts dependent upon this supplemental budget request. The first level will be realized by RCPP project leads who will be able to continue the important natural resource conservation work that is underway to implement a wide variety of necessary conservation practices across landscapes. Additionally, new RCPPs will be able to begin work and make the most of their RCPP lifespan. The second level of positive impact will be felt by landowners and agricultural producers participating in these RCPPs who will be able to continue participation as well as new participants can be provided with technical and financial assistance to implement additional projects. It is difficult to make a prediction as to how many clients may be served by each of the RCPPs because each has a different partnership structure and is focusing on addressing different, locally prioritized, natural resource concerns. However, it is clear that no clients may be served if sufficient state match funding is not made available and the federal and local funds are lost.

Does this project or program leverage non-state funding? If yes, how much by source? If the other funding source requires cost share, also include the minimum state (or other) share OF project cost allowable and the supporting citation or documentation.

Yes, multiple sources of funding are leveraged in each RCPP to achieve maximum conservation implementation on the ground. In fact, for every .15 cents of state match funding spent by the RCPPs, .85 cents have been leveraged of federal and local contributing funds in prior years of RCPP implementation. This leveraging will continue at least at the prior rate but may increase as additional sources of funding (e.g., IRA dollars) and new partners are continuously sought out.

Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance.

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Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming and other analyses as appropriate.

RCPP directly supports the State Conservation Commission’s strategic plan component of coordinated statewide conservation program delivery. Also, each individual RCPP has incorporated local and regional watershed planning, TMDL plans, salmon recovery plans, Washington State Wildlife Action Plan, the Northwest Forest Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans, Voluntary Stewardship Plans, and other studies and plans already in existence and as appropriate to focus, target, and leverage RCPP funding to amplify conservation project implementation.

Does this project include IT related costs, including hardware, software, cloud based services, contracts or staff? If yes, attach IT Addendum.

N/A

If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail. See Chapter 12 Puget Sound Recovery) in the 2021-23 Operating Budget Instructions.

See attached document for connections to the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and other statewide priorities.

How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.050, Clean Buildings performance standards in RCW 19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve efficiency?

Implementation of RCPP conservation projects contribute to reduced carbon pollution by improving soil health and encouraging conservation tillage practices and thus sequestering additional carbon in the soil. The Palouse River Watershed Implementation Partnership and the Fuel Break and Forest Resiliency Partnership are two RCPPs where the completed projects could contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Each of the RCPPs in Washington are unique and it is not possible to state with certainty that all of the RCPP’s work would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each one has a different resource concern(s) identified to focus upon.

How does this project impact equity in the state? Which communities are impacted by this proposal? Include both demographic and geographic communities. How are disparities in communities impacted?

Each RCPP is a targeted and focused investment of federal, state, and local dollars. Due to the targeted nature of an RCPP, the potential participants within the defined geographic scope of each one has a greater opportunity to participate and benefit from the technical and financial assistance made available than if an individual were to have to compete regionally or statewide for similar assistance. An RCPP can help to address disparities in local communities by working to provide additional assistance to overcome obstacles to participation. This is possible because of the smaller, defined geography of an RCPP. Historically under-served and vulnerable populations may receive additional assistance to overcome the federal program hurdles of paperwork and hoops to jump through with additional guidance and assistance by local RCPP participating partners, especially the conservation districts. The geographic areas of focus for each of the ongoing RCPPs and locations for pending RCPPs is shown on the attached 1-pager.

Is there additional information you would like decision makers to know when evaluating this request?

Please see attached:

- RCPP Match 1-pager
- NRCS RCPP program fact sheet
- RCPP state match funding spreadsheet

Location

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

Project Type

Grants

**471 - State Conservation Commission
Capital Project Request**

2023-25 Biennium

*

Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Grant Recipient Organization: Conservation Districts

RCW that establishes grant: 89.08/FarmBill

Application process used

Under federal guidelines, state, local and non-profit entities are allowed to submit applications to NRCS for RCPP consideration. Following review of the applications, NRCS will select proposals for final RCPP designation. Applications are scored on the availability of matching resources by partners and if no state funding match is available we may miss out on the opportunity to leverage state funding to millions of federal funds.

Growth Management impacts

Implementation projects support GMA critical area protection requirements within respective project areas.

Funding

| Acct Code | Account Title | Estimated Total | Expenditures | | 2023-25 Fiscal Period | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | Prior Biennium | Current Biennium | Reapprops | New Approps |
| 057-1 | State Bldg Constr-State | 27,000,000 | | | | 3,000,000 |
| | Total | 27,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,000,000 |
| Future Fiscal Periods | | | | | | |
| | | <u>2025-27</u> | <u>2027-29</u> | <u>2029-31</u> | <u>2031-33</u> | |
| 057-1 | State Bldg Constr-State | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | |
| | Total | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | |

Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact

Narrative

This is pass through match funding for federal RCPP grant.

Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Entered As</u> | <u>Interpreted As</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Biennium | 2023-25 | 2023-25 |
| Agency | 471 | 471 |
| Version | SC-A | SC-A |
| Project Classification | * | All Project Classifications |
| Capital Project Number | 40000040 | 40000040 |
| Sort Order | Project Priority | Priority |
| Include Page Numbers | Y | Yes |
| For Word or Excel | N | N |
| User Group | Agency Budget | Agency Budget |
| User Id | * | All User Ids |



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Washington State Projects



2016

Greater Spokane River Watershed Implementation

Lead Partner: Spokane Conservation District

Significant sources of sediments and nutrients are carried to the Spokane River watershed by its larger tributaries, and low dissolved oxygen levels and algae blooms threaten aquatic life in the Spokane River, Lake Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Lake. Reducing nutrients is key to resolving water quality degradation throughout the Greater Spokane River Bi-State Watershed. TMDL and lake management implementation plans stress the need to address agriculture and forestry within these watersheds. This project supports regional momentum towards adoption of conservation tillage operations and best management practices. Tens of thousands of agricultural and forestry acres, including a tribal farm, will benefit through voluntary NRCS programs.

WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery & Water Quality

Lead Partner: Whatcom Conservation District

The Nooksack watershed is in the top three percent of agricultural producing counties in the nation and has threatened or salmon species and imperiled shellfish harvest areas. Partners have recruited twenty-two landowners ready to implement priority projects remedying inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife in the Nooksack River watershed in North Puget Sound, Washington State. Partners will work with producers to: replace culverts on farm access roads, restoring fish passages in agricultural and rural areas; work with Tribes to construct instream wooden structures to provide habitat for salmon; and integrate and publicize NRCS programs into the rural, agricultural and Tribal communities. The result will be higher priority and more strategic projects to recover salmon and improve water quality in downstream commercial, ceremonial and subsistence shellfish beds operated by the Lummi Nation.

2017

Puyallup Watershed Partnership

Lead Partner: Pierce Conservation District

Through the Puyallup Watershed Partnership, the Pierce Conservation District and ten diverse partners will assist landowners with permanent conservation easements and implement restoration activities through Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding assistance. The Puyallup in Washington contains the only remaining prime soils in Pierce County, is home to one of the most urban tribal reservations, and provides essential habitat for Endangered Species Act listed species of coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Since 2002, Pierce County has lost almost 10,000 acres of farmland, nearly five times the state average, due to rapidly encroaching development from the Seattle/Tacoma metropolitan area. That loss not only impacts farmers and food security but also diminishes the ecosystem benefits that farmland provides to water and soil quality.

Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway

Lead Partner: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

The Yakima Integrated Plan will accelerate the recovery of threatened Middle Columbia steelhead by targeting high priority watersheds which currently produce more than 50% of the wild steelhead run in the Yakima River Basin. These actions will also increase water supply and water quality for environmental, economic and cultural purposes. This project will fund actions supported by diverse partners to enact holistic, innovative solutions to natural resource conservation issues. These actions will restore fish habitat in over 50 miles of channels across 2,500 acres; restore riparian vegetation on over 10 miles of stream banks; enhance fish access to over 480 acres of aquatic habitat; increase water retention in 2,000 acres of ephemeral channels; and improve grazing management across 3,500 floodplain acres and 34,000 upland grazing acres. In addition, the project will target over 30,000 acres for irrigation efficiency enhancements, over 25,000 acres for Conservation Stewardship practices and protect 500 acres of floodplain farmland through easements. Monitoring of these actions will occur through existing programs. The project stems from extensive collaborative efforts in recent years by Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Workgroup, which represents over 20 stakeholders from environmental, agricultural, and tribal interests working to restore habitat and conserve water resources in the Yakima Basin.



Washington
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Resources
Conservation
Service



2017 *(cont.)*

Southwest Washington Nonindustrial Private Forest Conservation Partnership

Lead Partner: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Non-industrial private forest lands in southwest Washington are important to the regional and state economies. In addition to timber harvest, these working forests provide many functions including: fish and wildlife habitat, protection of water quality, flood reduction, recreational opportunities and carbon sequestration to help combat climate change. The project area includes Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Lewis Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz and Clark Counties. Washington Department of Natural Resources and conservation districts will conduct outreach and education activities and provide technical assistance to NIPF owners to develop and implement stewardship plans with funding from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program. Washington State Conservation Commission will distribute NRCS technical assistance funding to the conservation districts.

2018

Whatcom County Working Lands Conserving Watersheds

Lead Partner: Whatcom County

Whatcom County Working Lands Conserving Watersheds aims to protect working lands within identified priority watersheds in Whatcom County to help to stabilize the critical land base needed to maintain a long-term commercially significant agriculture industry. Many parcels within the priority watersheds are at risk of being developed to the degree where neither agriculture nor full ecosystem function can occur. Working Lands Conserving Watersheds will provide Whatcom County landowners financial incentives needed to keep their lands in production and will require actions are taken to address identified resource concerns.

2019

Poop Smart Clark

Lead Partner: Clark Conservation District

Cradled in the bend of the Columbia River, Clark County is a county of contradictions: tidy small farms, exploding development, scenic recreational areas - and polluted waters. Clark CD has worked tirelessly to improve water quality and now, through a new partnership, proposes to target resource concerns in a fresh way. The Poop Smart Clark RCPP is a Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program that utilizes expertise from local agencies and nonprofits to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria runoff in Clark County. Through pollution source identification, targeted outreach, education, and implementation of on-the-ground practices, Poop Smart Clark connects landowners with the tools they need to correct pollution, drive social change and spur adoption of better management practices.

