

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2007-09 Expenditure Authority	1,594.2	99,971	367,869	467,840
Supplemental Changes				
Make Lake Roosevelt Water Available		8,180		8,180
Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting #	.5	218		218
Balance to Available Revenue			(2,456)	(2,456)
Kittitas County Groundwater Study		383		383
Shoreline Grants-Fiscal Year Split				
Watershed Grants-Fiscal Year Split				
Assess/Clean Up Hanford Groundwater	1.3		439	439
Standby Rescue Tug			2,000	2,000
Correct Climate Change Fiscal Year Split				
Implementing Climate Change	1.3	714		714
Covenants for Cleanup Sites			288	288
Maintain Well Construction Services	.9		155	155
Puget Sound Toxic Pollution Sources			310	310
Puget Sound/Coastal Monitoring	1.0		305	305
Flood Control Emergency Grants			200	200
Online Recruiting Service		38	58	96
Pension Plan 1 COLA Funding		16	34	50
PEBB Rate Reduction		(919)	(2,030)	(2,949)
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	4.9	8,630	(697)	7,933
Total Proposed Budget	1,599.1	108,601	367,172	475,773
Difference	4.9	8,630	(697)	7,933
Percent Change	0.3%	8.6%	(0.2)%	1.7%

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Make Lake Roosevelt Water Available

The Department of Ecology (DOE) recently concluded negotiations on an agreement with tribal governments in northeastern Washington to make additional water available for users and streamflows in eastern Washington. Ongoing funding in the amount of \$6.03 million is provided for payments to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians to facilitate a drawdown from Lake Roosevelt for fisheries enhancement, related cultural resources mitigation, and water resource planning activities. An additional \$2.15 million is provided on a one-time basis for payments to local governments to mitigate possible adverse impacts from the loss of available water, and to research options for addressing associated water rights impacts.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting #

Executive Order 07-02 (Climate Change Challenge) and RCW 80.80.020 establish goals for statewide reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The first milestone is returning the state to 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. An important tool for reducing greenhouse gas production will be a mechanism to track emissions from major sources. Pending enactment of department request legislation, ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided to negotiate and adopt a mandatory greenhouse gas reporting rule that would apply to entities responsible for annual emissions greater than 25,000 metric tons or, for motor vehicle operations, 2,500 metric tons.

Balance to Available Revenue

Expenditure authority in a variety of dedicated accounts is reduced on an ongoing basis to match anticipated revenue collections. Because of these reductions, the agency will do less work in such areas as air pollution regulation, polluted water clean-up studies and planning, stormwater runoff technical assistance and regulation, and wastewater discharge technical assistance and regulation. (Water Quality Permit Account-State, Air Operating Permit Account-State, Environmental Excellence Account-State)

Kittitas County Groundwater Study

Availability of ground water in the upper Kittitas region of Central Washington has been a long-standing issue. Senior water right holders in the area are concerned that the large number of new drinking-water wells drilled each year could put their own water rights at risk during times of drought. A groundwater study will be conducted by the Department of Ecology and Kittitas County to determine the impacts of new well construction on the aquifer and nearby surface waters. Ongoing funding is provided for Kittitas County's participation in the study.

Shoreline Grants-Fiscal Year Split

Local government shoreline master programs provide the policy and regulatory framework for land use along much of the state's shorelines. Efforts to update these master programs are underway to conform with new guidelines adopted by the Department of Ecology in 2003. The Department provides financial assistance grants to local governments for this purpose. During the 2007-09 Biennium, \$2,500,000 was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2008 and \$2,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2009 for shoreline master program grants, all General Fund-State. While grant agreements will be signed with local governments and funds obligated, the full appropriation will not be spent in the first fiscal year. The total biennial appropriation level, workload, fund source, and grants provided will stay the same, but the fiscal year expenditure split is adjusted on a one-time basis by moving \$500,000 from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2009.

Watershed Grants-Fiscal Year Split

The Watershed Planning Act provides a framework for local citizens, in collaboration with local, state, and tribal governments, to develop watershed plans that address the future water needs of their communities. DOE provides financial assistance grants to local governments to create and implement these plans. While grant agreements will be signed with local governments and funds obligated, it is likely the full appropriation will not be spent in the first fiscal year. The total biennial appropriation level, workload, fund sources, and grants provided will stay the same, but the fiscal year expenditure split is adjusted on a one-time basis by moving \$300,000 of the General Fund-State appropriation and \$1,200,000 of the Water Quality Account-State appropriation from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2009. (General Fund-State, Water Quality Account-State)

