



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition

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Organization's General Goals:

The Coalition is a nonprofit organization that leverages the voices of a large and diverse group of allied interests working together to obtain public funding for new local and state parks, wildlife habitat, and preservation of working farm and forest lands.

Date of Award:	Level:
2018 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition.

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Washington
**Wildlife &
 Recreation**
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christine B. Mahler

*Deceased

August 28, 2019

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
 Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
 8802 27th Ave NE
 Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn,

Thanks to generous financial support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition is celebrating our 30th year of successful advocacy and outreach and is looking forward to the future of Washington's great outdoors!

Why was this year so special? The 2019-2021 Capital Construction budget included a near record-setting \$85 million in funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). This is the second highest amount of funding allocated to the WWRP since the program was created 30 years ago, and an admirable feat in a particularly challenging budget year.

So what does \$85 million mean for Washington? It means that communities across the state, from Clallam County to Asotin County are able to invest in important projects that develop new recreation areas, protect vulnerable waterways and wildlife habitats, and preserve working farms that supply nutritious, locally-grown foods to our families. Thanks to this robust funding, more than 120 recreation projects will become a reality, with 8 of those projects improving local communities within Snohomish County.

Success like this is only possible with generous support, like that from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund. The Coalition works diligently to ensure this robust funding continues to help communities across the state make improvements that enhance the quality of life for all residents. In fact, we're proud to report that for every \$1 invested in the Coalition by our supporters, we leverage \$100 for Washington's great outdoors!

This year, the Coalition increased our education, outreach, and policy work with legislators and the public, showing them the importance of the program in their communities and across the state. And it paid off. Support for the WWRP was very positive in Olympia and beyond.

Here is one example: In July, we worked with PCC Farmland Trust to take Representatives Robert Sutherland and Carolyn Eslick of the 39th district to Reiner Farm in Snohomish County. The Werkhoven family had been renting the land to grow corn to feed their cows, as part of the Werkhoven Dairy operation. The farm was at risk of development when the owners decided to sell and the Werkhovens were unable to fund the purchase of so much land in an area with ever-increasing land prices. Thankfully—

Unifying voices for Washington's great outdoors

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and thanks to a WWRP grant—PCC Farmland Trust purchased a permanent conservation easement to keep this family farm working into the future. We were fortunate to have the Werkhoven family participate in both tours to share the story of why this land is so important to their family business.

In addition to having some of Snohomish County's best farmland, Reiner Farm also includes two miles of riverfront on the Skykomish River, including a riparian protection buffer providing high quality fish and wildlife habitat. Staff from the Tulalip Tribe joined us on the tour, sharing with the lawmakers how they intend to improve this habitat in the future to increase salmon populations in the river. The story of the farmland trust, the farmers, and the Tribe working together to preserve this land was a powerful example of the WWRP in action.

Throughout the year, we also saw greater engagement with existing partners in support of WWRP funding, working toward our goal of enhancing the network of conservation and recreation partners across the state. As the number of Coalition members continues to grow, we are embracing our powerful role as a liaison between diverse communities. We were recently able to connect citizens in Walla Walla who are developing a regional trails plan to partners hundreds of miles away in Wenatchee and the Methow Valley, who have undergone similar efforts. Relationships like these can be crucial to a project's success, and we are eager to continue serving this unique role.

To expand this network, the Coalition increased our efforts to reach out to smaller, rural communities across the state that will now receive a reduction in the required match for WWRP. We met with several communities to educate them about the new match reduction policy and connect them with resources necessary to write a recreation plan or prepare a grant application.

Finally, we recognized that financial barriers weren't the only problem for small, low-income communities looking to take advantage of the WWRP. We learned they often also lack the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to complete the planning and application requirements. That's why the Coalition developed a partnership with Van Ness Feldman law firm to provide pro-bono assistance to low income communities to navigate the WWRP process. This will provide critical support for under-resourced communities, making the WWRP grant process more equitable for all Washington communities. We hope to expand this effort to more law firms and other businesses in the future.

As the Coalition continues to expand in numbers and diversity, we are confident that Washington's future will be the greenest, healthiest, and most inclusive environment possible! Attached are several photos from the project tours of Reiner Farm. Opportunities like this, and so much more, are made possible by partners like the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund.

Thank you for your investment in our work and in Washington's great outdoors!

Sincerely,



Christine B Mahler
Executive Director