Palouse River Implementation Partnership WRIA 34

Lead Partner: Palouse Conservation District

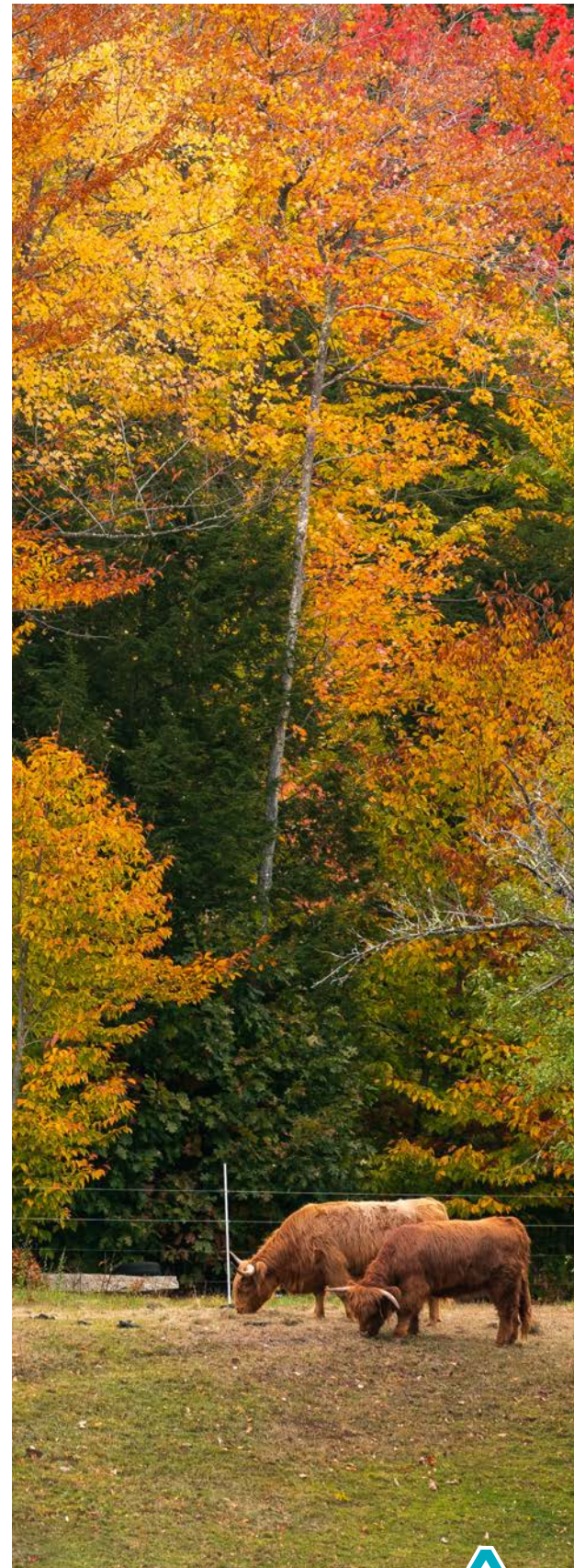
The Palouse River Watershed spans over five counties in Washington and Idaho and encompasses both fertile agriculture land and critical habitat for fish and wildlife. The goals of the Palouse River Watershed RCPP are to implement best management practices that address resource concerns associated with water quality, soil health, and at-risk wildlife habitat within the Palouse Watershed. The Palouse RCPP will continue to meet deliverables under the same scope of geographic area and natural resource concerns.

2020-21

2243 WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery and Water Quality

Lead Partner: Whatcom Conservation District

Salmon and Orca recovery is the most critical conservation challenge in the Pacific Northwest. ESA listed species are critical to the economy of the region and to the culture, subsistence, and economic wellbeing of Native American Tribes. The Nooksack River is the northern most river in the Puget Sound Basin of Washington State. The upper watershed is largely intact and some of the most productive farmland in the world is found in the lower watershed.





2020 - 2021 *(cont.)*

2382 Nooksack Watershed Restoration

Lead Partner: Lummi Nation

The goal of the Nooksack Watershed Restoration Project is to address the natural resource concerns of inadequate aquatic habitat for fish and water quality degradation. The project will restore fluvial processes to improve ESA-listed salmonid spawning, rearing and holding habitat while increasing low flow and thermal refugia. Project objectives focus on root causes of habitat degradation, namely the lack of large, stable log jams that maintain habitat-forming processes. The project addresses habitat limiting factors identified in the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan (lack of key habitats, low habitat diversity, high water temperature, high channel instability, and elevated fine sediment). This project consists of five restoration projects split between two tribal partners - Lummi Natural Resources and Nooksack Natural Resources - working to recover two native chinook salmon populations essential to the recovery of ESA-listed Puget Sound chinook. Project objectives focus on the root causes of inadequate aquatic habitat for fish and water quality degradation, namely the lack of large, stable log jams that maintain habitat-forming processes. We will install 92 engineered logjams (ELJs), 55 feet of flood fencing, remove or lower 1,850 linear feet of riprap levee, and plant 38.05 acres of riparian trees. 1. Increase key habitat quality and diversity by creating pools with engineered logjams (ELJs). 2. Increase length of secondary channels (near-term) and side channels (longer-term). 3. Increase the availability of cold-water refuges (areas over 2C cooler than ambient). 4. Increase rearing habitat by re-connecting, creating and/or enhancing wetland and/ or floodplain habitat. 5. Improve riparian forest conditions in and within 300 feet of the Historic Migration Zone.

2344 Fuel Break & forest Resilience Partnership

Lead Partner: Cascadia Conservation District

The goal of this project is to improve and reduce risk to habitat in Eastern Washington's Wenatchee Subbasin. The project will address priority resource concerns for the state including inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, water quality degradation, and drought conditions. Through partner collaboration and implementing conservation practices in strategic locations, fish and wildlife habitat will become more resilient to wildfire, pest damage, drought and disease. Cascadia will be project lead and partner with NRCS, state, local, and regional partners, to use RCPP flexibilities and innovative measures to incentivize landowner participation and increase environmental outcomes. The Wenatchee Valley is home to critical habitat for several endangered and sensitive species (ESA), as well as a thriving agricultural economy. Over 100 years of fire exclusion, past forest management, and development has resulted in an unhealthy forest landscape.

2326 Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership

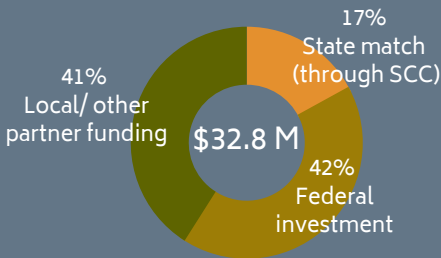
Lead Partner: Yakama Nation

This proposal addresses critical needs for integrated conservation and restoration of watersheds. The primary resource concerns are degradation of habitat, water quality and water quantity. This proposal will accelerate the recovery of Steelhead within the reservation and ceded lands of the Yakama Nation, including the Yakima, Klickitat, Rock and White Salmon River basins within the ESA designated Middle Columbia Steelhead ESU. These actions will also benefit multiple other aquatic and riparian species, including coho, chinook sockeye, Pacific lamprey, and important cultural plant species.



