



Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

2019 State Legislative Priorities

The Mountains to Sound Greenway, stretching across the Cascades from Seattle to Central Washington, stands out as a national model for achieving synergy between conservation and economic development. Since 1991, a broad coalition of government, business, and nonprofit organizations have worked together to protect and improve access to public lands in and around Greenway communities.



Operating Budget

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

WSPRC request \$197 million
Governor's proposal \$187 million

Additional public investment in State Parks is needed in order to maintain trails and facilities while enhancing hospitality services to the growing numbers of visitors who spend tourism dollars that support our state. This funding affects more than 100 parks and heritage sites, from Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail to Lake Sammamish State Park. While the Governor's budget does not fully fund the Commission's request, it adds stability with \$10 million in ongoing rather than one-time tax support and increases front-line park staff.

Department of Natural Resources

Wildfire, Forest Health

DNR Request \$38 million
Governor's budget \$14.2 million

DNR needs a transformational budget package to fight wildfires and improve forest health across the state. In 2018, DNR has responded to more than 1,700 wildfires with nearly 39 percent occurring west of the mountains. This record high number of wildfires resulted in a loss of property, poor air quality, evacuations and economic hardship for families and businesses. The Governor's proposed budget could leave both the communities and the landscapes vulnerable in Central and Eastern Washington including the Teanaway Community Forest, Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, and the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. While these are the areas that are directly impacted by wildfire, the surrounding region experiences the poor air quality making this a state-wide concern.

Rural Communities & Trust Health

DNR Request \$10 million
Governor's budget \$1.7 million

includes \$3.8 million for Outdoor Recreation and Community Engagement

A \$10 million package will ensure that state-owned lands managed by DNR produce maximum, sustainable revenues for trust beneficiaries and create economic opportunities in rural Washington. Many communities in rural Washington rely heavily on public recreation on state trust lands to support tourism industries. Washington's outdoor recreation industry provides 200,000 jobs and generates \$2 billion in annual economic activity. While DNR has received funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office to develop new recreation opportunities, maintenance funding from this package is needed to ensure recreation sites in Yakima and Ellensburg are safe and accessible to all.

Capital Budget

Recreation & Conservation Office

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

\$130 million/\$115 million

WWRP is the largest source of funding for recreation and conservation in Washington. Funding for this competitive grant program would provide matching funds for new local parks, farmland preservation, critical habitat protection, new trails, and water access projects across the state. The Governor's proposal would allow forest acquisition in and around the Raging River to chinook salmon and steelhead habitat, development to begin at Tennant trailhead, Trail development in east Tiger mountain, and habitat restoration in L.T. Murray Wildlife Area.

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Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

\$88.9 million/\$85 million

This funding focuses exclusively on protecting and restoring salmon habitat statewide. Projects are developed locally and evaluated to assess if and how well each project will implement priorities addressed in federally-adopted salmon recovery plans. Without matching dollars from SRFB, critical salmon habitat projects across the state would be unable to take advantage of significant federal funding.

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR)

\$79.6 million/\$42.5 million

PSAR funds implementation of the highest priority habitat and restoration priorities throughout Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership works with local entities to identify and prioritize the most effective projects to restore salmon populations. Priorities for this session include floodplain restoration for Cedar River and salmon habitat restoration on the Green River in Kent. The Governor's proposal will allow these critical restoration projects to see fruition.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting current demand, building a solid future

\$96 million/\$59 million

State Parks' capital request for facilities development and improvements will go towards protecting the state's investment in its legacy state park system. Renovations, rehabilitations and upgrades of buildings and water, sewer and electric systems will improve facility condition in more than 80 parks. This includes improvements to the Palouse to Cascades Trail and the rehabilitation of the Beverly Bridge that will help connect a 224-mile trail across the state of Washington.

Department of Natural Resources

Sustainable Recreation

\$8.5 million/\$2.5 million

Recreation-seekers are visiting DNR lands in record numbers, requiring safety, sanitation, and ecological improvements as well as well-managed recreation facilities to ensure the long-term sustainability of state lands. High-use sites such as Tiger Mountain, and Raging River state forests, as well as community trail connections on Grand Ridge and Mitchell Hill, will receive much-needed recreation infrastructure.

Puget Sound Corps

\$8 million/\$5.5 million

The Puget Sound Corps employs veterans and young adults to restore the health of waterways and forests, providing job training in a diverse set of land management skills building trails in parks and forests.

Natural Areas Facilities

\$7 million/\$2 million

The funding would enhance DNR's ability to manage access facilities to Washington's best remaining examples of ecological communities including rare plants and animal habitats. Access facilities such as trails or day use areas offer opportunities for recreation, outdoor education, and research in areas like the Mt Si and Middle Fork NRCAs.

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program

\$6 million/\$1.5 million

This program provides financial compensation to forest landowners for permanent conservation easements of essential riparian forests within critical floodplain and forest habitat areas for state-listed threatened or endangered species.

Teaway Community Forest

\$1.8 million/\$1 million

This new, locally-driven model of land management facilitates partnerships with many others to collaboratively improve watershed health, sustainable recreation, wildlife and habitat restoration, and the economic benefits of a working forest. Funding will allow implementation of a community-driven management plan for the forest.

Office Department of Ecology

Floodplains by Design Program

\$70 million/\$42.8 million

This program works to reduce flood risk and restore habitat along Washington's major rivers by leveraging funds and completing priority flood management projects across the state.

