

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY:	Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition
DATE OF AWARD:	2017 Q1
ADDRESS:	1402 Third Ave., Suite 507, Seattle, WA 98101
CONTACT:	(206) 748-0082, https://www.wildliferecreation.org
GENERAL GOALS:	The Coalition's mission is to ensure robust funding for Washington's great outdoors by unifying disparate voices through education and advocacy.

## SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses. For more information please read the attached report from Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition.



HONORARY FOUNDING CO-CHAIRS Gov. Daniel J. Evans Gov. Mike Lowry\*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Christine B. Mahler

\*Deceased

Marilyn Sheldon Director Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions 8802 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn,

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition has expanded our education and advocacy efforts over the past year, growing and diversifying our membership while informing and mobilizing the public to ensure robust funding for local parks, trails, waterways, farms, and wildlife habitat.

Following the 2016 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) statute changes, the Coalition committed to broadening and deepening the base of support for conservation and recreation funding. This hard work paid off in the 2017-18 legislative session with \$80 million committed to projects that preserve access to local parks, sporting fields, and to forests and open spaces for hiking, hunting, and recreating. This increase of \$25 million in funding over the previous biennium was in no small part thanks to the enhanced education and advocacy capacity of the Coalition.

The Coalition leveraged the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund support to identify opportunities to create new connections with WWRP stakeholders, including county commissioners, land trusts and Tribes in Eastern Washington.

Coalition staff played a critical role in expanding knowledge of the WWRP program, identifying traditionally underserved areas of the state and strategically targeting events and presentations to increase understanding and appreciation of the newly updated program. Staff participated in eight outdoor recreation events, including roundtables and presentations to community groups and Tribal leaders. Over the course of the past year, 23 county commissioners gained a deeper understanding of the benefits of the WWRP through 12 presentations to County Commissions. Staff also worked with local community groups to orchestrate 16 ribbon-cutting ceremonies celebrating WWRP-funded projects across the state, with over 1000 attendees learning about the critical role of WWRP funding in completing vital community projects.

Looking at the number of WWRP applications submitted, our outreach was successful, and something we will continue to build on in future years. Although applications are still in the initial stages of review, early indicators show that a total

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of 273 applications requesting a total of \$197 million in funding this biennium—an increase of 35 applications and \$34 million in funding, even after the delays with the Capital Budget in Olympia in 2017-2018. A total of 55 projects applied for match reduction, indicating that they will serve our most needy communities across the state. Although the Puget Sound region remains heavily represented in applications, all but three counties (Garfield, Pend Oreille, and Wahkiakum) are represented. Additional analysis will be needed to look at the geographic diversity over time, as well as the number of new or infrequent applicants

This outreach and education also helped the Coalition grow its already substantial base of support, renewing the membership of 12 lapsed organizations and welcoming 30 new members to the Coalition, including local conservation groups, trail coalitions, and hunting and angling clubs from underserved areas of Eastern and Central Washington.

This expanded base of support helped make the 2018 Legislative Day one of the most successful in recent memory, with 100 public lands advocates holding over 100 meetings with Washington state legislators about the importance of robust funding for WWRP.

Thanks to the work of the Coalition and our partners, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is now accessible to more communities than ever. Our work in the past year to educate new and existing stakeholders about these exciting changes has already and will undoubtedly continue to lead to new project proposals from new and diverse communities. We will continue our efforts to raise awareness of these new opportunities in the coming years, ensuring that new and diverse applicants have the chance to participate in protecting our most treasured places for generations to come.

I have attached several photos from events we attended and projects we toured over the course of the last year—I hope you will find good use for them.

Thank you again for the support of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, and your investment in Washington's great outdoors!

With thanks,

Christine Mahler Executive Director



## **Grant Report**

Supporting education, outreach, and advocacy to promote robust funding for Washington's great outdoors

Grant Description

Name of Organization: Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition Mailing Address: 1402 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Suite 507, Seattle, WA 98101 Telephone Number: (206) 748-0082

Executive Director and Principal Contact: Christine Mahler Principal Contact's Phone Number: (206) 748-0082 Principal Contact's Email Address: <u>Christine@WildlifeRecreation.org</u>

Project Dates: 5/15/2017 to 5/15/2018

Grant Amount: **Report Code:** Q1 2017 14.2

