RCPP Matching Funds

A magnet for leveraged funds

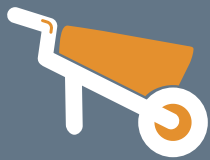


State match represents 17% of the five-year budgets for 7 RCPP projects. The remaining 83% (contingent on state match) from other federal partner contributions.



Leverage of 5 to 1

On average, every dollar of RCPP state match will leverage \$5 in federal and other partner contributions.



Putting Washington to Work

For each RCPP, multiple projects are constructed. Over the length of the project, the seven ongoing projects alone will generate over 1,000 jobs.

Funding requested: \$3 million

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program or RCPP is a Farm Bill program that awards federal funding to projects where multiple partners invest in cooperative action to solve natural resource issues in targeted areas. Grant awards require match, and the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) has been designated to pass-through state capital matching funds for successful RCPP recipients.

Why this can't wait

- RCPP is an efficient way for federal, state, tribal, and local partners to coordinate efforts and make landscape-scale improvements on urgent issues, including soil health, salmon and orca recovery, farmland preservation, drought resilience, and forest health.
- With the unprecedented investment of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds into RCPP, the opportunity to leverage these federal funds must not be missed.
- Partners of seven RCPP projects in Washington have already committed millions of federal and local funding to support their work. But they need state match to secure those commitments and make their budgets whole.
- Many of these five-year projects have been in progress for years and landowners have signed contracts to work with partners on actions that meet their goals. Without a state match, the project contracts won't be met, jeopardizing trust.

What does RCPP look like on the ground?



Installing fish-friendly screens on irrigation intakes.



Upgrading irrigation systems to more efficient sprinkler systems.



Removing fish barriers and replacing them with bridges that allow fish access.

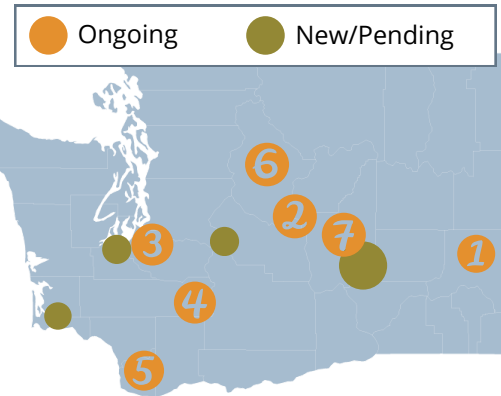
RCPP Projects in Washington

Ongoing Projects

- 1 Palouse River Implementation Partnership WRIA 34**
 - **Lead partner:** Palouse Conservation District
 - **Project:** Engaging agricultural producers (through incentives) to implement the Palouse River Watershed Management Plan. Thus improving water quality and soil health, and reducing regulatory action.
- 2 Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership**
 - **Lead partners:** Kittitas County Conservation District and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
 - **Projects:** Accelerating the recovery of the threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead by targeting high-priority watersheds, which produce more than 50% of the wild steelhead in the Yakima River Basin.
- 3 Puyallup Watershed Partnership**
 - **Lead partner:** Pierce Conservation District
 - **Project:** Working to permanently conserve 1,000 acres of prime farmland and assist landowners with restoration activities that enhance salmon habitat and preserve the economic and ecosystem benefits that farmland provides.
- 4 Southwest Washington Small Forest Lands Conservation Partnership**
 - **Lead partner:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - **Project:** Assisting small forest landowners with forest stewardship plans that improve habitat, protect water quality, improve forest resiliency and keep working forests working.
- 5 Poop Smart Clark Program**
 - **Lead partner:** Clark Conservation District
 - **Project:** Connecting landowners with the tools they need to drive social change, adopt better management practices and correct sources of sediment, nutrient and bacteria runoff in Clark County.
- 6 Fuel Break & Forestry Resiliency Partnership**
 - **Lead partner:** Cascadia Conservation District
 - **Project:** Increasing the scope and scale of wildfire risk reduction and wildlife enhancement projects in areas identified by DNR, US Forest Service, local utilities and fire districts as critical for restoring forest health and improving response to wildfire.
- 7 Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program**
 - **Lead partner:** Columbia Basin Conservation District
 - **Project:** Conserving 33,000 acre-feet of groundwater in the rapidly declining Odessa Aquifer each year through implementing on-farm irrigation systems that replace groundwater irrigation with Columbia River surface water.

RCPP projects that receive state match through SCC stretch across Washington improving natural resource conditions and generating over a thousand jobs for our communities.

Project Locations



Accomplishments



With assistance from Palouse River RCPP partners, farmers have started using soil-friendly conservation tillage on 80 square miles of land — that's an area almost the size of Seattle!

Testimonial



"I signed up for the reduced minimum tillage program to basically try to establish into a more no-till program for future years to maintain soil and organic matter. Working with the partners was easy... I'm hoping to see benefits like higher organic matter, which then may allow water to absorb into the ground and not run off, and to build up that long-term organic matter to hopefully see increased yields."

- Ryan Kile, Whitman County farmer

Commenting on his experience with the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District as part of the Palouse River Watershed RCPP.



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Match

Connections to Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda

Each RCPP is a locally built partnership of federal, state, and local organizations and entities to target and focus all available resources towards addressing priority natural resource concerns in a defined geographic area. We are working with two new pending RCPPs within the Puget Sound region; one led by the Thurston Conservation District and the other by the Grays Harbor Conservation District taking a regional approach to include work in the Puget Sound region. Two RCPP's are slated to wrap up by the end of FY24 in the Puget Sound region with SCC match funding as a portion of their overall budgets: Puyallup and Nisqually Watersheds Partnership, and Southwest Washington Small Forest Lands Conservation Partnership.