Assess/Clean Up Hanford Groundwater

The U.S. Department of Energy has reprioritized cleanup work at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, with a new emphasis on risk assessment and groundwater cleanup. Ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided for risk assessments and hydrogeological investigations in support of integrated cleanup and closure of the 18 Hanford tank farms and 30 surrounding contaminated areas consisting of over 1,000 individual waste disposal sites. These efforts, which are fully covered by new federal funding and fee-generated revenue, will enhance the state's ability to assess the risks to, and its ability to protect, human health and the environment. (General Fund-Federal; State Toxics Control Account-State)

Standby Rescue Tug

The standby rescue tug stationed at Neah Bay is a critical asset that reduces the risk of a catastrophic oil spill. Since 1999, the tug has responded 34 times to ships losing power or steering, or experiencing other problems. The 2007 Legislature provided funding for a standby rescue tug for Fiscal Year 2008, in anticipation of federal legislation establishing a permanent, industry-funded tug at the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but no state funding was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2009. Federal funding authority is provided for the remainder of the biennium in anticipation of federal action. (General Fund-Federal)

Correct Climate Change Fiscal Year Split

The Department of Ecology received funding in its 2007-09 budget to adopt rules establishing a greenhouse gas emissions performance standard and criteria for evaluating carbon-isolation plans. Chapter 307, Laws of 2007, required rules to be adopted by June 30, 2008. However, the funding for this rule making was split evenly between Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. This item shifts \$164,000 of the General Fund-State appropriation on a one-time basis from Fiscal Year 2009 to Fiscal Year 2008 to match the rule-adoption workload.

Implementing Climate Change

A combination of one-time and ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided in support of Governor Gregoire's commitment on climate change. These include participating in a multi-state process to develop a regional, market-based system for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and building climate change technical expertise.

Covenants for Cleanup Sites

Chapter 104, Laws of 2007, establishes new requirements in situations where environmental covenants (a form of deed restriction) are used to control the future use of toxic cleanup sites. However, only partial funding was provided to the Department for carrying out its new responsibilities under the Act. Ongoing funding is provided for the remaining costs to implement this bill. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Maintain Well Construction Services

The Department of Ecology and local health departments regulate well construction and decommissioning to protect public health and groundwater resources. The Department has experienced a significant increase in the volume of well drilling over the past four years and has begun the process of merging its well construction and licensing data systems to improve data accessibility and system reliability. A combination of one-time and ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided to improve customer service and license processing. (Reclamation Account-State)

Puget Sound Toxic Pollution Sources

Toxic contaminants continue to be discharged into Puget Sound, adversely impacting both ecological and human health. Contaminated sources must be analyzed in order to develop mitigation priorities. One contamination source is air-pollution fallout into marine waters. One-time funding is provided to estimate the contribution of priority toxic chemicals deposited in Puget Sound and nearby watersheds from fuel-related air emissions. (State Toxics Account-State)

Puget Sound/Coastal Monitoring

The state has made important commitments to salmon recovery and restoration of the health of Puget Sound by 2020. The state will need an outcome-monitoring program to establish a baseline and determine progress toward these goals. A combination of one-time and ongoing funding and full-time equivalent staff are provided in order to plan, establish, and begin a statistically valid sampling program in Puget Sound and on Washington's coastline. (Water Quality Account-State)

Flood Control Emergency Grants

The Department of Ecology provides grants and technical assistance to local governments for flood damage reduction projects and comprehensive flood hazard management plans. Local and state government grant spending from the Flood Control Assistance Account during the 2005-07 Biennium was less than estimated, resulting in additional dollars available in the ending fund balance for the biennium. One-time funding is made available for local emergency flood response grants during the 2007-09 Biennium. (Flood Control Assistance Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Online Recruiting Service

To support the state's online recruitment tool (E-Recruiting), additional funds are provided for a one-time charge from the Department of Personnel. This will improve the ability of agencies to manage their recruitment and hiring processes as required by the Personnel System Reform Act of 2002.

Pension Plan 1 COLA Funding

Funding was provided in the 2007-09 budget for the additional employer contributions to retirement systems required by modifications to the eligibility criteria for the uniform COLA in the Public Employees' Retirement System Plan 1 (PERS 1) and the Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1) in Senate Bill 5175. This item moves that funding from the State Employee Compensation Adjustments agency into individual agency budgets. (General Fund-State, other funds)

PEBB Rate Reduction

The state contributes 88 percent of the total weighted average of the employee health care premium and also pays for the cost of dental, life and long-term disability insurance. Total Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) expenditures for the 2007-09 Biennium are anticipated to be lower than budgeted because (1) health plan costs for calendar year 2008 are lower than expected, which will benefit both the state and its employees; (2) the Uniform Medical Plan continues to perform better than projected; and (3) funding was removed from the PEBB administrative cost allocation for an information technology system replacement due to the restrictive nature of federal funding. The state employer contribution rate will be reduced from \$732 per month to \$575 per month. This one-time reduction will leave an unrestricted fund balance of \$19.2 million at the end of Fiscal Year 2009. (General Fund-State, various other funds).