Puyallup & Nisqually Watersheds Partnership is working to conserve over 1,000 acres of prime farmland and assist landowners with restoration activities that enhance salmon habitat and preserve the economic and ecosystem benefits that farmland provides.

Southwest Washington Small Forest Lands Conservation Partnership is assisting small forest landowners with development and implementation of forest stewardship plans that improve habitat, protect water quality, improve forest resiliency, and keep working forests working. A new pending RCPP led by the Grays Harbor Conservation District, including portions of the Puget Sound region, proposes to continue this work by implementing the forest stewardship plans that have been completed under the original RCPP.

2022-2026 Action Agenda Alignment

○ Strategy 2: Working Lands

- Action: Reduce pressure for land conversion by supporting the long-term viability and sustainability of agricultural lands, including large and small parcel, hobby and working farms, and working forests through resilience and integrated management planning, improved incentives, and improved land use regulations.
 - Key Opportunity: Expand incentives and technical assistance for agricultural lands and owners of working forests.
 - Key Opportunity: Streamline and increase funds disbursement to support Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Action: Support the expansion of market mechanisms to increase long-term viability and reduce conversion pressure for working lands. (ID #194)
 - Key Opportunity: Expand transfer of development rights and easements.

Also included in implementation considerations for this strategy to integrate human wellbeing:

- Develop engagement strategies that educate and provide technical and financial assistance to support working lands and local food production.
- Promote working lands BMPs that also sequester carbon and increase resilience.

Ongoing Programs Contributing to:

- Farmland Presentation (WSCC)
- Sustainable Farms and Fields (WSCC)

Contributes towards the Land Development and Cover Implementation Strategy

- Support long-term viability of agricultural lands and working forests

○ Strategy 12: Working Lands Runoff

- Action: Facilitate the increased use or performance of best management practices to reduce pollutants and the volume of runoff from agricultural lands and working forests. (ID #5)
 - Key Opportunity: Ensure adequate funding and support for voluntary incentive-based programs.

- Action: Implement agricultural management practices proven to reduce nutrient loads. (ID #6)
 - Key Opportunity: Identify opportunities and priorities for technical assistance, implementing BMPs, and funding.
- Action: Expand and improve incentives and education for agricultural land users to motivate voluntary actions for reducing fecal pollution. (ID #7)
 - Key Opportunities
 - Adequately fund the work of voluntary and incentive-based programs;
 - Develop targeted outreach and engagement approaches to encourage land users to implement BMPs;
 - Support the implementation and monitoring of BMPs.
- Action: Facilitate the increased use or performance of best management practices, including increasing riparian restoration, to reduce stream temperatures. (ID #196)
 - Key Opportunities
 - Increase shade and amount of vegetation;
 - Remove invasive species;

Ongoing Programs Contributing to:

- Puget Sound Conservation Districts (WSSC)

Connections to Salmon Recovery Strategy Recommended Actions (statewide RCPPs)

- 1. Protect and restore vital salmon habitat.
 - Each RCPP works with agricultural producers and working forestland owners to implement BMPs to reduce and prevent runoff (sediment, chemicals, and nutrients) to improve water quality as well as achieve greater irrigation efficiencies to protect and enhance water quality for salmon and other threatened fish species. Protecting and restoring riparian buffers is also important work incorporated into RCPPs.
- 2. Invest in clean water infrastructure for salmon and people.
 - Each RCPP works to reduce nonpoint pollution from potential nutrient sources such as livestock.
 - *Implement nonpoint source “best management practices,” and nonpoint action plans.*
- 3. Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat.
 - Fish passage barrier corrections on private lands are commonly included as a component of the planned work under RCPPs.
- 7. Enhance commitments and coordination across agencies and programs.
 - The nature of RCPP is that it requires increased collaboration, coordination, and focusing of collective resources to put more conservation on the ground.
 - *Expand the collaborative, engagement processes with public and private sectors and interest groups that impact and influence salmon recovery (e.g., Columbia Basin Partnership, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan; Flooding, Farms and Fish; business and tech companies, etc.).*
 - *Expand collaborative engagement with local and state governments to coordinate salmon recovery actions, improve partnerships and enhance operational capacity to implement recovery programs.*
- 8. Strengthen science, monitoring, and accountability.
 - RCPP’s are required to include an environmental monitoring component of their scope of work. Palouse Conservation District’s RCPP is an excellent example of how RCPP can be utilized to strengthen monitoring.

Connections to Orca Task Force Recommendations (statewide RCPPs)

All RCPPs work in a voluntary manner to implement BMPs with private landowners with varying natural resource concern focuses dependent on the geographic area such as protecting and restoring habitat for salmonids and upland wildlife and protecting and improving water quality from potential nonpoint sources of pollution. RCPP connections to actions recommended by the Orca Task Force include:

- 5. Develop incentives to encourage voluntary actions to protect habitat.
- 40. Better align existing nonpoint programs with nutrient reduction activities and explore new ways to achieve the necessary nonpoint source nutrient reductions

| District/Entity Name | RCPP Time Frame 5-6 year | RCPP Name | NRCS Award | Original/Updated Match Request | Estimated Match need remaining (23-beyond) | Total Expenditures | Total Obligated |
|---|--|--|------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|
| CASCADIA CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2021-2025 | Fuel Break and Forest Resiliency Partnership | \$ 2,795,992.00 | \$ 625,735.00 | \$ 185,475.00 | \$ 166,935.54 | \$ 440,260.00 |
| SPOKANE CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2016-2020 + 2021 (1 year extension) | Greater Spokane River Watershed Implementation - Spokane CD | \$ 7,700,000.00 | \$ 3,180,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 3,026,407.60 | \$ 3,179,718.43 |
| PALOUSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2014-2019 + (1 year extension) 2022-2028 | Palouse River Watershed Implementation Project | \$ 11,000,000.00 | \$ 7,615,796.00 | \$ 1,913,574.00 | \$ 3,876,740.00 | \$ 6,702,212.00 |
| AMERICAN FARM LAND TRUST | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 155,773.05 | \$ 194,500.00 |
| CLALLAM CONSERVATION DISTRICT | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 92,487.64 | \$ 94,340.00 |
| KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 55,395.15 | \$ 77,500.00 |
| SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS | 2014-2021 | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | \$ 9,000,000.00 | \$ 9,000,000 | \$ - | \$ 47,728.42 | \$ 92,500.00 |
| SKAGIT SOIL & WATER CONSERV DIST | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 328,172.49 | \$ 402,774.38 |
| SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 1,476,180.01 | \$ 1,763,500.00 |
| WHATCOM CONSERVATION DISTRICT | | Precision Conservation for Salmon and Water Quality in the Puget Sound | | | | \$ 33,949.13 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| GRAY'S HARBOR CONSERVATION DIST | 2018-2023 | Southwest WA Non-Industrial Private Forest Conservation Partnership | | \$ 617,384.00 | \$ - | \$ 597,358.19 | \$ 617,384.00 |
| MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2018-2023 | Southwest WA Non-Industrial Private Forest Conservation Partnership | \$ 2,410,000.00 | \$ 617,384.00 | \$ - | \$ 442,715.12 | \$ 617,384.00 |
| CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2018-2023 | Southwest WA Non-Industrial Private Forest Conservation Partnership | | \$ 617,384.00 | \$ - | \$ 570,208.22 | \$ 617,384.00 |
| CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2023-2025 | Poop Smart Cows | \$ 1,400,000.00 | \$ 2,215,000.00 | \$ 1,427,795.00 | \$ 275,772.19 | \$ 787,285.00 |
| BERGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT | 2018-2023 | Puyallup Watershed Ag Preservation & Salmon Recovery Partnership | \$ 8,000,000.00 | \$ 3,000,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,555,074.89 | \$ 3,000,000.00 |
| TROUT UNLIMITED | 2015-2019 | Upper Columbia Irrigation Enhancement Project | \$ 1,900,000.00 | \$ 2,900,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,899,938.90 | \$ 2,900,000.00 |
| KITTITAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DIS | 2017-2023 | Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway Project | \$ 7,540,740.00 | \$ 1,669,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 965,358.08 | \$ 1,669,000.00 |
| KITTITAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DIS | 2021-2026 | Mid Columbia Steelhead Partnership | \$ 6,781,670.00 | \$ 2,088,078.00 | \$ 807,147.00 | 461038.8 | \$ 1,280,931.00 |
| Columbia Basin Conservation District | 2022-2027 | Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program Lateral 80.6 and 84.7 On-Farm Project | \$ 6,000,000.00 | 150,000 | 150,000 | \$ - | \$ - |
| Columbia Basin Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | OGWRP EL 80.6 system | Pending Award | 250,000 | 250,000 | | |
| Columbia Basin Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | OGWRP EL 84.7 system | Pending Award | 250,000 | 250,000 | | |
| Columbia Basin Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | OGWRP EL 86.4 on-farm work | Pending Award | 40,000 | 40,000 | | |
| Columbia Basin Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | OGWRP EL 22.1 on-farm work | Pending Award | 40,000 | 40,000 | | |
| Grays Harbor Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | Southwest Washington Forestry Implementation | Pending Award | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | | |
| Kittitas County Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | Kittitas County Irrigation Efficiencies | Pending Award | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | | |
| Thurston Conservation District | 2023-2028 *Pending NRCS Award | Thurston CD RCPP TBD | Pending Award | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | | |
| Indicates the conservation district is the lead | | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | \$ 64,528,402.00 | \$ 41,375,751.00 | \$ 11,063,991.00 | \$ 17,027,230.63 | \$ 23,486,592.81 |

Closed out

Closed out

Closed out

This looks like we have over obligated, but we have had returned funds from projects that have been closed out.

471 - State Conservation Commission Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2024

Project Class: Grant

Agency Priority: 0

Project Summary

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) originated with the 2014 Farm Bill and evolved in the 2018 Farm Bill. With the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), millions of additional dollars have been added to the RCPP opportunity. RCPP awards are five-year agreements that require partnership and coordination between the NRCS and multiple state and local partners to deliver conservation technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and landowners, combining federal Farm Bill programs, unprecedented IRA investment, and partner contributions for amplified and focused delivery of conservation programs at the local level. Local entities, such as conservation districts, submit proposals to NRCS for review and approval as part of the competitive application process. There are currently seven RCPPs ongoing in Washington reliant upon state match funding to make their overall conservation projects budgets whole. Additionally, ten new RCPP proposals are pending as well. Without state match funding these current RCPPs cannot complete the conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, cannot fulfil contractual obligations with private landowners, and cannot meet the requirements of and could lose their federal grant awards. The new pending RCPPs will not be able to begin work if awarded funds by the NRCS without this state match funding, delaying their overall RCPPs for 18 months or more. This is a significant amount of time to delay in a program that only allows for five federal fiscal years to be completed.

Project Description

What is the problem/opportunity? Identify: priority, underserved people/communities, operating budget savings, public safety improvements & clarifying details. Preservation projects: include information about the current condition of the facility/system.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) originated with the 2014 Farm Bill and evolved in the 2018 Farm Bill. With the passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), millions of additional dollars have been added to the RCPP opportunity. RCPP awards are five-year agreements that require partnership and coordination between the NRCS and multiple state and local partners to deliver conservation technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and landowners, combining federal Farm Bill programs, unprecedented IRA investment, and partner contributions for amplified and focused delivery of conservation programs at the local level. Local entities, such as conservation districts, submit proposals to NRCS for review and approval as part of the competitive application process. There are currently seven RCPPs ongoing in Washington reliant upon state match funding to make their overall conservation projects budgets whole. Additionally, ten new RCPP proposals are pending as well. Without state match funding these current RCPPs cannot complete the conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, cannot fulfil contractual obligations with private landowners, and cannot meet the requirements of and could lose their federal grant awards. The new pending RCPPs will not be able to begin work if awarded funds by the NRCS without this state match funding, delaying their overall RCPPs for 18 months or more. This is a significant amount of time to delay in a program that only allows for five federal fiscal years to be completed.

This supplemental budget request would provide minimum adequate state match funding for seven currently approved and ten new pending RCPP projects. This request is for \$3,000,000 for the remainder of the 2023-25 biennium. In prior fiscal years of RCPP implementation in Washington, the state legislative appropriations for match return on investment has been a leverage factor of 6. For every .15 cents of state match investment, we are leveraging .85 cents of federal and local funding. It is vitally important that the momentum and project implementation schedules be maintained to enable maximum natural resource conservation impact and leveraging of federal and local dollars.

What will the request produce or construct (predesign/design of a building, additional space, etc.)? When will the project start/end? Identify if the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request. Provide detailed cost backup.

Each of the seven RCPPs has ongoing conservation projects underway and are poised to install additional conservation projects if state match funding is made available. If awarded federal funds, ten new RCPPs will be ready to hit the ground

471 - State Conservation Commission Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

running. Potential projects and practices include: exclusion fencing to keep cattle out of streams to improve water quality and habitat for at-risk salmonid species; installation of riparian buffers to benefit water quality, fish and wildlife habitat; correcting fish passage barriers, reducing stormwater runoff from forest roads to streams, manure and nutrient management systems to improve the quality of surface and ground water; irrigation water efficiencies to conserve the resource for fish-passage streams and minimize effects of drought and climate change; easement acquisition to preserve farmland and forested wildlife habitat; direct seed drilling techniques to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation of rivers; improve precipitation infiltration and storage, and sequester carbon; and improve forest health, there by minimizing threats of catastrophic wildfires and subsequent impacts to upland habitat and surface waters.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified in question 1? What would be the result of not taking action?

The requested state match funding for the current RCPPs would allow completion of conservation projects that have been under development for several years at this point, enable fulfillment of contractual obligations with private landowners for conservation practices and conservation easements, and support each RCPP in meeting the requirements of their federal grant awards. Completion of each RCPPs plan of work would also assist each RCPP to be eligible for a renewal of the RCPP for further conservation work to get done on the ground and additional leveraging of funding to occur. Additionally, new RCPP proposals are pending with USDA NRCS right now that will not be able to begin vital work without this investment of state matching funds.

The results of not taking action and providing this essential state match funding to the RCPPs would be: loss of federal and local leveraged funding, inability to complete conservation projects and establish conservation easements, inability to fulfill current obligations with landowners implementing conservation practices, and loss of the competitive edge for the new, pending RCPPs that have submitted applications to NRCS.

What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen? Be prepared to provide detailed cost backup. If this project has an associated predesign, please summarize the alternatives the predesign considered.

This supplemental budget request to support ongoing and new, pending RCPPs capitalizes on efficiencies of a coordinated, targeted, partnership approach with extensive leveraging of other funding sources to implement conservation on the ground across the state. RCPP is the best option because prior disjointed, uncoordinated approaches missed resource leveraging opportunities and did not achieve the rate of conservation adoption and implementation that the seven ongoing RCPPs (and four concluded RCPPs) have achieved to date. The ten new pending RCPPs will have no chance at all to leverage federal and local dollars to achieve conservation without the state investment to make their project budgets whole.

Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc.

There are two levels of positive impacts dependent upon this supplemental budget request. The first level will be realized by RCPP project leads who will be able to continue the important natural resource conservation work that is underway to implement a wide variety of necessary conservation practices across landscapes. Additionally, new RCPPs will be able to begin work and make the most of their RCPP lifespan. The second level of positive impact will be felt by landowners and agricultural producers participating in these RCPPs who will be able to continue participation as well as new participants can be provided with technical and financial assistance to implement additional projects. It is difficult to make a prediction as to how many clients may be served by each of the RCPPs because each has a different partnership structure and is focusing on addressing different, locally prioritized, natural resource concerns. However, it is clear that no clients may be served if sufficient state match funding is not made available and the federal and local funds are lost.

Does this project or program leverage non-state funding? If yes, how much by source? If the other funding source requires cost share, also include the minimum state (or other) share OF project cost allowable and the supporting citation or documentation.

Yes, multiple sources of funding are leveraged in each RCPP to achieve maximum conservation implementation on the ground. In fact, for every .15 cents of state match funding spent by the RCPPs, .85 cents have been leveraged of federal and local contributing funds in prior years of RCPP implementation. This leveraging will continue at least at the prior rate but may increase as additional sources of funding (e.g., IRA dollars) and new partners are continuously sought out.

Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance.

471 - State Conservation Commission Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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Version: SC 2023-2025 Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming and other analyses as appropriate.

RCPP directly supports the State Conservation Commission’s strategic plan component of coordinated statewide conservation program delivery. Also, each individual RCPP has incorporated local and regional watershed planning, TMDL plans, salmon recovery plans, Washington State Wildlife Action Plan, the Northwest Forest Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plans, Voluntary Stewardship Plans, and other studies and plans already in existence and as appropriate to focus, target, and leverage RCPP funding to amplify conservation project implementation.

Does this project include IT related costs, including hardware, software, cloudbased services, contracts or staff? If yes, attach IT Addendum.

N/A

If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail. See Chapter 12 Puget Sound Recovery) in the 2021-23 Operating Budget Instructions.

See attached document for connections to the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and other statewide priorities.

How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.050, Clean Buildings performance standards in RCW 19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve efficiency?

Implementation of RCPP conservation projects contribute to reduced carbon pollution by improving soil health and encouraging conservation tillage practices and thus sequestering additional carbon in the soil. The Palouse River Watershed Implementation Partnership and the Fuel Break and Forest Resiliency Partnership are two RCPPs where the completed projects could contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Each of the RCPPs in Washington are unique and it is not possible to state with certainty that all of the RCPP’s work would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each one has a different resource concern(s) identified to focus upon.

How does this project impact equity in the state? Which communities are impacted by this proposal? Include both demographic and geographic communities. How are disparities in communities impacted?

Each RCPP is a targeted and focused investment of federal, state, and local dollars. Due to the targeted nature of an RCPP, the potential participants within the defined geographic scope of each one has a greater opportunity to participate and benefit from the technical and financial assistance made available than if an individual were to have to compete regionally or statewide for similar assistance. An RCPP can help to address disparities in local communities by working to provide additional assistance to overcome obstacles to participation. This is possible because of the smaller, defined geography of an RCPP. Historically under-served and vulnerable populations may receive additional assistance to overcome the federal program hurdles of paperwork and hoops to jump through with additional guidance and assistance by local RCPP participating partners, especially the conservation districts. The geographic areas of focus for each of the ongoing RCPPs and locations for pending RCPPs is shown on the attached 1-pager.

Is there additional information you would like decision makers to know when evaluating this request?

Please see attached:

- RCPP Match 1-pager
- NRCS RCPP program fact sheet
- RCPP state match funding spreadsheet

Location

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

Project Type

Grants

**471 - State Conservation Commission
Capital Project Request**

2023-25 Biennium

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Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/11/2023 12:13PM

Project Number: 40000040

Project Title: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Description

Grant Recipient Organization: Conservation Districts

RCW that establishes grant: 89.08/FarmBill

Application process used

Under federal guidelines, state, local and non-profit entities are allowed to submit applications to NRCS for RCPP consideration. Following review of the applications, NRCS will select proposals for final RCPP designation. Applications are scored on the availability of matching resources by partners and if no state funding match is available we may miss out on the opportunity to leverage state funding to millions of federal funds.

Growth Management impacts

Implementation projects support GMA critical area protection requirements within respective project areas.

Funding

| Acct Code | Account Title | Estimated Total | Expenditures | | 2023-25 Fiscal Period | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | Prior Biennium | Current Biennium | Reapprops | New Approps |
| 057-1 | State Bldg Constr-State | 27,000,000 | | | | 3,000,000 |
| | Total | 27,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,000,000 |
| Future Fiscal Periods | | | | | | |
| | | 2025-27 | 2027-29 | 2029-31 | 2031-33 | |
| 057-1 | State Bldg Constr-State | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | |
| | Total | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | |

Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact

Narrative

This is pass through match funding for federal RCPP grant.

Capital Project Request

2023-25 Biennium

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| <u>Parameter</u> | <u>Entered As</u> | <u>Interpreted As</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Biennium | 2023-25 | 2023-25 |
| Agency | 471 | 471 |
| Version | SC-A | SC-A |
| Project Classification | * | All Project Classifications |
| Capital Project Number | 40000040 | 40000040 |
| Sort Order | Project Priority | Priority |
| Include Page Numbers | Y | Yes |
| For Word or Excel | N | N |
| User Group | Agency Budget | Agency Budget |
| User Id | * | All User Ids |

Expected Use of Bond/COP Proceeds

Agency No: 4710 **Agency Name** State Conservation Commission
Contact Name: Sarah Groth
Phone: (360) 790-3501 **Fax:** (360)407-6215
Fund(s) Number: 057 **Fund Name:** State Building Construction Account
Project Number: 40000040 **Project Title:** Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

(CREP Cost Share & TA)

Agencies are required to submit this form for all projects funded with Bonds or COPs, as applicable. OFM will collect and forward the forms to the Office of the State Treasurer.

1. Will any portion of the project or asset ever be owned by any entity other than the state or one of its agencies or departments? Yes No
2. Will any portion of the project or asset ever be leased to any entity other than the state or one of its agencies or departments? Yes No
3. Will any portion of the project or asset ever be managed or operated by any entity other than the state or one of its agencies or departments? Yes No
4. Will any portion of the project or asset be used to perform sponsored research under an agreement with a nongovernmental entity (business, non-profit entity, or the federal government), including any federal department or agency? Yes No
5. Does the project involve a public/private venture, or will any entity other than the state or one of its agencies or departments ever have a special priority or other right to use any portion of the project or asset to purchase or otherwise acquire any output of the project or asset such as electric power or water supply? Yes No
6. Will any portion of the Bond/COP proceeds be granted or transferred to nongovernmental entities (businesses, non-profit entities, or the federal government) or granted or transferred to other governmental entities which will use the grant for nongovernmental purposes? Yes No
7. If you have answered "Yes" to any of the questions above, will your agency or any other state agency receive any payments from any nongovernmental entity, for the use of, or in connection with, the project or assets? A nongovernmental entity is defined as
 - a. any person or private entity, such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or association;
 - b. any nonprofit corporation (including any 501(c)(3) organization); or
 - c. the federal governmental (including any federal department or agency). Yes No
8. Is any portion of the project or asset, or rights to any portion of the project or asset, expected to be sold to any entity other than the state or one of its agencies or departments? Yes No
9. Will any portion of the Bond/COP proceeds be loaned to nongovernmental entities or loaned to other governmental entities that will use the loan for nongovernmental purposes? Yes No
10. Will any portion of the Bond/COP proceeds be used for staff costs for tasks not directly related to a financed project(s)? Yes No

If all of the answers to the questions above are "No," request tax-exempt funding. If the answer to any of the questions is "Yes," contact your OFM capital analyst for further review.